

Fall 2014

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VOTE YES

Measure 86

Creates a permanent investment fund to provide financial aid to Oregonians pursuing post-secondary education

Measure 88

Upholds Oregon state law that provides a driver certification process for all Oregonians

Measure 89

Places equal rights for women into the Oregon Constitution

Measure 92

Requires genetically engineered foods to display a label stating its ingredients are genetically engineered

VOTE NO

Measure 90

Dramatically changes our elections to reduce voters' choices and limit the voice of working families

ONA Oregon
Nurses
Association
Voice of Oregon Nurses Since 1904

Oregon Nurse_{online}

The Official Publication of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA)

Voter's Guide



Please Cast Your Ballot by Nov. 4

Your Vote Counts

A message from ONA's Board President, Kathleen Cooper, BSN, RN, CCRN



Ensuring the Health of Nursing's Future

As a direct care nurse I've often wondered what relevance there was in ONA's work regarding health policy and political action to issues I see in my workplace.

As ONA president, I have been amazed to learn about the formal process used by our members in conducting a comprehensive review and evaluation of the issues concerning our practice and health care in general. I have also been impressed with the care our members give to analyzing and interviewing candidates for state and national offices.

I believe we share both a responsibility and privilege within our organization to shape the future health care system for the state in which we live.

ONA is blessed with a large and diverse membership representing a wide variety of personal views about candidates and issues, and our recommendations are respectful of this.

This Voter's Guide makes recommendations based on careful considerations as described in our internal processes below:

For many state candidates, members from the candidate's district are invited to participate in interviews which focus on the issues that you have told us are your priorities. A recommendation from the local interview process is made to the Oregon Nurse Political Action Committee (ON-PAC) for their decision. Local recommendations are important, but ON-PAC must also weigh each candidate's past performance and realistic ability to win election before deciding to grant our endorsement and/or provide financial support.

For national candidates, ONA works with the American Nurses Association Political Action Committee (ANA-PAC) and staff to make our recommendations. ANA-PAC is responsive to our local experience with the candidates.

When decisions are being made on an issue coming before the legislature or the voters in the form of a ballot measure, your colleagues serving on ONA's Cabinet on Health Policy spend a great deal of time evaluating the issue, hearing from experts and comparing the issue to ONA's Health Policy Platform, which is determined by our House of Delegates. For ballot measures, ONA's Nurses United Political Action committee (NU-PAC) determines the amount of your resources that are spent on an issue.

Participation by YOU, our members, is perhaps the most important aspect of ONA's work. Serving on one of our Cabinets or PACs is just one way to get involved and make a difference. Other opportunities include walking door-to-door in support of a candidate, attending a town hall to draw attention to your priority issues or calling your ONA colleagues and urging them to vote.

As we approach the November election, I hope you will find this special Oregon Nurse edition helpful as you apply your critical evaluation to the candidates and issues.

As your president it is my pleasure to encourage you to please VOTE!

Governor Kitzhaber Speaks to Oregon's Nurses



Today 95 percent of Oregonians are covered with health insurance. And we're making good on our promise to keep health care costs in check and improve quality.

As a doctor, I understand the important work that nurses do on the front lines of our medical system. And, I also understand that everyone deserves access to health care, regardless of their age, race, income, gender or sexual orientation.

That's why I've fought so hard over the last three-and-a-half years to transform our health care system, delivering better outcomes at a lower cost – and expanding coverage to thousands of Oregonians who've never had it before.

Today 95 percent of Oregonians are covered with health insurance. And we're making good on our promise to keep health care costs in check and improve quality.

We're taking on out-of-control medical inflation because we can no longer simply stand by while businesses, families and state government are forced to spend more and more every year on an inefficient system that is not making us healthier as a population – dollars that otherwise businesses could be using to create new jobs; families could be using to get out of debt and pay down their mortgages; and the state could be using for critical services.

We're also exceeding our job creation goals with more Oregonians entering the workforce, and delivering

better outcomes for students, more resources for teachers and demanding accountability across our education system – from early learning through K-12 and college and career training.

By working together, we're improving the lives of Oregonians every day and building on a vision of Oregon where we all have the opportunity to achieve our full potential, where hard work is rewarded with a better life and we are able to leave our kids off better than we were.

That's why I'm asking for your vote on November 4th.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Kitzhaber".

Governor John Kitzhaber



Why Your Vote is Important in 2014



Jenn Baker, BA
Political Organizer

The candidates we elect to serve in the Oregon Legislature will make decisions that affect all Oregonians next session. Your vote helps determine who will be making key decisions from ONA's proposal

to improve Oregon's Nurse Staffing Law, donor safety on blood drives and a statewide earned sick days policy, to funding for education, human services and nursing school programs.

Adequate nurse staffing is the number one indicator of job satisfaction among nurses, which won't surprise many of you who struggle with this issue every day.

Beyond keeping good nurses in their chosen career, adequate staffing helps ensure the safety of your patients, by helping to reduce the length of their hospital stay and lowering incidences of adverse events. Both outcomes help hospitals save money.

Nurses throughout the state are united on the issue of nurse staffing, and ONA has heard you clearly. As a result, we've incorporated nurse staffing into our endorsement process. We made it one of the key questions we asked candidates and a defining issue upon which we made our election endorsements. Our goal is to ensure Oregon's candidates and legislators know your concerns about Oregon's Nurse Staffing Law and will take action to improve nurse staffing regulations in 2015.

This won't happen without your voice. When you sit down to fill out your ballot, I urge you to vote as a nurse and as an advocate for each of your patients. A vote for an ONA-endorsed candidate helps ensure we have the right people in Salem – legislators who will make informed decisions and advocate for the issues that matter to us.

You can check your voter registration online at www.oregonvotes.org. Remember ballots are due back no later than Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4.

To find out more about ONA-endorsed candidates in your area, please contact Jenn at baker@oregonrn.org.

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Federal Races

U.S. Senate

(Federal endorsements are made in collaboration with ANA)

Senator: **Senator Jeff Merkley** (D-Portland)

Congressional Races

- CD 1: **Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici** (D-Beaverton)
- CD 2: **Congressman Greg Walden** (R-Hood River)
- CD 3: **Congressman Earl Blumenauer** (D-Portland)
- CD 4: **Congressman Peter DeFazio** (D-Springfield)
- CD 5: **Congressman Kurt Schrader** (D-Canby)

State Races

Governor: **Governor John Kitzhaber**

State Senate

- SD 3: **Senator Alan Bates** (D-Medford)
- SD 4: **Senator Floyd Prozanski** (D-Eugene)
- SD 6: **Senator Lee Beyer** (D-Springfield)
- SD 7: **Senator Chris Edwards** (D-Eugene)
- SD 8: **Representative Sara Gelser** (D-Corvallis)
- SD 11: **Senator Peter Courtney** (D-Salem)
- SD 19: **Senator Richard Devlin** (D-Tualatin)
- SD 20: **Jamie Damon** (D-Eagle Creek)
- SD 23: **Senator Michael Dembrow** (D-NE Portland)
- SD 24: **Senator Rod Monroe** (D-Portland)

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ONA's Candidate and Ballot Measure Endorsements

State House of Representatives

- HD 5: **Representative Peter Buckley** (D-Ashland)
- HD 8: **Representative Paul Holvey** (D-Eugene)
- HD 9: **Representative Caddy McKeown** (D-Coos Bay/ Florence)
- HD 10: **Representative David Gomberg** (D-Lincoln City)
- HD 11: **Representative Phil Barnhart** (D-Springfield/Eugene)
- HD 12: **Representative John Lively** (D-Springfield)
- HD 13: **Representative Nancy Nathanson** (D-Eugene)
- HD 14: **Representative Val Hoyle** (D-W. Eugene)
- HD 16: **Dan Rayfield** (D-Corvallis)
- HD 20: **Paul Evans** (D-Monmouth)
- HD 21: **Representative Brian Clem** (D-Salem)
- HD 22: **Representative Betty Komp** (D-Woodburn)
- HD 27: **Representative Tobias Read** (D-Beaverton)
- HD 28: **Representative Jeff Barker** (D-Beaverton/Aloha)
- HD 29: **Susan McLain** (D-Hillsboro)
- HD 30: **Representative Joe Gallegos** (D- Hillsboro)
- HD 31: **Representative Brad Witt** (D-Clatskanie County)
- HD 32: **Representative Deborah Boone** (D-Cannon Beach)
- HD 33: **Representative Mitch Greenlick** (D-NW Portland)
- HD 34: **Ken Helm** (D-Beaverton)
- HD 35: **Representative Margaret Doherty** (D-Tigard)
- HD 36: **Representative Jennifer Williamson** (D-SW Portland)
- HD 37: **Representative Julie Parrish** (R-Tualatin)
- HD 38: **Representative Ann Lininger** (D- Lake Oswego)
- HD 39: **Representative Bill Kennemer** (R-Oregon City)

- HD 40: **Representative Brent Barton** (D- Gladstone/Oregon City)
- HD 41: **Kathleen Taylor** (D-Milwaukie)
- HD 42: **Representative Rob Nosse** (D-SE Portland)
- HD 43: **Representative Lew Frederick** (D-NE Portland)
- HD 44: **Representative Tina Kotek** (D-N Portland)
- HD 45: **Representative Barbara Smith Warner** (D-NE Portland)
- HD 47: **Representative Jessica Vega Pederson** (D-East Portland)
- HD 48: **Representative Jeff Reardon** (D-SE Portland, Happy Valley)
- HD 49: **Representative Chris Gorsek** (D-Gresham, Troutdale)
- HD 50: **Carla Piluso** (D-Gresham)
- HD 51: **Representative Shemia Fagan** (D-Clackamas, East Portland)
- HD 53: **Representative Gene Whisnant** (R-Sunriver)
- HD 57: **Representative Greg Smith** (R-Heppner)
- HD 59: **Representative John Huffman** (R-The Dalles)

Ballot Measures

OPPOSE

Measure 90: Dramatically changes our elections to reduce voters' choices and limit the voice of working families

SUPPORT

Measure 86: Creates a permanent investment fund to provide financial aid to Oregonians pursuing post-secondary education

Measure 88: Upholds Oregon state law that provides a driver certification process for all Oregonians

Measure 89: Places equal rights for women into the Oregon Constitution

Measure 92: Requires genetically engineered foods to display a label stating its ingredients are genetically engineered

To learn how to get more involved in ONA's political work, please email Jenn at: baker@oregonrn.org.

An Open Letter

*The Oregon Nurses Association
stands with the diverse
Protect Our Vote coalition
of non-profits, small businesses,
elected officials,
major and minor parties,
and labor unions that all agree:
Vote NO on Measure 90.*



Dear ONA members,

When you get your ballot this week, you'll be asked to weigh in on Measure 90, which would change how we vote in our May elections. Sound boring? It's actually hugely consequential.

Measure 90, drafted and funded by big corporations and millionaire CEOs, would make dramatic changes to how our elections are run, by adopting a "Top Two" system. This would make it easier for Big Business to elect candidates who side with their corporate agenda, at the expense of nurses and other Oregonians.

Candidates who get support from working Oregonians, will struggle to raise the money needed to compete in an expensive May election and then again against the same top competitor in November. If we had a "Top Two" system today, candidates like ONA's Rob Nosse would be battling it out right now – for a second time – with one of the same candidates he just defeated in May. And, with limited resources to support pro-worker candidates, candidates backed by Big Business money will have a huge advantage.

Our election system may not be perfect, but this poorly-written measure fixes none of our current problems, and actually makes some problems worse.

In addition to putting more money into politics, Measure 90 virtually eliminates minor party candidates from the November election, removing important voices from our political debate.

Join me in voting NO on Measure 90 to send a message to Big Business that they can't change our elections and they can't limit our vote.

Sincerely,

Sheri Malstrom, RN, BSN

Sheri Malstrom, RN, BSN
ON-PAC and NU-PAC President
Oregon Nurses Association