



The Bi-Annual Newsletter
of the Marion Chapter of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters

The Conservation Voter

Electing Pro-Environment Candidates Up and Down the Ballot *Unique Challenges facing us this Unprecedented Election*

Barack Obama is indeed changing the shape of Oregon's electorate, providing unique challenges and opportunities for OLCV in our work to elect pro-environment candidates.

In Marion County, as with the nation, we have seen a huge increase in voter registration this year, with the biggest increases among younger voters, people of color, non-college voters and unmarried women. These voters tend to be pro-environment, but they are also much harder to reach: they are less likely to watch network television, they don't read their mail, and many don't read local newspapers.

The challenge we face is how to take the energy around this historic Presidential election and transfer it to environmental leaders running for state and local offices. Many new voters are unfamiliar with down-ballot races and they resist casting an uninformed vote, so it is critically important that we make direct connections with these voters to inform them about our endorsed state and local pro-environment candidates.

This is why it's essential that every one of us works to spread the word to voters about the importance of voting for candidates at every level of government. We need to let them know which candidates will take responsible action to curb global warming and who has a vision for protecting our farm and forestland, keeping our air and water clean, and preserving the special places in Oregon. In short, we need to let them know who has received OLCV's Seal of Approval.

We can't do it without your help. We're asking you to spend one afternoon or evening between now and November to educate voters about Richard Riggs and inform them about what's at stake for these local, down ballot races. Here is a snapshot of an exciting pro-environment candidate OLCV is working hard to elect in Marion County:

Richard Riggs

Richard Riggs is in a tough election battle against Vicki Berger for House District 20.

Richard is a third generation Oregonian, and after serving twenty years in the Navy he chose to return to home because of Oregon's exceptional quality of life. As a lifelong outdoorsman, Rich understands the value of a clean and healthy environment.

In Rich's own words, "Oregon is blessed with some of the richest farmlands in the world, abundant wildlife and fisheries, and a diversity of ecosystems in a compact geographic area. An important part our economy and cultural heritage is based on natural resources, including farming and salmon fishing. Protection of riparian habitats is essential to help preserve year round stream flows, maintain water quality, improve salmon habitat all of which benefit our economy, cultural heritage and exceptional quality of life."

Riggs understands the importance of responsible land use and, unlike his opponent, he supported Measure 49. In short, Richard Riggs gets it.

We need your help to elect Richard Riggs. We'll be phoning twice a week until Election Day. Volunteer for three hours and help inform voters about Richard and what is at stake this year. Your three hours could make a lasting difference. Sign up to volunteer at www.olcv.org/events.

**Help OLCV elect Richard Riggs
for State Representative in HD 20!**

Join us at one of these phonebanks:

**Tuesdays, Oct 14, 21, 28, 5:30-8:30 PM
Thursdays, Oct 16, 23, 30, 5:30-8:30 PM**

Where: SEIU office, 1730 Commercial SE.

Please consider making a donation to support our work in Marion County. Remember, through the Oregon Political Tax credit the first \$50 for an individual (\$100 for a couple) will come back to you on your state tax return.

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November 2008 OLCV Marion County Endorsements

Marion County

Salem City Council Ward 1 – Chuck Bennett
Salem City Council Ward 5 – Diana Dickey
Salem City Council Ward 7 – Bob Cannon

Local Ballot Measures

Vote YES on Salem-Keizer Transit Levy – Measure 24-247

Statewide Ballot Measures

YES on Measure 56
NO on Measures 59,61,62,63 & 64



Forward OLCV's endorsements to your friends, neighbors, and colleagues!
Visit www.olcv.org/votersguide to find out how.

Federal

US Senate – Jeff Merkley
US Congress – Kurt Schrader

Statewide

Attorney General – John Kroger
Secretary of State – Kate Brown
Treasurer – Ben Westlund

Oregon House

House District 17 – Dan Thackaberry
House District 18 – Jim Gilbert
House District 19 – Hanten Day
House District 20 – Richard Riggs
House District 21 – Brian Clem
House District 22 – Betty Komp
House District 23 – Jason Brown

A Vibrant Transit System Helps Our Planet Earth

Public transit makes everyone's commute easier. Cherritos, our local transit system, takes 6,000-8,000 cars from our streets each week day. With fewer cars on the road, folks that choose or must drive to work or run errands spend less time in traffic. This means more time to sleep and relax or spend time with your family and friends.

Gas prices will likely continue to rise. As a result more people will turn to public transit. We need to make sure the service is affordable, reliable and convenient.

Let's save time, money and the environment. Vote yes for the Cherritos Salem-Keizer transit levy so we can continue Saturday service and restore operating hours to 2006 levels.

Without our support Cherritos will be forced to make more cuts to a system that serves a population of over 200,000. Please Vote Yes for Our Planet. Vote Yes on 24-247 Vote Yes for Cherritos.

Visit www.cherritos.org to find out how you can help.



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Tresa Horney