



Salem Chamber of Commerce
OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENTS



The Salem Chamber of Commerce endorsements announced for 2022 General Election Ballot

The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has officially moved forward five endorsements which include both issues and candidates appearing on the May election ballot in Marion and Polk counties.

The following is the Chamber's official endorsement publication for the November election, detailing our positions and rationale for support of two ballot measures and three candidates.

The Salem Chamber asks one primary question when determining whether a position on a measure or an endorsement of a candidate is appropriate – will this measure/candidate support or hinder the ability of private sector employers to grow their businesses and create jobs?

You will find that all positions and endorsements centric to the question above. The mission of the Chamber is to make Salem a great place where business can prosper and we take this charge seriously.

Please read carefully through this special publication. Before taking positions on candidates and issues, formal presentations are made to the Salem Chamber's Public Policy Committee.

In addition, candidates also have the opportunity to participate in a Candidates Questionnaire to share their views and priorities as a candidate for office. Candidate endorsements are focused on contested races appearing on the election ballot.

Please join us in support of these candidates and issues this election cycle.

Issue Endorsements:

Measure 24-474

Candidate Endorsements:

- Raquel Moore-Green - Senate District 10
- Kim Thatcher - Senate District 11
- TJ Sullivan - House District 19
- Dan Farrington - House District 20
- Kevin Mannix - House District 21
- Tracy Cramer - House District 22
- Colm Willis - Marion County Commissioner
- Kevin Cameron - Marion County Commissioner
- Mike Erickson - Oregon's 6th Congressional District
- Cheri Helt - BOLI Commissioner

Measure 24-474 - Salem Community

At the Salem Chamber, we believe in helping businesses prosper so our entire community may thrive. We are committed to sustaining and enhancing Salem's quality of life and keeping our community and economic ecosystem vibrant. This fall, voters in Salem have a unique opportunity to invest \$300 million in significant community improvements across Salem - without increasing the property tax rate for property owners.

Measure 24-474 was crafted with significant input from the community, with an eye toward the future of our City. Making investments now in our streets and sidewalks, city parks, public spaces, and fire department will provide the necessary infrastructure for continued healthy growth and livability.

Tax dollars raised from Measure 24-474 will be directly invested in repairing and maintaining Salem's streets, bridges, and sidewalks.

With \$132 million dedicated to street maintenance and repairs and an additional \$25 million for sidewalk maintenance and pedestrian safety, Measure 24-474 protects our investments in city streets, bridges and sidewalks. Every part of the city will see work happening in their neighborhoods and commercial centers, and transportation throughout the city will be made safer and more efficient.

What's more, this Measure 24-474 will support local businesses and local jobs. Based on our experience with previous infrastructure bond levies, the City estimates that over 80% of this work will go to local Salem-area contractors, supporting local businesses and employees.

Supporting these important investments with a YES vote will not increase property tax rates, but will allow for the City of Salem to continue to grow and thrive for years to come.

Vote YES on Measure 24-474 for the future of Salem.





Senate District 10

Raquel Moore-Green



Raquel Moore-Green, candidate for Oregon Senate District 10, deserves your support in her race for the Oregon State Senate.

Over the past two legislative sessions, the Oregon Legislature has faced two super majorities in each chamber. This has brought an unbalanced approach to the construction of key legislative measures which have had a negative impact on Oregon's business community.

As a two-term legislator representing Oregon House District 19, Moore-Green has consistently demonstrated her support for the small business community. She has received two 100% scores on the Oregon State Chamber Legislative Report Card, which is a critical component to her receiving the Salem Chamber Board of Directors' endorsement.

In her response to the Salem Chamber's Candidate Questionnaire, Raquel states: "We know that when we remove barriers to permitting, remove regulations that are duplicative over various jurisdictions, and reduce the number of state mandated programs that employers are required to participate in, commerce flows easier and allows more of the 'product' to be produced, resulting in a stronger workforce and greater return to the owner and community overall."





Senate District 10

Raquel Moore-Green



Moore-Green's opponent, Senator Deb Patterson, is both personable and engaging. Patterson's key focus has been largely on affordable and accessible health care for all Oregonians. Senator Patterson directed a portion of her ARPA funds to supporting a small business relief fund, which was commendable and valued by the over 50 Salem-area businesses who received emergency relief dollars in September. There is, however, stark contrast in the voting records for the two Senate seat candidates, with Patterson receiving a paltry 15% score on the Oregon State Chamber's Legislative Report Card during the 2021 & 2022 Legislative sessions.

In summary, the Salem Chamber stands behind Raquel Moore-Green in her effort to become the next Senator for District 10 due to her proven support of key legislative policies which benefit Oregon small businesses and their valued employees.





Senate District 11

Kim Thatcher



This November, Kim Thatcher deserves your support in her race for Oregon Senate District 11.

Thatcher, a two-term senator from Keizer, was redistricted out of Senate District 13, which she had represented for the past seven years. As a small business owner herself, Thatcher has been a steadfast champion for Oregon's small business community. Throughout her time in the legislature, she has fought against numerous policy initiatives which would have a negative impact on Oregon's small business community, including Cap & Trade and the onerous Corporate Activities Tax. In addition, in Legislative sessions in 2021 & 2022, Senator Thatcher scored a lauded 100% in the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Report card – Thatcher is a candidate small business owners and employees can trust to have their best interests top-of-mind.

If elected, Thatcher stated she would focus her efforts on three key issues: "1.) Education, 2.) Fighting inflation, and 3.) Stemming the tide of crime, homelessness, and mental health issues." Addressing these three pillars are essential to the mission of the Salem Chamber to help business prosper so our entire community may thrive.





Senate District 11

Kim Thatcher



Opponent Richard Walsh showed well in front of the Salem Chamber's Public Policy Committee, with a down-to-earth appeal and pleasant demeanor. Walsh has a strong supporter base, largely in the Keizer area, but does not possess the breadth of experience in public service, which the seasoned lawmaker Thatcher commands.

In summary, the Salem Chamber recommends voters in Senate District 11 support Kim Thatcher, as she continues to showcase her voting record in supporting the best interests of Oregon's small business community.





House District 19

TJ Sullivan



This General Election, Salem voters have an opportunity to elect a Salem native and long-time champion for businesses to House District 19. We encourage voters to support candidate TJ Sullivan in his race in South Salem.

Not only has TJ Sullivan owned and operated numerous businesses within Salem for decades, but he also served as president of the Salem Chamber Board of Directors for a two-year period. During his time as president, he led numerous efforts to make Salem a more business-friendly city, such as defeating a local sidewalk tax initiative. Sullivan is not new to elected office campaigns, having been elected to serve as a Salem City Councilor representing residents in South Salem.

In his response to the Salem Chamber's Candidates Questionnaire, he said a top priority for him upon being elected would be to "Get rid of the Corporate Activities Tax," and "create a tax code that incentivizes employers to expand and hire in Oregon." Since the adoption of the Corporate Activities Tax (CAT), small business growth has slowed while costs on working families have increased. As an organization dedicated to enhancing livability through business growth, we agree with Sullivan that it's time for critical changes to the CAT.





House District 19

TJ Sullivan



Sullivan faces off with a fellow former Salem City Councilor, Tom Andersen. Candidate Andersen proudly represents a progressive agenda, with campaign focal points on climate justice, carbon reduction, and safe biking and pedestrian corridors. Andersen has consistently engaged with the business community to share his political philosophies and progressive goals, but there is a tangible difference in ideologies between Andersen and Sullivan when it comes to supporting small business growth and employment in Oregon.

Sullivan's proven track record as a business leader in Salem demonstrates why the Salem Chamber Board of Directors urges voters to support him in his candidacy for House District 19.





House District 20

Dan Farrington



Dan Farrington, candidate for Oregon House District 20, deserves your vote this November to ensure the challenges facing Oregon's small business community are understood and represented in the Legislature.

As a multi-generational small business owner and a proud Salemite, Farrington has a strong business acumen and understanding of how various pieces of legislation will affect small businesses across Oregon. Electing individuals, like Dan Farrington, who understand hiring processes and business operations, will be critical to moving Oregon's business environment forward and help create more jobs in our region.

Farrington says he will champion these three initiatives to expand economic stability and growth: "1.) Remove the Corporate Activity Tax, 2.) Provide incentives for hiring new employees, and 3.) Provide incentives for opening new businesses."





House District 20

Dan Farrington



Farrington faces four-term incumbent, Representative Paul Evans. Evans has deep roots in Monmouth and Independence, having previously served on Monmouth City Council. Representative Evans scored an underwhelming 28% on the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Report Card for the 2021 & 2022 sessions. It will be hard for small businesses to overlook Evans' voting record, as the needs of employers may be referenced in campaign speeches but certainly not in his House floor votes.

With companies across Oregon seeking refuge in new states where it is more affordable and less onerous on businesses, our state needs more individuals like Farrington in the Oregon Legislature. The Salem Chamber Board of Directors recommends voters in House District 20 support candidate Dan Farrington this November.





House District 21

Kevin Mannix



The Salem Chamber Board of Directors strongly calls for your support of Kevin Mannix to be the next representative for Oregon House District 21.

As a business owner, former Salem Chamber board member, and former member of the Oregon Legislature, Mannix will not only be a champion for small businesses in the Oregon House of Representatives but will be a leader who gets things accomplished. During his time as a member of the House, Mannix was a chief and co-sponsor of more passed bills than any individual in modern history. His ability to cross partisan lines and find a uniquely balanced approach to substantive policy will make him an effective leader for District 21.

The opponent Mannix is facing in House District 21 is candidate Ramiro (RJ) Navarro. Navarro's bid for office is on a campaign pledge to share the voice of those who have overcome addiction and incarceration, while championing mental health initiatives for affected residents, including military veterans such as himself. Navarro's campaign has faced challenges internally, as a convicted sex offender was hired as his field director at the start of August, and then subsequently released from duties after concerns within Navarro's campaign leadership committee.





House District 21

Kevin Mannix



Mannix's deep knowledge and expertise in understanding of the mechanics of the Oregon Legislature, coupled with his passion for working families and business prosperity, are why the Salem Chamber Board of Directors supports Kevin Mannix for Oregon House District 21.





House District 22

Tracy Cramer



This November, Residents in House District 22 have an opportunity to elect a leader with new ideas to showcase in the Oregon Legislature. The Salem Chamber urges you to support candidate Tracy Cramer, someone who wishes to bring new ways to help small businesses and working families thrive in her district.

In her response to how she would seek to improve economic security for Oregonians, Cramer stated: "Focus government resources on the infrastructure, safety, and basic safety net programs that are essential and can only be accomplished by the state. In the meantime—work with private businesses and nonprofits that are willing to fill in gaps such as in helping the homeless."

Cramer squares off with Educational Policy Analyst for the State of Oregon, candidate Anthony Medina. Medina has served in various capacities within state government under Governor Kate Brown's direction. Medina is an advocate for worker rights and is strongly supported by the unions of the OEA, SEIU, AFSCME, and Carpenters.





House District 22

Tracy Cramer



Noting the importance of change and the necessity to change our current statewide partisanship at Legislature, the Salem Chamber Board of Directors supports Tracy Cramer in her effort to become the next representative for Oregon House District 22.





Marion County Commissioner, Position 3

Colm Willis



Residents of Marion County have an opportunity to re-elect a leader who fought against onerous state-regulated COVID-19 mandates on small businesses and working families this November. Incumbent Colm Willis has proven to be an effective local leader committed to supporting a healthy economic ecosystem across Marion County and beyond.

In addition to his advocacy against overreaching state regulations, Willis was a strategic leader throughout the 2020 wildfire rebuilding efforts, while working diligently to ensure companies throughout Marion County received primary consideration for rebuilding contracts in the efforts to restore normalcy to the residents and businesses in the Santiam Canyon.

Commissioner Willis has stood proudly by the businesses in Marion County throughout his past four years in office. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was instrumental in delivering personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves, to provide local small businesses with the essential resources they needed to stay open. Additionally, Commissioner Willis and the Marion County Board of Commissioners emptied the economic development budget to provide emergency grants to Marion County businesses (with less than five employees) to assist them in surviving the state-mandated shutdowns.





Marion County Commissioner, Position 3 Colm Willis



The Salem Chamber Board of Directors strongly urges Marion County voters to re-elect Colm Willis so he may continue to stand up for the needs of Mid-Willamette Valley small businesses and their employees.





Marion County Commissioner, Position 1

Kevin Cameron



This November, Marion County voters have the opportunity to re-elect a seasoned leader within our community for over a decade, incumbent Commissioner Kevin Cameron.

A long-time small business owner and restauranteur in Salem, Cameron has served his community since 2005, initially elected by residents to serve as Representative in Oregon House District 19. During his time in Legislature and now as Marion County Commissioner, Cameron has been a vocal leader for bringing together both sides of the political aisle to deliver tangible victories to his constituents. In addition to his service in both the Oregon House of Representatives and the Marion County Board of Commissioners, Cameron has also served on the Executive Committee for SEDCOR, where he led pivotal economic development initiatives throughout the Mid-Willamette Valley. Cameron has been omni-present during the Santiam Canyon rebuilding efforts since fires destroyed a significant portion of the corridor, including countless homes and businesses. Cameron brings business savvy and fiscal responsibility to county government, where staff team members value the priorities placed on partnership and support from their elected leadership.





Marion County Commissioner, Position 1

Kevin Cameron



Kevin Cameron's service to Oregon, both as a private sector small business owner and as an elected official for Oregonians, is squarely why the Salem Chamber Board of Directors strongly encourages Marion County residents to cast their vote for him this November.





Oregon Congressional District 6

Mike Erickson



This November, Oregon residents in Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties have an opportunity to elect a member of Oregon's newest Congressional House District, and the Salem Chamber Board of Directors encourages voters to cast their ballot for candidate Mike Erickson.

As a small business owner in the logistics industry, Erickson has a deep knowledge of how government can work on behalf of American businesses, but also how they can greatly constrict businesses. Erickson's positions on key issues, such as America's need for energy independence and fiscal responsibility, make him the kind of business-minded leader we need in Washington DC.

Erickson's opponent, Andrea Salinas, a former member of the Oregon Legislature, scored a low 15% on the Oregon State Chamber's Legislator Report Card when it came to supporting Oregon's business community. Salinas supported numerous bills which raised taxes on small businesses and further lengthened bureaucratic red tape. Lastly, the Salinas campaign's television ad suggesting illicit drug use by her opponent, with no factual connection to the inference, was abhorrent and represents everything that is wrong with polarizing political campaign ads – no facts are required when attacking a political opponent.





Oregon Congressional District 6

Mike Erickson



In summary, the Salem Chamber Board of Directors stands behind Mike Erickson's bid for Congress based on his small business acumen and breadth of knowledge of how federal policies affect America's main street.





BOLI Commissioner

Cheri Helt



Bend restaurateur and candidate for Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) Commissioner, Cheri Helt, deserves your vote.

The impact of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is felt most by Oregon's small business community. As a state agency aimed at helping our workforce grow, ensure employer/employee compliance, and workforce litigation, this state department needs a small business strategist like candidate Helt at the helm.

As a former legislator from Eastern Oregon, Helt fought against key legislative initiatives which aimed to raise taxes on small businesses, impacting business operations and employee paychecks. As a small business owner herself with a workforce of over 80 employees, Helt understands how to manage employees and the needs of Oregon's private sector employers. Additionally, Helt is supported and endorsed by both Democrats and Republicans, which demonstrates her ability to bring people to the middle of the political spectrum.





BOLI Commissioner

Cheri Helt



Helt's opponent, Christina Stephenson is currently a civil rights attorney from Portland. Stephenson has received endorsements from numerous unions from around the state of Oregon and several of the previous BOLI Commissioners. Although she has worked with BOLI for most of her career, our organization is seeking change in one of Oregon's largest business-related state agencies, so as to bring greater balance to state agencies that can assist in making Oregon a more business-friendly state.

The Salem Chamber Board of Directors encourages voters to cast their ballots in support of candidate Cheri Helt to be Oregon's next BOLI Commissioner.

