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HIGHER ED

Please describe your views and position on funding or support for higher education, including, but not limited to, State funding, tuition rates, University accountability, etc.,

There has been a consistent decrease in support from the Federal and the State Government for public universities. Over the last few decades, our public universities have operated more like corporations rather than places for individuals to get a quality education. Tuition rates continue to increase every year, making it harder for students to stay in school. The University of Oregon has also recently made significant cuts in departments that provide students with opportunities. They have also made it harder for teachers to do their job because they are having to think about health insurance, work benefits, and meager wages. All the while, the athletic departments and the football program are fully funded. The University of Oregon should be held accountable to its students and to its staff that make it run, not to the board of trustees or Nike. Additionally, Oregon State Legislature and the Federal Government have a responsibility to increase their support for our public universities.

Please describe your views and position on state transparency, especially in relation to University foundations that (are meant to) serve the interests of the State and its people.

When the State Government spends money, tax payers deserve to know where the money is being allocated as they are the ones generating it. University foundations are meant to serve the interests of the state and its people. If elected as County Commissioner for District 3, it would be my responsibility to ensure that students and the people that reside in the State of Oregon understand and know where their tax dollars are being spent. State transparency is also important to make sure that the money utilized goes towards students receiving a quality and affordable education.

UNION RIGHTS

Do you support the right of employees to collectively bargain?

Absolutely! When employers are being unreasonable, employees are best positioned to
have their needs met when they come together and decide for themselves what kind of workplace they would like to work in and what kinds of benefits they deserve. There is strength in numbers.

Would you oppose efforts to eliminate or restrict the right of workers and their unions to represent all workers or use payroll-deduction for union dues, including publicly opposing ballot measures?

Yes, I would. I think that these types of tactics are sinister and are used to discourage workers from joining or participating in their unions.

How likely are you to publicly oppose measures, as indicated above, that are deemed to be hostile to organized labor?

I am very likely to publicly oppose ballot measures and would happily give my name as County Commissioner to a list of endorsers. In addition to this, I would provide valuable support. Given the fact that I was a coalition manager for the No on Measure 105 Campaign, protecting Oregon’s 32 year old anti-racial profiling law, my network is wide and vast and I would actively campaign to get them involved to protect organized labor.

What are some of the ways you imagine pushing back on the continued effort to weaken Union strength (State legislation following Janus v. AFSCME; attempt to gut LERC; etc.)?

Unions across the State and the County need to double down in their efforts to advocate for workers. Janus v AFSCME decision was a major blow to the power of unions and this current effort to gut LERC is another attempt to reduce the functional capacity of unions. As County Commissioner, I would be a strong advocate for the preservation and creation of unions. SEIU has a vision of Unions for Everyone. It is a vision I share. We must ensure current and future elected officials are not only aligned with unions but are champions for them. I am hopeful unions can come back stronger than ever. There are efforts currently in many sectors to create them. Currently, there is good work being done by community/union members and elected officials to stop the attacks on union members, but it is not enough. We need a more diverse pool of advocates and strategies. Last February, I led a campaign against Sheriff Trapp when he was allowing ICE special access to the Lane County Jail. A diverse coalition of immigrants service providers, social justice groups, government officials, activists, and students pushed back through earned media, testimony, and a protest outside of his office that led to his eventual resignation. Going through the courts, legislation, and elected officials is a great tactic but we need to use the other side of the coin as well. Public dissent, protests, and strategic outrage are important tools for change. In the fight for union rights, I am willing to bring all my experience to the table to sustain and grow unions for all.
LOCAL ISSUES

What is your position (and any plans) on addressing the Eugene/Springfield housing situation?

Eugene is running a net deficit on available housing consistently every year. Between short term rental properties, skyrocketing rent, and low incentive for builders, our current housing system is not adapting quickly or effectively to address these concerns.

We need to build up, not out, specifically along tier one traffic corridors throughout the city. By developing along high traffic corridors, we preserve and protect the majority of the existing housing supply, encourage use of public transportation and provide opportunities for mixed use commercial and residential properties. By focusing on multi-unit dwellings, built for a fraction of the cost, and by using a fraction of the space in comparison to lots currently zoned for single occupancy dwellings we can close the housing deficit. If we encourage the development of these multi-occupancy dwellings, we can lower rent, house more individuals in less space and create a diverse array of options for renters throughout our community.

Our area has seen an uptick in “hate crimes” and related activities. How would you work towards addressing these issues?

As the Chair of the Eugene Human Rights Commission, I have first hand knowledge and experience monitoring and addressing hate and biased crimes in our community. I championed and introduced our city's resolution against White Nationalism and White Supremacy and I've fought for our state's 32 year old sanctuary status. My experience as a coalition builder fighting against legislation targeting marginalized groups and as the only person of color in this race, I am the only candidate qualified and capable of changing hearts and minds regarding hate and bias crimes in our community.

How do you plan on addressing issues around poverty and homelessness in our area?

The issue of poverty and homelessness in our community is tragic, but a practical and meaningful coordinated response is long overdue. Between the 2018 TAC Report, and the recently published Prosecution of the Unhoused, by Lane County Legal Aid/Oregon Law Center, the outline for addressing this issue is readily available, but has yet to be effectively implemented in our community.

By a modest investment from our local government to fund the additional hiring of HHS FTE, we could effectively conduct outreach and tracking of unsheltered individuals. By tracking these folks, we could assist these individuals in their transition off the streets and back to contributing to our society.
By creating a low barrier shelter, we could develop the infrastructure to house, treat and identify the needs of unsheltered individuals. By identifying these needs and pairing these individuals with FTE’s from HHS we can create individual treatment and strategic plans to effectively get these folks off the streets.

Currently the Oregon State Legislature is considering a bill that will invest $40 million to create new shelters. This week both the house and senate Republicans walked out of the capitol, effectively stopping several important bills, including this one. If they do not come back it will not pass and we will be forced to come back to it in the 2021 session. As County Commissioner, I would advocate for this funding to pass.

CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS

Are there choices or decisions you have made in the past that we should be aware of in making our recommendation to support your candidacy?

I have consistently advocated and championed groundbreaking and innovative solutions to environmental, social, and human rights issues. I started doing so in highschool when I was addressing the achievement gap between white students and students of color at the age of 15. In college, I was part of both MEChA and the Coalition Against Environmental Racism. We actively campaigned against the “Show Me Your Papers” law in Arizona and to address environmental racism locally and nationally. Since I graduated college in 2014, I have accomplished many advancements in environmental justice, human rights and immigrant rights.

What are your three primary goals while serving in this position, both short term and longer term?

In the short term, I want to address affordable housing, homelessness and safety in our communities.

In the long term, I would like to create a real climate action plan, develop a segment of our economy that isn’t beholden to extraction based endeavours, and continue to ensure Lane County’s budget is balanced to ensure prosperity, inclusivity and support of all its residents.

How will those goals and your plans while in office benefit Higher Ed organized labor as well as the students we serve?

People in Higher Ed and students will most certainly benefit from safer communities. There has been a significant increase in hate and bias activity on campus that is preventing people from feeling safe. Additionally, given the alarmingly increasing cost of attendance for students along with the Higher Ed labor wages, these individuals deserve access to higher quality affordable housing.
**Why did you decide to run for this position?**

I was raised in the Whiteaker neighborhood of Eugene, OR, home to primarily working-class residents. On May 29, 1995, the Eugene Register Guard reported Whiteaker Elementary as one of the most economically disadvantaged schools in Oregon, with an influx of poor and Hispanic illiterate students. Many students came from homeless families; 97% fell below state and federal poverty guidelines. My parents moved into the apartment complex across the street from this elementary school in 1995. Whiteaker was a blighted area with a high violent crime rate when our family lived there. I recall walking to the park with my younger sister, and our mother reminding us to be careful of the needles in the sandbox. Living next to the highway, we experienced harsh levels of air pollution; in fact, my younger brother was born with asthma. Given these experiences, I know first hand the struggles everyday families face in South Eugene and Lane County. I hope to address affordable housing and public safety and also aim to cultivate a regenerative economy county-wide, with environmental and social benefits for present and future generations. With the current Federal and State inaction, it is now more important than ever that Lane County remains a beacon of hope. I have been fighting for his hometown my entire life, and this election will help bring the necessary energy to build a thriving future for all.

**What other organizations are supporting your candidacy?**

Democratic Party of Lane County  
NAROL Pro-Choice

**What is your plan to win your election?**

I plan to win my election by tapping into the grassroots culture of our community. By building strong ties with community organizations, labor unions, a diverse and creative UO and the general public at large, we can activate a network of voters and volunteers that will help propel our county into a brighter future. As a young person of color, I mirror the experience of folks who have never participated in politics as a whole. Our campaign aims to bring these folks in and create a more educated, energetic and participatory electorate.

We plan to raise at least $80,000, knock on every door in district 3 and register as many individuals as possible to turn out and vote, not just for county commissioner, but for every ticket on the ballot. We want to encourage folks to learn more about the people representing them in local, state and federal government and allow them to truly own their vote.
What would UAUO’s endorsement mean to you?

As a graduate of the University of Oregon and as a lifelong duck, the support and endorsement of the people who inspired me to become the leader I am today would be a testament to your organization’s influence as educators. If it hadn’t been for the professors, GTFs and other staff at the university, I doubt I would have accomplished what I have up to this point. Your support would send a strong message to current and future students that with the proper guidance, they too can help make their community a better place.