

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pullen best choice for county commissioner

This county election is an easy choice. This election is an easy decision for my family. Rick Pullen is one of us. Rick is not a candidate who will sit back and coast like his competitor. This man truly loves Umatilla County, not just a select group or city whom he can benefit from. You can see this example as you drive around the county. He is out meeting with all constituents and hanging his own signs. Working closely with Rick Pullen on past projects, I can tell you that this candidate will not shy away from hard issues and will vote for the people of Umatilla County. He gives his all and is not afraid to challenge the status quo.

Umatilla County as a whole has coasted for far too long with our current elected officials. Results have been few. A perfect example showing lack of effort is with our current County Health Department. Please tell me Commissioner Murdock, why this county cannot keep a director under your supervision, cycling through three within the last five years? Aside from budget, why have we lost programs due to staffing under your supervision? Please explain to me why we cannot provide much needed services to the Hermiston community and keep the Hermiston Health Department office open full time under your supervision? It starts at the top with you sir. Stop with the band aids and fix the issue. Rick Pullen is the change that we need to move Umatilla County forward. Rick is the person who will listen to the "everyday person" and strive to fix issues, not just replace band-aids! I encourage Umatilla County residents to join me and vote for Rick Pullen, Umatilla County Commissioner.

TOM & TERI PHELAN
PENDLETON

Vote for McLeod-Skinner for Congress

I am writing this letter to you in support of Jamie McLeod-Skinner for Congress.

We need new ideas and new blood in this very important position. The present congressman has for a very long time not been responsive to the voice of the people and their needs. The latest attempt in leading the charge to do away with The Affordable Car Act is a case in point. Thousands of Oregonians have signed onto this healthcare insurance and it is keeping their financial boat afloat. So many have the prospect of bankruptcy if they are not covered with health insurance when a health problem arises and hospital stays and even minor surgeries are needed.

There was no new legislation to replace this healthcare lifeline that so many families depend on, so they would have been without the protection. Students are covered up until age 26, pre-existing conditions are covered. These are only a few among many other helps built in to the Affordable Care Act.

The present congressman has had 20 years to prove himself to the people, so far he has failed in that endeavor. As President Trump says, let's clear the swamp. It's time for a new Congress!

Vote Jamie McLeod-Skinner for Congress.

JANET BEITEL
UMATILLA

Davis should retain her city council seat

I would like to recommend a vote for city councilwoman Lori Davis in the November election. She is a longtime resident and a friend of mine. Lori is known to be truthful and reliable. She's an excellent decision-maker and one who does so by listening and weighing all the facts. Although I am no longer a resident of Hermiston I live nearby where I have had opportunity to watch the city grow and change. These changes have been very good and many have come about during Lori's eight years of service to your council. Lori loves her community and is committed to bettering the lives of its residents. Vote yes for Lori Davis!

ALICE LOOMIS
KENNEWICK

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It's time to read up on the issues

Election season is always exciting for journalists. There are candidate forums to attend, passionate people to interview about ballot measures, extra letters to the editor and of course, the age-old tradition of newsroom pizza on election night, which is pretty much the Super Bowl of politics.



Jade McDowell

We understand there are plenty of people out there who don't feel as fascinated by county commission races as we do, but we hope there is something this election season that piques your interest.

Maybe you're passionate about abortion access and want to follow Measure 106, which if passed would ban the state from using taxpayer money to fund abortions.

Or maybe you really, really hate taxes and want to learn more about Measure 103, which would amend the state's constitution to ban all taxes on groceries.

Maybe an endless flow of news stories on the Trump administration

and Kavanaugh hearings has made you throw up your hands and say "I'm sick of politics! No more." That's an understandable feeling, and there is nothing wrong with pulling back from the breathless, 24/7 updates to protect your mental health.

That being said, we hope that you take some time between now and Nov. 6 to educate yourself about the people and issues on your ballot and then vote. Voting is a precious gift, a right every bit as important as the right to free speech and the right to bear arms. It is a right people have died for throughout history, from the soldier protecting democracy to the 31 people killed by a bomb at a polling place in Pakistan this summer.

You may feel your vote doesn't matter, but anyone in the political arena will tell you that elections are decided as much by who doesn't turn out as they are by the choice of actual voters.

Local city council races have come down to fewer than 10 votes on many occasions, and city councilors can have a major impact on your life. They're the people who decide what your water rates will be, whether the pothole in front of your house should be fixed and what businesses are allowed to operate in your neighborhood.

If you aren't registered to vote, you have until Oct. 16 to do so. It's free, it's easy and you can do it on the Secretary of State's website from the comfort of your own home.

We plan to make next week's *Hermiston Herald* a special election edition, with stories discussing local candidates, statewide ballot measures and more. Our sister paper the *East Oregonian* has been providing in-depth coverage and will continue to do so.

We hope you read what we have to offer and look forward to participating in democracy come November.

Jade McDowell is a reporter for the Hermiston Herald.



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