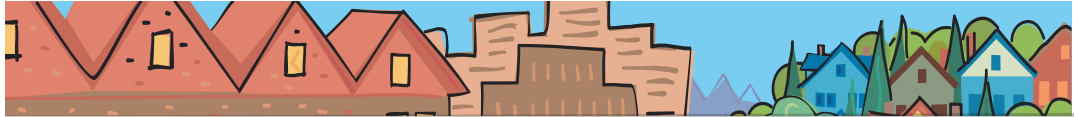


# Rex Burkholder

## METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 NEWS



**METRO**

PEOPLE PLACES  
OPEN SPACES

**Rex Burkholder  
represents District  
5, which includes  
Northwest Portland,  
North Portland,  
Northeast Portland,  
downtown Portland,  
a portion of  
Southwest Portland  
and a portion of  
Southeast Portland.**



### To Build or Not to Build

Well, Will Shakespeare wasn't talking about the Oregon Convention Center Headquarters Hotel project, but we are faced with a similarly weighty question at Metro. On September 27th the Metro Council will decide what option out of five will best enhance the economy of the Portland region as well as the operations of the Oregon Convention Center. These options range from building a headquarters hotel to changing the mission of the Convention Center (for more info, read the story below).

To provide some background as to why we are considering this question, when the original Oregon Convention Center (OCC) was built in 1986 it was assumed that a Headquarters Hotel would be built next door. In the convention business, having a large, high quality hotel near the meeting hall is considered vital. But they must include amenities that cater to the needs of conventioners, making them expensive to build, and they typically generate a more modest return on investment compared to other hotels. At the end of September, the Metro Council will be voting whether we are the right agency and whether this is the right time to build a HQ hotel. I want to tell you what I will be thinking as we consider this big move.

1. Why consider building a HQ hotel? (and why operate a Convention Center in the first place?) Simply put, conventions bring money into the regional economy. About \$440 million a year according to our best analysis. Convention goers go shopping, eat out a lot and often travel to other parts of the state to see the sights. Through a tax on their hotel bills, they help pay for the OCC expansion completed in 2001 as well as for other public projects and promotion of Oregon as a tourist destination. Having a HQ hotel will help bring in more and larger conventions and boost economic impact. Which leads us to the question of ...

2. How much new money will come to the region? To find this out, Metro has commissioned studies as well as having our in-house financial experts delve through the numbers. It would obviously be a bad decision if there were to be a poor return on our investment. These studies are available on the Metro website (see story in this newsletter). I will have to see a very positive economic boost to our region, and to the neighborhood, in order to support a HQ hotel. Speaking of return on investment, question 3 is ...

3. How much will it cost and who will pay for it? Metro is looking at an option where the hotel would be financed by bonds, repaid by revenue generated by the hotel itself and backstopped by other resources. Metro (you, the public) would own the building, while hiring outside experts to run the operations. My biggest concern is whether it will be able to cover its costs and not require any ongoing subsidies from taxpayers. Currently, Metro runs the OCC, even having an independent group of volunteer citizens, the Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission, in charge of operations. The HQ hotel will have to meet the same standard.

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## To Build or Not to Build

*continued from page 1*

My hope is that the decision the Metro Council makes will boost the economic impact of the OCC and bring jobs to the Portland region. That said, I and my fellow councilors see this as a decision not to be taken lightly and are investing the time and resources to make sure we make the right decision.

— Rex Burkholder

## Metro Council adopts enhanced construction and demolition recycling standards

The Metro Council passed legislation in August intended to increase the amount of materials recycled or recovered from construction and demolition projects in the region. Known as the Enhanced Dry Waste Recovery Program, the ordinance requires dry waste from construction and demolition—such as wood, cardboard and metal—to be processed through a recovery facility to pull out recyclables.

Currently, much of this material goes directly into landfills. Diverting an expected 33,000 tons would save an average of 25,931 metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE) or greenhouse gasses each year. That's the equivalent of keeping 19,567 cars off the road, energy savings to power 6,977 homes and a reduction of 35,000 tons of airborne wastes, or 21.8 million miles of heavy truck travel.

A well-developed system of more than 90 recyclers and salvagers and seven facilities in the region recovers materials from dry waste. The low cost of bringing construction debris to landfills, however, has made dumping more financially practical for many in the construction industry. More than half of the construction and demolition debris generated in 2005-06 was disposed of in landfills.

In 2003, Metro convened a group comprised of local governments, businesses, construction industry representatives, waste haulers, and operators of dry waste recovery facilities and landfills to study the problem. The group determined that requiring construction and demolition dry waste to undergo recovery before landfill disposal was the most effective way to achieve the statewide waste reduction goal.

Recovering this material will help the region reach its state-mandated waste reduction goal of 64 percent. Previously, all of Metro's recycling programs (with the exception of business recycling in the city of Portland) were voluntary. Metro and its partners in the tri-county

region provide waste producers with tools, techniques and opportunities to recycle, but historically have not required them to recycle.

The new ordinance will be fully implemented by July 1, 2009.

## Metro area's waste transport contract up for bid

The Metro Council is currently developing a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to haul waste from the Metro region to the Columbia Ridge Landfill. The current contract, which expires Dec. 31, 2009, has been in effect since 1990. This fall, Metro is planning three public meetings to provide opportunities for citizens to learn about the transport options and to provide input.

The Metro region generates 1.3 million tons of waste each year. About half of it comes through Metro's Oregon City and Northwest Portland transfer stations and is trucked to the landfill in Gilliam County, 150 miles east of Portland. On average, 18,600 truck trips a year, or 70 trucks per weekday, make the trip. The expiration of the current contract gives the Metro Council and the region's citizens an opportunity to evaluate different options—including truck, rail and barge—for moving this waste.

Public meetings to discuss the options and the draft contract will take place:

- Oct. 8, 6 p.m. at the Condon Court House, Condon
- Oct. 29, 6 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel, 1108 East Marina Way, Hood River
- Nov. 7, 6 p.m. in the Metro Council Chambers, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

Council will also invite input from transport companies on the draft. Once a final RFP has been released and proposals received, Council will examine and evaluate options based on cost effectiveness, environmental impacts, community concerns and impacts, and flexibility, reliability and risk. Following an evaluation period and a public hearing process, Council will negotiate with top ranked companies and will select one, or a combination, of transportation modes.

Metro expects to award the contract, which will likely run from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2019, about 18 months before the new operations begin.

Further information about the process as well as updates can be found on Metro's website at [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org); search for "waste transport contract." To receive mailings, call Bobbie Hasselbring at (503) 797-1599, send e-mail to [hasselbringb@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:hasselbringb@metro.dst.or.us) or write her at Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave. Portland, OR, 97232.

## Metro Council considers options for convention center hotel

The Metro Council is evaluating options to enhance the operations of the Oregon Convention Center (OCC), including a proposed headquarters hotel. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 20 and a vote on Thursday, Sept. 27.

Metro owns the OCC as a regional public asset and is directly accountable to the public to ensure that the OCC achieves its mission of maximizing economic benefit for the region. National conventions provide the single greatest economic impact for the OCC and the region.

In recent years, demand for national conventions at the OCC has leveled off. The lack of a headquarters hotel with a large block of rooms adjacent to the OCC is cited as one of the reasons event planners elect to hold events in other cities.

In February, the Metro Council agreed to study alternatives to address this situation. The Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission (MERC), a subsidiary of Metro that manages the OCC and other regional tourism and entertainment facilities, is leading the alternatives analysis. The alternatives include:

- Developing a 600-room, publicly owned, privately operated headquarters hotel
- Developing a small-scale privately owned and operated hotel with public financial support
- Providing enhanced financial incentives to prospective conventions, such as improved transportation and visitor service
- Changing the mission of the OCC to focus on attracting regional and local meetings
- Maintaining the status quo and increasing the OCC's levels of financial support for operations

To address these alternatives, MERC commissioned several studies by independent consultants. The studies cover a market and financial analysis of the proposed hotel, past economic impact and trends of the OCC, future economic impact with and without a new hotel, and Portland's attractiveness and the OCC's competitiveness in the national convention market. The studies are available via the Metro website at [www.metro-region.org/hotel](http://www.metro-region.org/hotel).

The Metro Council is in the final stages of evaluating these alternatives. Analysis of the alternatives will be presented 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 6 to the Metro Council and MERC Commission at a joint work session. The Metro Council will hold a public hearing at its 2 p.m. Sept. 20 meeting and is scheduled to vote at its 2 p.m. Sept. 27 meeting. All meetings are in the Metro Council Chamber at 600 NE Grand Ave. in Portland.

## Families fed up with fueling up enter challenge, reduce driving

Fed up with fueling up, three local families put their skills to the test to reduce their driving for one week in the region's first Drive Less/Save More Family Challenge. Along the way, the Jordan, Guillen and Price families learned that there are ways to cut back on road miles and save money—even for families who are always on the go.

At the end of the challenge, the Jordans of Oregon City, who won the Challenge, shaved a total of 538 miles from their weekly average of nearly 1,200 by carpooling, biking and using transit—a savings of about \$91 in gas alone for the week, potentially more than \$4,700 a year.

Saving money wasn't the only benefit to trying to drive less, as demonstrated by the competition's second-place winners, the Guillen family in Beaverton. A working mother of four, Estela Guillen knows the value of saving time. Guillen discovered how scheduling and advanced planning impacts the amount of time she spends on the road. In addition to consolidating errands and coordinating schedules, the Guillen family also rode the bus and MAX during the challenge to reduce driving. In total, the family reduced 361 miles from their weekly average of 615. They saved \$59 in gas for the week, potentially \$3,000 over a year.

Like the Jordan and Guillen families, the third-place challenge winner, the Price family of West Linn, also took advantage of transit. Darcey Price, a working mother, wanted to ride the bus on a more regular basis, but wasn't sure how she would get to off-site client meetings. By using TriMet's Transit Tracker, she was able to get up-to-the-minute information.

The Drive Less/Save More campaign is a cooperative effort between more than 60 public and private partners in Oregon, including Metro, TriMet and the Oregon Department of Transportation. The goal is to reduce single-person car trips by promoting travel options like public transit, car pooling, cycling and walking, and by encouraging drivers to combine multiple errands into single trips, thereby saving money otherwise spent at the gas pump.

## The 2040 match of the century: Corridors vs. Centers Sept. 26

Get a ringside seat for a free lively debate about different strategies for implementing the 2040 growth concept, our region's plan for the future, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, in the Metro Council chamber, 600 NE Grand Ave. in Portland. The match

*continued*

## Corridors vs. Centers

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features heavyweight professors Patrick (“Corridors”) Condon, University of British Columbia, and Gordon (“Centers”) Price, Simon Fraser University, and will be refereed by Metro Councilor Robert Liberty.

Condon, professor of landscape architecture at UBC, favors low and mid-rise development along transit corridors—three and four story mixtures of housing, stores, restaurants, professional services and offices. Price, director of the City Program at SFU and former Vancouver, BC city councilor, is a strong supporter of the strategy emphasizing growth in high-energy, high-density centers.

Both contenders are internationally recognized experts in their fields and extremely familiar with the Portland metropolitan region. Both approaches are consistent with our region’s 2040 plan for growth. Will either strategy be victorious, or will it be a draw? Can both sides win? You be the judge.

We’ll provide the popcorn.

## Events of note in District 5

For a complete list of events, check out our online calendar at [calendar.metro-region.org](http://calendar.metro-region.org).

**Tuesdays, Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 3 p.m.**

### **TrackersNW after school nature program: Coyote Rangers**

Learn how to create fire by friction, identify wild edible plants, play with animal movements and martial arts, weave baskets and track animals. Study bugs, hike local trails and learn languages of the birds. This program combines biology, art, botany and geology in a unique way. Suitable for ages six to nine; parents welcome. \$20. Advance registration required; for more information visit [www.trackersnw.com](http://www.trackersnw.com).

**Wednesdays, Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 3 p.m.**

### **TrackersNW after school trekkers**

Learn forest martial arts, self-defense and wilderness survival skills. Explore wilderness safety, animal tracking, wild edible plant identification, shelter building and other natural awareness skills. Suitable for ages 10 to 13. \$20. Advance registration required; visit [www.trackersnw.com](http://www.trackersnw.com).

**Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m.**

### **Forest Park microcosmos**

Join entomologist Philipp Kirsch on a walk to look for insects in Forest Park. The hike will start in a small meadow, wander through the forest and along the creek where you can search for aquatic insect larvae. All ages

welcome. Free. Advance registration required; send e-mail to [hikes@friendsofforestpark.org](mailto:hikes@friendsofforestpark.org).

**Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m.**

### **Multnomah Channel paddle**

Enjoy a morning paddle down the Multnomah Channel to explore scenery, wildlife and protected natural areas along this unique waterway west of Sauvie Island. Explore bottomland habitat purchased, protected and restored by Metro and discuss future acquisition opportunities along the channel and in the adjacent uplands around Forest Park. Free. Advance registration required; visit [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or call (971) 222-6116.

**Saturday, Sept. 8, 9:30 a.m.**

### **Intermediate animal tracking practice**

Metro volunteer naturalist and experienced tracker John Halsell leads this monthly tracking program at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Practice the ancient art of tracking on sand, mud and the forest floor. This is an outstanding place to find evidence of a variety of urban wildlife including beaver, deer, coyote, raccoon and rabbits. Most of the time will be spent walking on sand or paved trail to find and discuss tracks and sign. Participants will get the most from the class if they have previous tracking experience. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in the parking area on North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

**Saturday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m.**

### **Lone Fir Cemetery historical tour**

Enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Metro’s Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery. The tour highlights Portland’s founders, early pioneers and nationally renowned figures as well as some beautiful and unusual monument art. Explore 30 acres of mature trees and a very special rose garden. Suitable for all ages. Enter at Southeast 21st Avenue and Morrison Street. Advance registration not required. Suggested donation, \$10. For more information, call (503) 775-6278.

**Sunday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m.**

### **Friends of Ross Island paddle**

Join Bob Sallinger from Portland Audubon on a leisurely paddle around Ross, Hardtack, East and Toe islands to learn the natural history of this four-island archipelago and the issues of public ownership and long term management. Suitable for beginning paddlers. Free. Advance registration required; visit [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or call (971) 222-6116.

**Sunday, Sept. 9, 5 p.m.**

### **North Portland parks bike ride**

Join Jim Labbe for a flat ride from Peninsula Park to Metro’s 2,000-acre Smith and Bybee Wetlands via the Peninsula Crossing Trail. Learn about the history of North Portland parks, celebrate bond measure acquisitions and discuss prospects for expanded bike



trails and natural area protection. Arrive at the wetlands just before sunset, in time for a twilight walk and wildlife viewing. Free. Advance registration required; visit [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or call (971) 222-6116.

**Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.**

**Beginning bird watching class**

Metro naturalist James Davis has been getting birdwatchers started in Portland for 25 years. After this introduction to the basics of birdwatching you'll be well prepared for the field trips and other classes that follow, or to head out on your own. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715.

**Thursday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m.**

**Ancient forest ecology: A walk in the old growth**

Join naturalist Stephen Hatfield for a hike through a grove of old growth in Forest Park. Discuss the natural history of the area and learn more about the ancient forest ecosystem. With any luck, hikers may spot one of the bald eagles nesting on the property. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Free. Advance registration required; send e-mail to [hikes@friendsofforestpark.org](mailto:hikes@friendsofforestpark.org).

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m.**

**Lone Fir Cemetery tree identification walk**

Join Portland Parks and Recreation for a walking tour of the trees of Lone Fir Cemetery, a hidden arboretum filled with many unique and mature tree species. This family friendly walk will cover identification techniques, general tree biology and common tree characteristics. Meet at Southeast 20th Avenue and Morrison Street. Restrooms are not available at the cemetery. Advance registration requested; call (503) 823-1650.

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 9:30 a.m.**

**Shorebirds, waders and waterfowl viewing**

The water control structure at Smith and Bybee Wetlands has restored the historical drop in the water level in the lakes in fall. This results in hundreds of shorebirds and waders descending on the wetlands to feed in the mud and shallow water. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours; spotting scopes will be provided. Suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Meet Metro naturalist James Davis in the Smith and Bybee parking lot at 5300 North Marine Drive. Free. Advance registration required; call (503) 797-1715.

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.**

**Forest Park's quietest corner**

Join author Laura Foster to explore the furthest reach of Forest Park—as far from the city as you can get. Climb steep, little used roads and fire lanes to one of the most beautiful sections of the 30-mile Wildwood Trail. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Free. Advance registration required; send e-mail to [hikes@friendsofforestpark.org](mailto:hikes@friendsofforestpark.org).

**Saturday, Sept. 15, noon**

**Aquifer adventure**

Enjoy a pirate-themed treasure hunt with hands-on games, prizes and canoe rides led by real pirates. Prepare to walk, canoe and explore the mysteries of groundwater. Learn how to protect this important drinking water resource. Suitable for all ages. Free. For more information, call (503) 281-1132 or send e-mail to [katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org](mailto:katie.meckes@columbiaslough.org).

**Mondays, Sept. 17 and 24 at 3 p.m.**

**TrackersNW after school nature program: Coyote Rangers**

Learn forest martial arts, self-defense and wilderness survival skills. Explore wilderness safety, animal tracking, wild edible plant identification, shelter building and other natural awareness skills. Suitable for ages six to nine; parents welcome. \$20. Advance registration required; for more information, visit [www.trackersnw.com](http://www.trackersnw.com).

**Wednesday, Sept. 19, 3 p.m.**

**Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Springwater Corridor walk**

Join naturalist Mike Houck for a two-mile stroll around the 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Walk on both paved and uneven dirt paths, with two moderate hills. Suitable for families. Free. Advance registration required; visit [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or call (971) 222-6116.

**Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.**

**Birds of autumn class**

Join Metro naturalist James Davis for an overview of the most common birds seen in the metropolitan area from September into winter, such as Vaux's swifts, sandhill cranes and shorebirds. The major groups of wintering birds—waterfowl and birds of prey—are covered in their own classes. Suitable for adults and teens. Meet in room 370 at Metro Regional Center in Portland. Registration and payment of \$10 per person are required in advance; call (503) 797-1715.

**Thursdays, Sept. 20 and 27 at 3 p.m.**

**TrackersNW after school trekkers**

Learn forest martial arts, self-defense and wilderness survival skills. Explore wilderness safety, animal tracking, wild edible plant identification, shelter building and other natural awareness skills. Suitable for ages 10 to 13. \$20. Advance registration required; visit [www.trackersnw.com](http://www.trackersnw.com).

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.**

**Rain garden workshop, Whitaker Ponds Natural Area**

Rain gardens are a great way to take advantage of our region's abundant rain. Simply dig a planter bed, direct your downspouts to the bed and plant it with vigorous shrubs and perennials. Join Clark County watershed steward coordinator Gary Bock, who will

provide all the details from planning to completion. Suggested donation, \$10. Advance registration required; call Katie at (503) 281-1132.

**Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m.**

**Bikes and botany**

Traverse Portland in style—on your own bike—as you explore the city in search of urban and wild plants to harvest for food and tools. Bicycle and wilderness arts expert Shaun Deller leads you on this active adventure that is sure to send you home with sweet blackberries, acorns for processing into flour and nettle for cordage. \$35 to \$45, sliding scale. Advance registration required; visit [www.trackersnw.com](http://www.trackersnw.com).

**Saturday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m.**

**Friends of Ross Island paddle trip**

Join Mike Houck on a leisurely paddle around Ross, Hardtack, East and Toe islands to learn the natural history of this four-island archipelago and the issues of public ownership and long-term management. Suitable for beginning paddlers. Free. Advance registration required; visit [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or call (971) 222-6116.

**Saturdays, Sept. 22 and 27 at 10 a.m.**

**A walk in the old growth**

Join naturalist Greg de Nevers for a hike through a grove of old growth in Forest Park. Discuss the natural history of the area and learn more about the ancient forest ecosystem. With any luck, hikers may spot one of the bald eagles nesting on the property. Suitable for ages 10 and up. Free. Advance registration required; send e-mail to [hikes@friendsofforestpark.org](mailto:hikes@friendsofforestpark.org).

**Sunday, Sept. 23, 9 a.m.**

**West Hayden Island paddle**

Join Portland Audubon's Bob Sallinger on a paddle from the mouth of the Columbia Slough to West Hayden Island, Portland's largest unprotected natural area comprising 823 acres of wildlife habitat. Migration should be in full swing offering great wildlife viewing. Free. Advance registration required; visit [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or call (971) 222-6116.

**Wednesday, Sept. 26, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**TrackersNW no school nature program: Coyote Rangers**

Learn how to create fire by friction, identify wild edible plants, play with

animal movements and martial arts, weave baskets and track animals.

Study bugs, hike local trails and learn languages of the birds. This program combines biology, art, botany and geology. Suitable for ages six to nine; parents welcome. \$75. Advance registration required; for more information, visit [www.trackersnw.com](http://www.trackersnw.com).

**Wednesday, Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m.**

**Full moon canoe on the slough**

Join the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services on a full moon paddle on the calm waters of the Big Four Corners Natural Area in the upper Columbia Slough. Bring your own watercraft and paddles or reserve a free canoe or kayak rental. Personal flotation device is required. Free. Advance registration required; call Katie at (503) 281-1132.

**Saturday, Sept. 29, 9 a.m.**

**Acorn pudding and extracting volatile oils**

Get hands-on experience on how some wild plants are processed for grain, flour and essential oils. See how to shell, grind, process and leach acorns to transform them into wonderful additions to breads, muffins, pancakes and pudding. Learn how to make a distillation setup from simple kitchenware. \$25. Advance registration required; call (503) 775-3828.

**Sunday, Sept. 30, 1 p.m.**

**Neighborhood foraging: Fall harvest of fruits, nuts and vegetables**

Bushwhack through Portland's urban neighborhoods to find some of fall's best nuts, fruits and greens. Wild as well as landscaped edibles will be devoured. \$20. Advance registration required; call (503) 775-3828.

## About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

### Your Metro representatives

Metro Council President  
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors  
Rod Park, District 1  
Brian Newman, District 2  
Carl Hosticka, District 3  
Kathryn Harrington, District 4  
Rex Burkholder, District 5  
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