



# VOTERS' GUIDE

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PORTLAND

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*Our mission is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.*

## May 19, 2009 Special Election

### Portland School District #1 Director Candidates

All voters in the school district will vote for one candidate in each zone.

<p><b>Questions:</b> The first 75 words of each reply are printed as received with no correction of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Candidates are listed in ballot order.</p>	<p><b>With the drop in state revenue, what are your funding priorities for Portland Public Schools? Where would you make cuts? Would you put more money in any area?</b></p>	<p><b>What specific changes would you work for as a School Board Member?</b></p>	<p><b>Teacher quality is a major factor, some say the most important factor, in student achievement. What will you do to improve teacher quality in Portland Public Schools, especially in high-needs schools?</b></p>
<p><b>Zone 4</b> <span style="float: right;">Four-year term. No salary.</span></p>			
<p><b>Martin Gonzalez</b> 10254 N Oswego Portland, OR 97203 503-285-4795 gonzalezforschools@yahoo.com www.gonzalezforschools.info</p> <p><i>Former Executive Director, Portland Schools Alliance. Volunteer with the Coalitions for Educational Excellence, the City and County Education Cabinet, and the Portland Public School Board.</i></p>	<p>We have to look at funding programs that have the highest impact on improving student achievement and on reducing current inequities. I will prioritize investment in key strategies; like full day kindergarten and programs that support the 8th to 9th grade transition.</p>	<p>I propose we set specific goals to close the achievement gap and put in place mechanisms to assess our progress. Our process of how we set priorities and allocate resources needs to be very clear and transparent. We must work to partner with parents, community advocates, business people, local elected officials, and state legislators to find the funding for our children's education.</p>	<p>I would work to ensure that the district acknowledges that high-needs schools require different strategies and more resources such as smaller class sizes and classroom aides. The district needs to provide opportunities for teachers to learn and be mentored by master teachers at each school. Principals must lead by example by setting high expectations, conducting proper evaluations and implementing plans to assist teachers.</p>
<p><b>Steve Buel</b> 127 N Hayden Bay Dr. Portland, OR 97217 503-285-5437 sbuel@comcast.net</p> <p><i>School teacher for over 40 years. PPS School Board member, 1979-1983</i></p>	<p>PPS needs to protect the classroom first. The number one priority should always be what most directly affects the education of children. Portland's schools are historically underfunded. The most significant area to cut would be to de-emphasize testing. Struggling schools in lower-income neighborhoods need more funding to create more offerings and opportunities.</p>	<p>Create equity in educational opportunities within three years. Attack the drop-out problem. De-emphasize testing. Restore Benson Tech's funding and application process. Create more vocational education. Increase the arts, physical education, technology, history, civics, libraries, and science. Address the serious discipline problems in many schools. Make Jefferson a solid, excellent comprehensive high school. Create a more child-centered educational experience in the primary grades. Encourage the school board to be more responsive.</p>	<p>Portland hires last of all schools in the metropolitan area. We should hire first to get the first crack at the best teachers. We need to move away from our overemphasis on testing so teachers will feel empowered to really teach what is important to children. We need to eliminate unnecessary meetings and paperwork so teachers have time to truly teach. Teachers should direct their own training because they know best the skills they need.</p>

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<p><b>Zone 4 Con't</b></p>		<p>Four-year term. No salary.</p>	
<p><b>Rita Moore</b> 8956 N McKenna Ave. Portland, OR 97203 971-222-4805 ritamoore1@yahoo.com mooreforschools.org</p> <p><i>Ph.D. Political Science, Columbia University; child advocate, CASA for Children; Fulbright Scholar; Curriculum Consultant, Professor, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania; Assistant Professor, Portland State University; mediator.</i></p>	<p>Our funding priorities should be preserving classrooms and programs as much as possible and making progress on redressing the most obvious inequities in curriculum and supports, especially in the reconfigured K-8s which continue to be seriously under-resourced. Cuts should focus first on central office expenditures and administrative costs. If the situation worsens, classroom cuts may be inevitable. While I hate the thought of shortening the school year, that is preferable to increasing the student:staff ratio.</p>	<p>I would promote a decision making process that is more transparent, deliberate, and conforms to our core values of equity and community engagement. Past school restructuring has occurred without appropriate planning, creating schools that are chronically under-resourced. I would insist that the high school redesign be done carefully, with a clear educational vision and adequate identified resources. I would also seek a budget format that clarifies expenditures by department and project to permit easier monitoring.</p>	<p>I support creating monetary incentives to reward experienced teachers who choose to teach in high-needs schools. Team teaching and teaching mentors can be invaluable supports to younger or struggling teachers and encourage professional development within schools. A critical factor is the quality of the school leadership. Principals should be seen as highly skilled educational leaders, rather than primarily administrators, with the ability and capacity to identify problems and work with their staff to resolve them.</p>
<p><b>Zone 5</b></p>		<p>Four-year term. No salary.</p>	
<p><b>Pam Knowles</b> 3655 NE Merges Dr. Portland, OR 97212 503-753-2869 pamknowlesforgreatschools@gmail.com www.pamknowles.com</p> <p><i>BS, OSU; JD, Lewis and Clark; Teacher, Lawyer, Arts Education Advocate, PTA President, Oregon Childcare Commission, Oregon Commission on Judicial Discipline, City/County Education Task Force.</i></p>	<p>Funding priorities include maintaining the length of the school year, maintaining class size and teacher training.</p> <p>Cuts would be in travel, unfilled positions</p> <p>Priority should be on advocating statewide for stable education funding through restructuring our tax system, including revising the corporate minimum, local option and the kicker, and insisting that education is the state's top priority. In challenging times there are great opportunities. Polling shows Oregonians support education funding.</p>	<p>In tough economic times we need to have stronger relationships between the district, government, business and the community to expand partnerships to decrease the 42% drop out rate and achievement gap. Early childhood programs, summer academies, youth corps, mentors, job shadows and internships, family support and after school enrichment are all examples of programs that help increase performance and the district should be developing more in order to stretch scarce dollars.</p>	<p>We want the best teachers with the strongest skills teaching our children. I support the development of mentoring and on-site training for teachers delivered on-site by master teachers with experience teaching in high-needs schools.</p> <p>The district must establish teacher evaluation tools for principals and provide training in evaluation, coaching, career teacher development and teambuilding to increase principal effectiveness. Strong, effective leaders make a difference.</p>
<p><b>Scott Bailey</b> 2725 NE 29th Ave. Portland, OR 97212 503-869-5433 campaign@scottbaileyforportland.com www.scottbaileyforportland.com</p> <p><i>Economist specializing in workforce development. Co-founder, CPPS, major partner with PPS on school quality. Successful record bringing change to PPS. Leader in school funding campaigns.</i></p>	<p>There's no good place to make cuts. Any cuts should minimize the impact on the classroom and preserve programs that support student achievement. Increase teaching time by eliminating some or all of the 5 professional development days. Eliminate mass purchase of textbooks for centralized curriculum adoptions. Small, targeted investments in parent involvement, site council training. Certified librarians in every school. Expand community partnerships at every school to mitigate effect of cuts.</p>	<p>Significantly reduce high rate of suspensions/expulsions of students of color. Ensure equity in available course offerings in middle grades and high schools. Include teachers, staff, parents and students in evaluating principals. Bring TAG, ESL, special education into compliance with state law. Expand meaningful parent involvement. Construction bond to rebuild schools as community centers. Evaluate the move to K-8—expand project-oriented learning, community service. Expand career/technical education programs in every high school.</p>	<p>Ensure new teachers are hired at same time as other districts. Increase diversity of teaching staff. Expand teacher mentoring. Identify instructional leaders for each school. Better utilize and evaluate Teachers on Special Assignment. Give schools more control of professional development; base it on teacher needs, not District directives. More time for teachers to meet with other teachers. Train facilitators to make teacher Professional Learning Communities effective. Work with teachers to improve teacher evaluation process.</p>

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<b>Zone 6</b>		Four-year term. No salary.	
<p><b>Trudy Sargent</b> 1309 SE 55th Ave. Portland, OR 97215 503-407-4077 trudysargent@comcast.net</p> <p><i>Current: Local business owner; Co-Chair, Board of Education. Previous experience: tax attorney; law clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals; PTA president; Site Council member; classroom volunteer.</i></p>	<p>First priority: avoid or reduce layoffs with proposed wage freeze for next year. Second, set budget priorities using the Milestones Framework developed by the Board and Superintendent to focus resources on students meeting specific learning goals. Use across the board type cuts, for example increasing class size, rather than cutting supports to successful initiatives, such as those focused on improving the graduation rate. One increase: fund library position in every school to improve student achievement.</p>	<p>Continue to work to lengthen school year and school day, to be competitive nationally and internationally. Focus on improving graduation rate, closing achievement gap and challenging high achieving students to continue to grow academically. Continue work to identify educational strategies that work and discontinue those that don't. Advocate at state legislature for adequate and stable funding. Continue to focus dollars in the classroom to demonstrate to taxpayers that tax dollars are used wisely.</p>	<p>I have taken a leading role in bargaining with the Portland Association of Teachers: the district and union agreed to form a joint committee to revise the teacher evaluation process, to provide teachers with meaningful feedback to improve instruction and principals with meaningful standards to evaluate teachers. Last year a similar committee revised the hiring assignment and transfer process, which should result in fewer forced placement of teachers, which often occurs in high needs schools.</p>

## Multnomah County Auditor Candidates

All voters in the county vote for one candidate.

<b>Questions:</b> The first 75 words of each reply are printed as received with no correction of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Candidates are listed in ballot order.	<b>How will you effectively include the public in deciding what programs or services to audit?</b>	<b>How will you prioritize the auditor's responsibilities?</b>	<b>How will you use the auditor's office to improve county government?</b>
Filling end of four-year term. Next regular election November 2010.		Salary: \$91,574	
<p><b>Steve March</b> 842 NE 44th Ave. Portland, OR 97213 503-235-9708 march415@teleport.com</p> <p><i>Chief Accounting &amp; Budgetary Officer, Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences, PSU; State Representative; Senior Management Auditor, Multnomah Co.; Certified Internal Auditor; PhD.</i></p>	<p>The public may contact the Auditor's Office directly by phone (503-988-3320) or through the County web-site (<a href="http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/auditor">www.co.multnomah.or.us/auditor</a>), express their concerns or interests to their County Commissioner or the Chair, or they may contact the Citizen Involvement Committee to get involved with the County. In addition they can contact the Good Government Hotline (<a href="http://GoodGovHotline.com">GoodGovHotline.com</a>) or (1-888-289-6839). Information from all those sources are included in our risk assessment for determining what to audit.</p>	<p>The Auditor's primary responsibilities (performance audits of all county operations and financial affairs, plus studies intended to improve performance) are prioritized based on financial risk and risk to the public in terms of health, safety, access to services and equity. Do to the extent of county operations it is impossible to audit all programs in a short timeframe, evaluating not only risk but when the last audit was performed all go into the analysis.</p>	<p>The Auditor's Office's true calling is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of county operations for the betterment of the citizens and clientele of the county. To achieve those results the Auditor's Office must find ways of working with the other county elected officials and with the county workforce to get recommendations for change implemented.</p>

# City of Portland Auditor Candidates

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<p>Filling end of four-year term. Next regular election November 2010.</p>			<p style="text-align: right;">Salary: \$95,867</p>
<p><b>LaVonne Griffin-Valade</b>            4119 NE 22nd Ave.            Portland, OR 97211            503-970-9152            auditorlgv@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Audited Multnomah County government since 1998; served as elected County Auditor, Deputy Auditor, and Senior Auditor; MPA; Certified Internal Auditor; Certified Government Auditing Professional.</i></p>	<p>Feedback from the public is an essential component of determining potential audit areas. As City Auditor, I will launch a community comment line to give residents an opportunity to suggest possible audit topics, ask general questions, and be heard. I will also convene neighborhood conversations throughout the city to discuss audit reports and special studies, hear community concerns, and provide the public with additional opportunities to weigh in on potential audits.</p>	<p>The Auditor conducts audits of all city operations, as well as manages several other functions requiring independence, objectivity, and neutrality. Some of those other functions include: Council Clerk; Elections; Hearings Office; Archives; Records Management; Liens, Independent Police Review, Ombudsman Office. My priority is very straightforward: build a higher profile auditing function that's focused on high impact audits, while strengthening the effectiveness and responsiveness of the other services within the Auditor's authority.</p>	<p>An impartial and independent Auditor brings lasting and effective change through timely, relevant, and objective performance audits and studies. Audits and studies are used to improve the management of city programs and operations and to bring about effective delivery of services to the public. As the elected Portland City Auditor, I will work for taxpayers to identify inefficiencies, as well as find opportunities to save money, reduce waste, and improve services.</p>

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