

EDITORIALS

Forum shows how debates should run

A Thursday forum on Measure 97, hosted by the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce at the Monmouth Public Library, may not have swayed anyone in the audience one way or another, but it set a fine example of how a debate should be run.

Otto Schell with the Oregon PTA spoke in favor of Measure 97, and Alison Hart with the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce spoke against the measure. It wasn't so much what they said, but how they said it.

The two were passionate about their beliefs, politely credited each other's reports, and at one point admitted, "This is our job. To disagree without being disagreeable."

Each encouraged audience members to dig deeper into studies and reports to find answers. For every study that shows Measure 97 — a corporate sales tax — would be good, another shows it would be bad.

And then Hart and Schell found common ground.

They agreed: Oregon students deserve better.

They disagreed on how that should be paid for — politely, respectfully, and patiently.

Ultimately it is up to voters to do the research, uncover reliable sources of information, decode studies and reports, and make the choice that most closely reflects what they think is the best for Oregon and our nation.

In the meantime, as we jump head first into the next few weeks — peak season for forums and political debates — all candidates could take notes from Schell and Hart.

The two could not disagree more, and yet found common ground. We all want what is best for our nation — better schools, less poverty and homelessness, open and honest government, food, shelter, clothing, world peace.

Political arguments shouldn't be about the end game — we're all heading that way already — it's about which road will we take to get there, and who will be driving.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Polk County. To submit a meeting, send it at least two weeks before the actual meeting date to the *Itemizer-ObsERVER* via email (ionews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28

• **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas, 503-623-8173.

MONDAY, OCT. 3

• **Central School District Board of Directors** — 6:30 p.m., Henry Hill Education Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence.

• **Independence Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

• **Dallas City Council work session/meeting** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502. Dallas council follows at 7.

TUESDAY, OCT. 4

• **Monmouth City Council** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0725.

• **Dallas Urban Renewal Advisory Committee** — 5:30 p.m., Dallas City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3565.

• **Polk County Board of Commission work session** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, BOC office, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5

• **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, first floor conference room, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Garton goes beyond call of duty

*Jim Cross
Dallas*

I am writing to encourage voters to vote for Sheriff Mark Garton in the upcoming election. I have had the privilege to serve as mayor of Falls City and the opportunity to work with Mark. In the short time he has been sheriff he has: instituted 24-hour patrols; assigned a deputy to cover Polk County schools; started a mental health patrol unit to help people in crisis; and worked with citizens to institute Neighborhood Watch programs. He always is accessible to citizens and goes beyond the call of duty to try and resolve issues. Vote Garton for Polk County Sheriff.

*Terry Ungricht
Falls City*

Nearman is good for Polk County

Vote Paul Evans this November

Thank you, *Itemizer*, for writing an informative article featuring the two HD 20 candidates, Laura Morett and Paul Evans. While the article presents the attributes of each candidate in a fair and balanced way, it is apparent that Paul Evans is the more qualified candidate. Morett says she wants to do something — to put on her boots and fix things, but her plan consists of passing a bill to ban bill passage. How will tying our hands behind our backs, help our economy, small businesses and our schools? Morett is not ready to govern. Evans is the right choice.

*Micki Varney
West Salem*

Paul Evans should be re-elected

I enjoyed the article in the *I-O* that contrasted HD 20 candidates, Laura Morett and Paul Evans. It is clear from the article that Paul is more qualified. Laura doesn't seem to understand how government or the legislature work. She says the first thing she would do is pass a bill to stop the passage of bills. I guess she doesn't understand that's how laws get passed. She also wants to eliminate family leave and family wage jobs. She is a terrible choice for office. Paul Evans has the knowledge and experience to work for us. He deserves re-election.

*Bill Hayden
West Salem*

Gablks devoted to serving Dallas

Having known Kelly Gablks for many years through our mutual participation in exercise classes at the Dallas gym, I've always looked forward to her upbeat, positive attitude and admired her dedication to a live a healthy lifestyle. Later, I became aware of Kelly's strong interest in making Dallas a community that strives to enhance the well-being of all its citizens.

I can't think of a more devoted and deserving citizen to entrust with a position on the Dallas City Council. Join with me in securing a position for Kelly Gablks as a member of the Dallas City Council.

*Bill Harrod
Dallas*

Vote yes Central on facilities bond

This fall, Central School District residents have the opportunity to invest in our children and community. Our elementary and middle schools are in need of upgrades to not only increase safety, but provide exceptional learning environments that promote learning.

CHS is an excellent example of the type of facility our community can provide for our children when we come together to support them. Local non-profits, organizations and community members also benefit from your support.

Also, the timing could not be better, as there will be no expected tax increases.

Please join me in supporting our community.

*Odi Campos
Independence*

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

Election-related letters of all types are limited to 100 words. Writers are limited to one election-related letter per election season. Election letters from writers outside of Polk County are not accepted.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period.

Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed. Attacks by name on businesses or individuals will not be printed.

Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for a business, products or services will not be printed.

The *Itemizer-ObsERVER* does not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers; dissenters are welcome to respond. Letter writers who disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the subject, not the author.

Letters, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper, are edited for length, grammar and content.

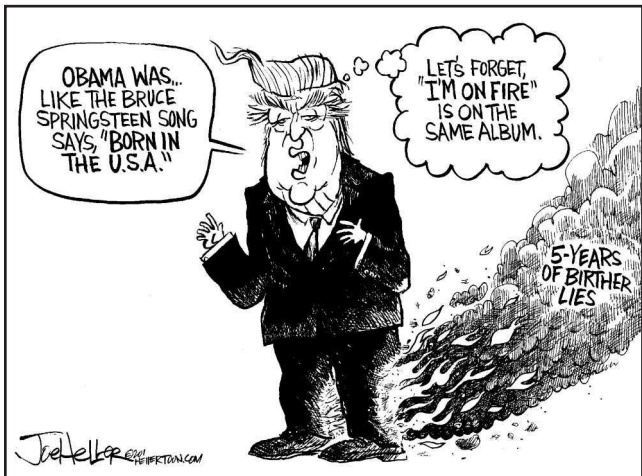
Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number. This includes letters submitted via the *I-O's* website. Names and cities of residence are published; street addresses and telephone numbers are used for verification purposes only.

Letters must be submitted from individuals, not organizations, and must be original submissions to the *I-O*, not copies of letters sent to other media.

Letters of thanks to businesses, individuals and organizations are limited to 10 names.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

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