



OREGON AFSCME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2012

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AFSCME Local 189, Endorsement Process

PORTLAND - Local 189 started the endorsement process in October. Members created a questionnaire that was sent to all announced candidates for City Council and Mayor. Questionnaires were required to be returned no later than November 30, 2011. All candidates who responded with a completed questionnaire were given the opportunity to schedule an interview on either January 3rd, or January 5th. The members in attendance at the interviews deliberated and voted on their recommendations to take the General Membership.

Local 189 President, Deb Hussey commented, "we endorse through a democratic process centered around member involvement and participation. We've put a lot of time and effort into it, and feel that we have endorsed the best possible candidates."

Local 189 represents 940 employees who work for the City of Portland. Local 189's endorsement paves the way for AFSCME Council 75 to endorse. AFSCME Council 75 is the parent organization of the Local Unions, representing employees not only at the City of Portland, but Metro Regional Government, Multnomah County, Oregon Health Sciences University, the Portland Development Commission, Home Forward and many other public and private sector employees. AFSCME through their affiliate Locals represent over 10,000 members who work in the Portland metropolitan area.



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AFSCME Local 189, City of Portland Employees, Endorse Mary Nolan, Steve Novick for City Commissioner races

PORTLAND - AFSCME Local 189, voted on their endorsement at their General Membership meeting on January 24. After consideration of four (4) candidates for Portland City Commissioner Position 1 and three (3) candidates for Portland City Commissioner Position 4, AFSCME Local 189 voted to endorse Mary Nolan for City Commissioner, Position 1 and Steve Novick for City Commissioner, Position 4.

Mary Nolan was chosen over the incumbent, Amanda Fritz, for her experience working at the city, her work on Ways and Means at the State Legislature and her consistent record of standing up for all working families. Although many of the members working at the Bureau of Emergency Communications and Office of Neighborhood Involvement were supportive of Amanda, the call for change at City Hall combined with Mary's record of support for working people was ultimately persuasive.

"We need a candidate that will stand strong and come in prepared to get things done in City Council. Mary Nolan has a proven record of being effective in bringing people together and getting the job done," said Political Action Committee Chair, Mark Gipson.

Steve Novick was endorsed over other candidates for his depth of knowledge in policy and budget issues from the City to National levels. This knowledge coupled with his unwavering support of working people, and popularity in the community made him the pick for the Local.

"We interviewed some great local activists that are running for office and hope they continue to help Portland grow and become better. However, with Steve's advocacy and community work we know we will have a strong and effective voice on City Council," commented Local President, Deb Hussey.

AFSCME's endorsement process was opened to all candidates running for mayor with the interview open for all members to attend. Each candidate that returned a completed questionnaire, the first step in pursuing an AFSCME endorsement, was then asked to interview with membership of the union. The members in attendance at the interviews deliberated and voted on their recommendations to take the General Membership. Local 189 represents 940 employees who work for the City of Portland.

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AFSCME Local 189, City of Portland Employees Endorse Jefferson Smith for Mayor

PORTLAND - AFSCME Local 189, voted on their endorsement at their General Membership meeting on January 24. After consideration of candidates, Eileen Brady, Charlie Hales and Jefferson Smith, the vote was taken and the endorsement went to Jefferson Smith.

Both Eileen Brady and Charlie Hales had worked hard to receive the Local's backing as well.

"Eileen is an interesting candidate, she reached out to our members and our many of our members liked her. In the end we felt she was untested and were looking for a candidate with a history of standing up for working people," commented Local President, Deb Hussey.

Members also appreciated that Charlie Hales was willing to reach out and participate in the endorsement process have conversations with them. However, many of the members were seeking a change in leadership that would take the City in a new direction.

With the City's weak Mayor structure, a Mayor needs to be able to build consensus with four other strong personalities. As a State Representative Jefferson Smith has a proven track record of consensus building, without compromising on important issues such as protecting voting rights, and creating transparency in government. He has shown through his work to limit middle management and focus budgets on front line services that he is willing to challenge the status quo.

"Jefferson has been working with us in the legislature to move a progressive agenda protecting voting rights and creating transparency in government. Additionally, he carried the bill that directed state agencies to cut middle management and direct the budget to go to front line services. With potential cuts on the horizon at the City, this resonates with our members. We are confident that he will bring that forward thinking to the City of Portland too and look forward to working with him," said Political Action Committee Chair and Local Vice President, Mark Gipson.

AFSCME's endorsement process was opened to all candidates running for mayor with interview open for all members to attend. Each candidate that returned a completed questionnaire, the first step in pursuing an AFSCME endorsement, was then asked to interview with membership of the union. The members in attendance at the interviews deliberated and voted on their recommendations to take the General Membership. Local 189 represents 940 employees who work for the City of Portland.

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