

AMERICAN REFLECTIONS

(Issued May 3, 2024)

Our Endorsements for May 2024 Election

Deschutes County Commission – Candidates are all listed as “Nonpartisan”. In reality one of the candidates (Phil Chang) is an uber-left Democrat. Chang’s background includes degrees from Columbia U. and U.C. Berkeley. His career background features federal and state government employment and working for Senator Merkley.

Of the other “Nonpartisan” candidates there is only one that stands out in terms of relevant experience and impressive qualifications. We encourage you to vote for **Judy Trego**.

Secretary of State – we enthusiastically prefer Republican **Brent Barker**. His positions on the important issues, his impressive background and his ability to attract voters from all political spheres make him our best hope for the General Election.

State Attorney General – the nod goes to Republican **Will Lathrop**. He is an experienced prosecutor and proven leader who will fight to reduce crime and restore safe communities.

State Treasurer – **Jeff Gudman**

State Senator 27th Dist. -- **Michael Summers**

State Senator 28th Dist. – **Diane Linthicum**

State Senator 30th Dist. – **Mike McLane**

State Representative 53rd Dist. – **Keri Lopez**

State Representative 55th Dist. – **E. Werner Reschke**

State Representative 59th Dist. – **Vikki Breese-Iverson**

State Representative 60th Dist. – **Mark Owens**

City of Redmond Ballot Measures: 9-168 constraints on who can run for office; 9-169 increasing Mayoral term from 2 to 4 years; and 9-170 Term Limits for City Councilors.

Using the adage: “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”, we recommend a NO vote for these amendments to the Redmond City Charter.



Bend's Property Taxes are Going thru the Roof



Bend Property Owners have been subjected to an avalanche of additional costs recently. From the passage of an expensive Library Bond (“*empire-building*” at its worst) to the recent “non-voted” on Council decision to tack on “Road Improvement” Fees to Water Bills ... owners know all too well what living in an Inflation Economy is about.

As further insult to Bendites, City Councilors may vote to TRIPLE their salaries -- without voter authorization even being considered.

What’s Next ... the following comes to us from a “fed-up” Bend Taxpayer writing on “Next Door”. The Bend LaPine School District is asking property owners to approve a bond issue that will cost \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

In the Voter’s Pamphlet, they use a “median assessed value of \$238,750” which results in an increased cost of \$239 per year. That’s true. However, is YOUR home appraised at only \$238,750? The median home price in Bend is \$736,378. That equates to \$736 a year -- BIG difference. In LaPine, the median home price is around \$350,000. So why did they use \$238,750?

Some questions to ask yourselves: What is YOUR home appraised at? Then divide by 1,000 to see how much this bond issue is actually going to cost you. Can you really afford to shell out that

much more for poorly producing public schools? Especially in these inflationary times when EVERYTHING is costing more?

Renters – don't think this doesn't apply to you because you don't get a property tax statement? Property taxes are figured into your rent, and when taxes go up, so does your rent. No landlord is simply going to absorb those increases. So can you afford to pay more rent?

How did the District arrive at the \$1.00 figure? Why not 64 cents or 53.2 cents or some figure that actually has a real cost basis behind it? \$1.00 seems like an arbitrary number that has NOTHING to back it up.

What – EXACTLY – will the money be used for? Back to the arbitrary \$1.00, doesn't it seem like they want to raise the money first, and then allocate what it will be used for later?

One of the things this money will be used for is to prevent layoffs. However, it's been reported in the news that those layoffs are coming about as a result of decreased student enrollment. Does it seem right to ask taxpayers to spend more money on a decreasing student population?

Much has been in the news lately about affordable housing and its impact on our community. So does it really make sense to add on another tax that's going to make housing even LESS affordable?

Please do the math before voting!

And from Taxpayers Assn. of Oregon ...

Bend's property tax Measure 9-167 risks throwing many seniors out of their homes.

Bend-La Pine school District homeowners are facing a massive property tax increase with Measure 9-167 on the May Primary ballot.

Homeowners can't afford it! Many new Bend homeowners will pay \$230 to \$730 in higher property taxes to fund \$112 million in new increased spending. (2024 Deschutes Voter Pamphlet estimate)

These higher taxes fund 8% fewer students. Bend-LaPine Schools saw 8.4% enrollment drop, which means property owners are paying \$112 million in higher taxes to fund less students. That doesn't make sense. (*The Bend Bulletin 3/8/24*)

We're in the midst of Oregon's first population decline in 40 years thanks to high home prices. Oregon saw more people leaving than arriving because people cannot afford to live here due to high housing costs and high property taxes.

Redmond Patriots encourage you to share these candidate endorsements with your friends and neighbors.



- Never be afraid to try something new. Remember: amateurs built Noah's Ark ... experts built the Titanic.
- The annual World Happiness Report was recently released -- and the U.S. was listed in 23rd place, down from 15th place just last year.



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