

Kelley asks new term on board

By SURA RUBENSTEIN
of The Oregonian staff

Multnomah County Commissioner Sharron Kelley on Wednesday filed for re-election to the District 4 seat she's occupied for one term.

The 52-year-old Kelley so far is unopposed. Her district includes portions of East Portland, unincorporated midcounty areas, Gresham, Wood Village, Troutdale,

Maywood Park and a section of the Columbia River Gorge.

Kelley, who describes herself as a onetime citizen activist who became progressively more involved in politics, said she's seeking a second term because much of her agenda remains to be accomplished.

"I want to see more efficiencies in county government," she said in an interview. "We have an enormous amount of urban problems in Multnomah County, but we've hit the wall on using the taxpayers as a way to solve them."

Kelley wants to see the county shift more of its regional portfolio, such as parks and the Expo Center, to the Metropolitan Service District. At the same time, she wants cities to take over more of the urban services and the state to pay for more of the county's human services budget.

"That's a long-term solution for the evolution of government," she said. "We need to accomplish enormous things — and gaining credibility for local government is our first charge. The only way we can look at improving is to shorten our agenda."

Kelley, a former businesswoman and Metro councilor, said her fiscal conservatism reflects the mood of her constituents, whom she also believes share her concern about adequate funding of jail space, prosecution and the juvenile justice system.

She has voted against recent efforts to institute a 1 percent county income tax and a payroll tax, and she also voted against the recent salary increase for commission members. She has said she will forgo the increase.

She said her campaign strategy will be guided in part by whether her race is contested.



KELLEY

County board backs plan for regional government

By JANET GOETZE
of The Oregonian staff

HILLSBORO — The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution Tuesday supporting a regional government with an elected council and an appointed administrator.

The board's vote showed that it agrees with the proposals of a special committee that is working with the Metropolitan Service District's charter committee. Called the Regional Governance Committee, it has representation from 23 cities and 13 special districts in the Metro region, plus Washington and Clackamas counties.

A Metro charter committee is working on a home rule charter for the three-county service district. The committee expects to take a proposal to voters in November.

The Regional Governance Committee has developed its own charter proposals by consensus over the past several months.

"There is strong commitment to a regional government," said Charles Cameron, Washington County administrator, who has worked on issues taken up by the Regional Governance Committee.

"There are regional issues we need to deal with, especially in growth management," Cameron said. "We need regional leadership on this."

The Regional Governance Committee said a council-manager form of government would increase efficiency and give clear accountability for decisions.

Voters now elect the Metro Council and the executive director. Both have staffs and overlapping administrative responsibilities, the Regional Governance Council said.

The Governance Council proposes a seven-member Metro Council, elected to decide policy matters. An appointed, professional administrator would manage day-to-day operations.

The Governance Council also recommends that Metro retain its current responsibilities, including managing the Washington Park Zoo, the Convention Center and regional gar-

bage disposal systems.

However, the council wants any new Metro planning or service responsibilities to have a clearly identified source of financial support.

The Regional Governance Committee also wants Metro to operate with a regional policy advisory committee of local government representatives. This advisory panel would help make decisions on any new services or planning responsibilities that Metro might assume in the future.

Cameron said that would assure a cooperative decision among local and regional governments for any new tasks taken on by Metro.

Part of the resolution approved by the county Board of Commissioners said, "The regional government should be pro-active in the area of growth management, including creating regional goals, objectives and performance standards."

The resolution also said: "Local plans should be consistent with regional standards, using methods and tools that local governments decide are best suited to meet unique local needs."

It called for "on-going consultation with local governments as planning and service delivery functions are executed."

Metro will lay off planning personnel

Eliminating its planning and development branch will save about \$1 million, the Metropolitan Service District estimates.

Metro announced Wednesday that it will transfer 15 people in the branch to other departments and has notified seven others that they will be laid off at the end of March.

Among those being laid off is the administrator of planning and development, Rich Carson.

Metro Executive Officer Rena Cusma said the move is due in part

to the fact that Metro will get about \$600,000 less income than it thought it would from solid waste "tipping" fees.

To cover costs of operating transfer stations and other solid waste disposal outlets, Metro charges garbage haulers and others a fee. (Tipping refers to trucks raising their beds to dump loads).

"This will allow us to refocus our energies on our priorities to respond to what citizens have said they wanted, an increased efficiency in government," Cusma said of the reorganization.

Metro said transferring planning staff will not affect continuing programs such as planning for preserving natural areas (Greenspaces) and managing urban growth (Region 2040). They'll just be under a different supervisor.

Chamber backing school levy, Metro limits

By BILL CHIDESTER
Of the Argus

A proposed Hillsboro school levy and guidelines limiting the future role of the Metropolitan Service District have received support from the Greater Hillsboro Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber directors Tuesday unanimously approved resolutions on both issues, but only after they debated the merits of the school levy.

Hillsboro Union High School District voters will cast mail-in ballots by March 24 to decide a \$58.2 million levy proposal.

Levy revenue would finance construction of a new high school in

Reedville and expansions of Hillsboro and Glencoe highs.

"I have some reservations about the school bond levy," said Jerry Willes, board president. "There is some community feeling the \$58.2 million figure is too high and the (school board) should look at other alternatives," he said.

But several board members noted that alternatives were studied by a 30-member citizens committee and the committee recommended the building plan and levy as the best way to meet growing student enrollment.

"There were some outstanding people on the study committee and

they spent three years coming up with a recommendation. You're showing your ignorance if you don't support the committee's findings," said director Flo Rhea.

"The kids are going to be here. We need the schools," she added.

While directors unanimously passed the resolution, they asked:

- Whether the district can increase its budget enough, in the wake of Measure 5, to operate a third high school.

- Whether it would be more economical to expand Hill and Glencoe rather than build a third high school.

- Whether separate levies for a new high school and remodeling of the existing two schools would more likely win voter approval.

But strong backers of the levy noted:

- Now is the best time for construction. Bond interest rates are favorable and construction costs won't be any lower.

- Without a third high school, the district will face year-round instruction or double-shifts, neither being an acceptable alternative.

- Reedville, where property development is booming, needs a high school.

John Horn, Hillsboro Union High District board chairman, said planning is difficult with state funding under Measure 5 still a question mark. "But we have to move ahead anyway," he said.

Chamber directors also passed a resolution recommending limits be written into a proposed governing

charter for Metro, the Portland area's regional government.

Voters in the Metro district, including Hillsboro and Washington County, will decide in November on the charter.

Mayor Shirley Huffman said she wants voters to endorse the charter. If they don't, Metro will ask the Oregon Legislature for more power, additional authority over local towns and cities she fears.

The resolution calls for the charter to require Metro to obtain collaboration from local cities and districts or a direct vote of the people before expanding its authority.

The chamber board also acknowledged a letter from Bonnie Hays, chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners,

endorsing the resolution.

In a separate matter, the chamber board approved allocating \$2,300 in airshow money for the Hillsboro Senior Community Center.

The money will purchase three years of food trays needed for the center's "Meals on Wheels" hot lunch program.