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Sentinel

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Local council candidates share perspectives

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS • 2020



Jeff Gowing



Ivan Del Sol



Kenneth Roberts



Chalice Savage



Jon Stinnett

Local candidates for mayor and councilor seats answer questions about their vision for The Grove

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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In the upcoming General Election of Nov. 3, 2020, six candidates are vying for seats in the Cottage Grove City Council. Including the mayoral position, councilor positions for Ward 2, Ward 4 and an at-large position will be on the ballot.

With only two positions contested — the seat of mayor and councilor at large — The Sentinel asked all six candidates to participate in answering a series of questions about local issues, giving the public an opportunity to weigh the various approaches of the city council hopefuls.

[Note: Incumbent Councilor Greg Ervin, who is running unopposed for Ward 4, did not participate in the questionnaire.]

Candidates for Mayor
Jeff Gowing (incumbent)

I was born and raised in Cottage Grove and am a fourth-generation graduate of Cottage Grove High School. I am a U.S. veteran. I am married to my wife Celia, have three grown children and four grandchildren. I have been employed with Weyerhae-

user Lumber Company since 1989 and am currently working as a millwright.

I have served Cottage Grove in several capacities over the years. I have been a city councilor for seven years and mayor for four years. I also serve on the boards of the Community Foundation and Coast Fork Watershed Council. I am active in both the American Legion and Veterans for Foreign Wars. I have been active in the Jay Cees and Lemati Gang and am a current member of the Elks Lodge.

Ivan Del Sol

I came to Cottage Grove for a puppet show in 2004, fell in love with the town, and never left.

I have spent the last 16 years restoring the broken down historic building where I saw that puppet show and transforming it into the town's artistic hub. I work remotely in the tech/media industry and am blessed to have time, energy and money to share with local projects and people.

My core values are honesty, non-violence, mutual aid and freedom. I'm running because American society is in the worst

shape I've ever seen, with multiple natural disasters adding to the problems.

Business as usual is no longer a possibility. The only way out of this mess is deep, positive systemic change. I am not against our current mayor, but wanted to offer a more out-of-the-box option. I am deeply opposed to both major political parties.

Candidates for Councilor-at-Large
Kenneth Michael Roberts (incumbent)

I have been one of your city councilors at large for a little more than four years. I was appointed the seat by the council when Heather Murphy stepped down and then I won a term in 2016.

I came to Cottage Grove for Christmas in 1991 and just fell in love with this wonderful town. From 1991 to 2010 I had many jobs here, but the one I loved most was doing contract work cleaning parks and campgrounds for the Army Corp of Engineers from 1998 to 2007.

In 2010 I was diagnosed with bladder cancer. It was during this time in my life that I learned

the true uniqueness of Cottage Grove, when people I didn't know reached out to help me recover.

Upon my recovery, I decided to give back to this very special town. I joined South Lane Saint Vincent DePaul and was making home visits helping folks with their needs. I then met Cameron Reiten and was given a job at KNND Radio helping him and doing a weekly radio show, which I still do.

Working for KNND brought me to the city council chambers to report on the meetings, which led me to an appointment on the budget committee. The rest is history.

Chalice MP Savage

For nearly 15 years I worked in many hospitals all over Oregon. During this time, I became a wife and mother to three wonderful Savage kids. In 2014 I left the medical field and joined the board of a local non-profit serving families like mine who had a child with a disability.

Soon I was voted President and was organizing fundraising

See ELECTION 5A

State prepares for record ballot count for Nov. 3 election

By MARK BRENNEN
FOR THE SENTINEL

The importance of voting and the legitimacy of those votes has taken center stage during this election cycle, with some candidates and voters questioning both the process and potential unrepresentative outcomes which could occur on Election Day, Nov. 3.

Oregon Secretary of State Bev

Clarno is entrusted with ensuring the integrity of the system and the accurate tally of legal ballots cast and submitted by voters across the state. She is supported in the effort to protect voting by different types of security experts, from multiple agencies, most notably from the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Cybersecurity and infrastructure Security Agency, the Oregon National

Guard and the FBI.

Voter's Pamphlets for the Nov. 3 General Election were mailed to registered Oregon voters Oct. 7 and began arriving last week, with ballot packets being sent out beginning this past Tuesday.

If voters have not received their ballots by Oct. 23, they should contact Lane County Elections.

Clarno has made a point of addressing the public on the is-

sue of election integrity, specifically focusing on the multiple layers of security which protect elections in Oregon.

In her "Letter to the Voters," which leads the Voters Pamphlet, she writes, "Oregon elections are secure. Not because there aren't any threats, but because we have detailed processes and procedures in place that

See BALLOTS 7A

City ratifies amendment on standby policy for employees

By DAMIEN SHERWOOD
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On Monday, the Cottage Grove City Council unanimously voted to ratify an amendment to a bargaining agreement with city employees, changing its standby policy to spread responsibility out among more staff.

The policy impacts employees at the city's Row River Water Treatment Plant, the Cottage

Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Utilities Division of the Public Works and Development Department.

An employee on standby is expected to receive after hours calls for service, attend to alarms and take general responsibility to oversee tasks such as turning a plant on or off and making chemical or pump adjustments.

Previously, supervisors of each division were relied upon

to answer all calls for after hour service.

"They need to have a break every once in a while, and when they go down the list to call others, they can't get anybody to come in," said City Manager Richard Meyers in a KNND Radio interview on Monday's Beeper Show. "So we've had to create standby time to where somebody has the phone and they have to come in if they get called to come in."

About two or three times a week, employees come in to handle something after hours, said Meyers.

Water Production Superintendent Ryan Kimball, who was hired to the water treatment plant position in June, brought it to the attention of the city that employees would also work split shifts to tend to the plant and quit an hour early to compensate for the time it

See CITY 10A

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