

Vote for Jamie McLeod-Skinner for Congress

Oregon's new Congressional district that stretches from Bend to Portland will get a new member of Congress. We endorse Jamie McLeod-Skinner over her opponent Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

Who you vote for is up to you, but we endorse McLeod-Skinner because we think she better mirrors the position of the editorial board on a variety of issues.

A key issue for many voters is abortion. The difference between these two candidates is not as simple as one supports and one opposes abortion rights. McLeod-Skinner does broadly support abortion rights. She would like them codified into federal law. Chavez-DeRemer told us she supports access to abortion in the first trimester and all access in cases of rape, incest and the life of the mother.

With the shooting at the Bend Safe-way and way before that, gun safety has been a concern. Both candidates say they will defend the Second Amendment. McLeod-Skinner seeks to find gun laws to keep people safe and allow responsible gun owners to keep their guns. She is interested in looking at age limits for purchase and wants to ensure laws are in place to block unregistered ghost guns. Chavez-DeRemer believes in emphasis on mental health interventions and fighting crime, not more gun safety regulation.

On the environment, health care, government spending and many other issues, the differences seem fairly classic differences between a Democrat in McLeod-Skinner and a Republican in Chavez-DeRemer.

Chavez-DeRemer has tried to paint

McLeod-Skinner as an advocate of defunding the police. That is false. When McLeod-Skinner was city manager of Talent, the city actually increased funding for the police. She is an advocate of high standards for police and for wellness benefits for them. That is just common sense.

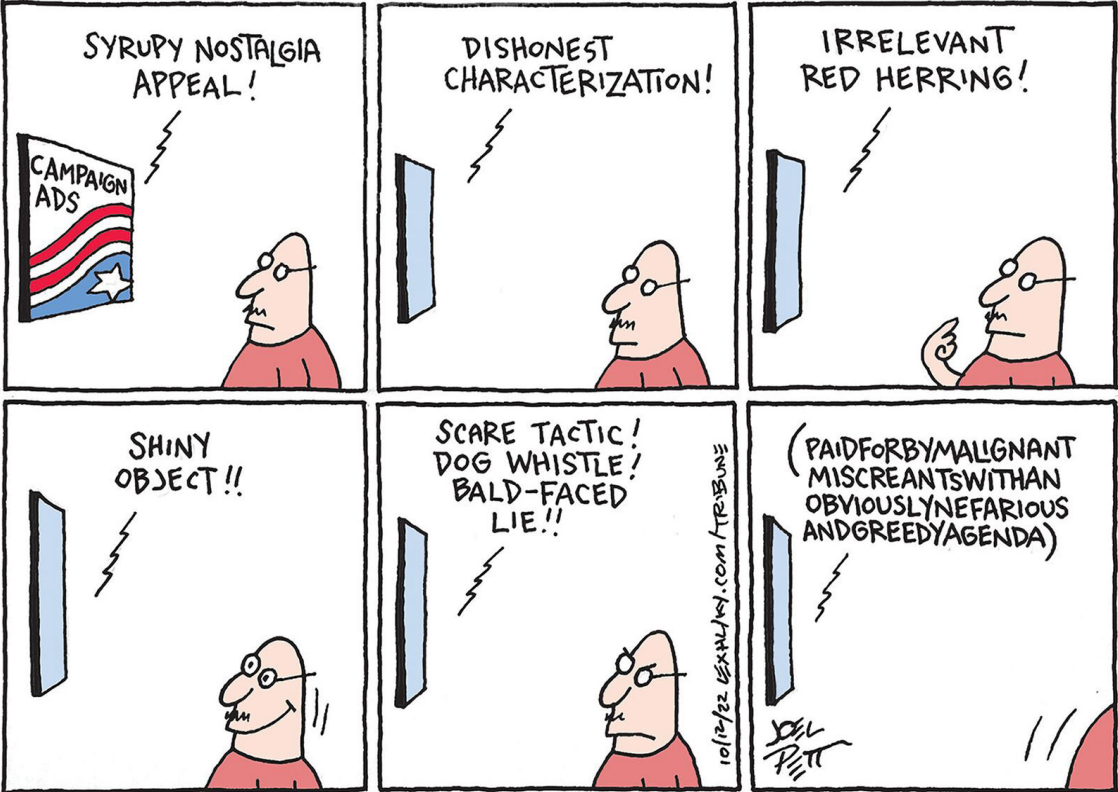
McLeod-Skinner grew up supported by a single mom working multiple jobs to stay afloat. It impresses us that McLeod-Skinner went to war-torn Bosnia and Kosovo in the 1990s to help rebuild. She has a law degree and serves on the board of the Jefferson County Education Service District and on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. And when she was working as city manager in Talent, she helped lead the response to wildfire recovery. Those experiences will give her a strong foundation to represent her district and figure out what the federal government should be doing.

We would like to issue McLeod-Skinner a challenge, as well. If you are elected, prove to us that you can work across the aisle and create solutions with your Republican colleagues. Oregonians are interested in solutions for the nation's challenges, not partisan politics. She told us that is what she wants, too — to "focus on solving the problems." So deliver.

Whoever you decide to support in this election, please vote.



McLeod-Skinner



My Nickel's Worth

Ariel Méndez for Bend City Council

For years my friends told me I needed to meet Ari. I had seen his name in the newspaper whenever transportation or parks issues were discussed. He is a prominent figure in shaping the direction Bend is going. "You two have so much to talk about," they said.

They were right. I finally met Ariel Méndez when I attended a City Club forum of city managers in the region. We sat next to each other during the luncheon and talked policy. Méndez is a Stanford grad and instructor of political science at O.S.U. Cascades. Civics is my day job, and I can tell you, this guy knows the Constitution. He understands that democracy is a culture and participation is key. And he isn't just talk — he serves. He shows up. As a father of three and husband to a medical provider, Ariel Mendez has plenty to do, and still he makes time for this town. He is calm and humble, has integrity and good ideas. Please join me in supporting him for City Council where he can preserve the wonders of our town while helping it grow responsibly.

— Amy Sabbadini, Bend

An open letter to Betsy Johnson

Run, Betsy, run! Jump, Betsy, jump! Dance to the tune played — and funded — by Phil Knight. Wake up, Betsy! Wake from the nightmare that has you running solely as Phil's stalking horse. You are more than a lap behind. It's way past time to stop being Phil Knight's lap dog. Your continued candidacy serves no other purpose than to hand governance of Oregon to the one whom Knight really wants to see in Salem, serving Knight's divisive and dangerous Republican agenda. Do yourself — and us — a favor. Step aside; stop dancing; stop running, Betsy.

— Paul White, Bend

Christine Drazan for governor

Oregon voters have a clear choice this election to turn things around. That choice is Christine Drazan. Oregon has had a void in leadership for at least two

decades. Failure to fix problems of crime, homelessness, education and to rely on tax increases are just the tip of the iceberg. Drazan has the answers to turn Oregon around in her "Roadmap for Oregon."

The idea that Oregon can keep voting the same way and expecting a different result does not make sense. I think it is time to clean house and take the state back from a failed agenda. Let's not make the same mistakes of the past.

Let's elect Christine Drazan for new direction.
— John Brenneman, Bend

Deschutes County treasurer needs expertise

We have an opportunity to ensure we'll have an experienced financial expert to oversee the management of our county's finances by electing Bill Kuhn as Deschutes County Treasurer. Bill has over 30 years of financial management experience right here in the county. He has directly supported the county with its banking needs as Bend President of First Interstate Bank. There's no one in the community better prepared to serve as the steward of our more than \$600 million in county revenues than Bill.

In addition to his financial acumen, Bill has been a staunch supporter of the non-profits serving Bend and Central Oregon volunteering his time, efforts and expertise. Under his watch, First Interstate has supported numerous local non-profits with grants for their operations and expansion. Bill personally has volunteered hundreds of hours to nonprofits; he has a passion and commitment to issues surrounding affordable housing and food insecurity. He has a proven understanding of and a commitment to our community.

We don't need a businessperson or a tech expert to manage our money, we need a financier, and Bill Kuhn is that person. As someone who has known Bill or over twenty years, both as former client and by working with him in his volunteer efforts, I can attest to his ethics, financial knowledge and skill. That's why I'm voting for him in the upcoming election and hope you will too.

— Jeff Robberson, Bend

Vote no on Deschutes County psilocybin ban

The vote on the Deschutes County ballot on psilocybin mushrooms is like Deschutes County Commissioners Patti Adair and Tony DeBone saying: "Sorry voters, we didn't like how you voted before. Try again."

Oregon voters approved Measure 109 in 2020, legalizing hallucinogenic mushrooms in many ways in Oregon — production, processing and treatment.

Deschutes County voters approved it, too.

Does the county really need to vote on that again? We don't think so. And we endorse voting "no" on the opt out measure on the November ballot.

Adair and Tony DeBone voted to put it on the ballot. The measure would prohibit psilocybin manufacturing and treatment centers in the unincorporated parts of the county. This measure

would not change what happens in the city limits of Bend, La Pine, Redmond and Sisters. Everyone in the county gets to vote on this measure. There are separate, similar measures on the ballot specifically for La Pine and Redmond.

Many people are rightly concerned about what the regulations for psilocybin will be. That's a concern with anything new government does — a tax, a policy, a building code, regulating a new type of business. And yes there is reason to be cautious about how a new drug will be regulated.

The state is setting rules. The county is coming up with its own regulations. Get them right. If they aren't producing the desired outcome, fix them. The voters spoke. Carry out their wishes.

We think you should vote "no" on the Deschutes County psilocybin ban. But whatever you do, please vote.

■ Editorials reflect the views of The Bulletin's editorial board, Publisher Heidi Wright, Editor Gerry O'Brien and Editorial Page Editor Richard Coe. They are written by Richard Coe.

Letters policy

We welcome your letters. Letters should be limited to one issue, contain no more than 250 words and include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject poetry, personal attacks, form letters, letters submitted elsewhere and those appropriate for other sections of The Bulletin. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

Guest columns

Your submissions should be between 550 and 650 words and must include the writer's phone number and address for verification. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We reject those submitted elsewhere. Locally submitted columns alternate with national columnists and commentaries. Writers are limited to one letter or guest column every 30 days.

How to submit

Please address your submission to either My Nickel's Worth or Guest Column and mail, fax or email it to The Bulletin. Email submissions are preferred.
Email: letters@bendbulletin.com
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Measure 114 will hamper recreation and habitat conservation

As we contend with unprecedented drought in much of the state, it's important to maximize funding for conservation efforts. Places like the Klamath Basin in Southern Oregon have completely dry wetlands for the first time in history, leaving millions of migrating waterfowl without critical habitat. This Fall, a ballot measure aimed at reforming gun safety laws would have an adverse effect on conservation efforts in Oregon. While we support common sense firearm safety provisions, we have concerns over the unintended consequences of Oregon Measure 114, its impact on outdoor recreation, and the effect that will have on funding for future conservation efforts.

Hunters are conservationists. We rely on the integrity of wide-open spaces and the health of wildlife populations for our recreation. It's no coincidence that Ducks Unlimited,

the nation's leading nonprofit in wetlands conservation, was founded by hunters in 1937. Because of our close connection to the land, hunters are some of the most active in preserving internationally important habitats and wildlife populations along the Pacific Flyway and in Oregon.

Measure 114's overly burdensome requirements will place unnecessary hurdles on families and hunters that have already taken gun safety training courses, resulting in lower participation, particularly for our youth and the next generation of hunters. Eliminating opportunities for well-trained, responsible recreationalists will take away much needed funding from conservation efforts, further harming delicate wildlife habitats.

Hunter safety training, offered for a fee by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and ODFW approved entities, is already required when applying for a hunting license

GUEST COLUMN
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for the first time or for hunters under the age of 18. Under Measure 114, trained and responsible gun owners will have to sign up and pay for

an additional training course not yet even designed and endure long delays. We have heard from sheriff departments that the training course envisioned by this measure may not be logistically possible, which will result in long delays, and possibly, the end of all firearm sales. Additionally, this measure will eliminate the current three-day timeline to conduct background checks and could result in indefinite delays for firearm purchase approvals. These uncertainties will limit hunter participation and reduce sales of hunting licenses, firearms, and ammunition, which will reduce conservation funding and cause a ripple effect that will impact wildlife and habitat management for decades. The Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, which created a tax on firearms and ammunition for conservation and hunter safety, generates over \$1 billion annually for criti-

cal habitat restoration projects and hunter safety training through state agencies. In fact, sportsmen and sportswomen provide as much as 47% of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget annually. Measure 114 will reduce this vital conservation funding source and negatively impact resources available to ODFW for wildlife management and teaching responsible gun ownership. There is no doubt that gun safety should remain a top priority, but Measure 114 is not the answer for Oregon. Should the measure pass, we look forward to working with the proponents and the Oregon State Legislature to find solutions and address unintended consequences. Let's work together for responsible gun ownership, while maintaining access to family recreation opportunities and preserving critical funding that our wildlife need to survive.

■ Ed May lives in Banks.