

## 2022 Primary Election Endorsements: Voters' Guide

The DPLC will endorse candidates in the May 2022 primary election at its Central Committee meeting on March 17. The following Democrats have asked for our endorsement.

*This guide will be updated as candidates request our endorsement.*

### **ALAN ZELENKA** **EUGENE CITY COUNCIL, WARD 3**



Alan Zelenka has been honored to represent Ward 3 for the past 15 years as a Eugene City Councilor.

Alan shares the vision of creating a carbon-free world based on energy efficiency and renewable energy. He's currently the Assistant Director for Planning and Innovation at the Oregon Department of Energy where he and his staff work on climate change, energy efficiency, building codes, renewables, and sustainable transportation solutions. Before that he was the Energy Services Leader for a consulting company developing Energy and GHG Master Plans, and Power Manager at Emerald PUD for 21 years where he built the Short Mountain Landfill-Gas-To-Electricity project serving about 1,800 homes from garage.

As City Councilor Alan has pushed through the policy framework necessary for Eugene to meet its climate goals, by authoring the Climate Recovery Ordinance in 2014, strengthening it in 2016, helping create Eugene's Climate Action Plans, and making the motions to require the City's Transportation System Plan and Capital Improvement Plan to show how they help meet the CRO's goals. What is now required is implementation and funding. He also authored the motion to create the Sustainability Commission, served on it for its first 10 years, and authored the Plastic Bag Ban.

One of his biggest accomplishments as Councilor was to establish a Paid Sick Leave policy for the City. He, along with Mayor Piercy and Councilor Syrett worked tirelessly for months, overcoming strong opposition, to create the strongest policy in the state. That policy became the model for legislation in the following legislative session, and had it not been for their leadership we probably would not have a statewide Paid Sick Leave benefit in the state today.

Ensuring family wage jobs is critical for our community to thrive and prosper. That is why he supports increasing the number and the membership of unions, ensuring fair labor practices, apprenticeship programs, increasing the minimum wage, and requiring the prevailing wage on city-related capital projects. During the MUPT reform process he was a staunch advocate for a local labor requirement of 50 percent, using minority- and women-owned business in projects, requiring projects to follow all wage and employment laws, and ensuring real and direct public benefits from projects.

Alan has worked on homelessness issues in Eugene for over 30 years, helping establish the Opportunity Village, Rest Stops, and the Dusk-To-Dawn shelters. He believes we need a WPA-like effort to tackle the homelessness and affordable housing crises. He also supports putting in-place strong protections for our renters.

Alan shepherded the Eugene ballot measure where Eugene voted 74% against the wrongfully decided Citizen's United Supreme Court decision.

Alan is running again for Council because there is still much work to be done for Eugene. Over the next four years he will work on homelessness and affordable housing, climate change issues, police reform, and making sure Eugene is a good and safe place to raise your family and to do business.

Alan has been endorsed by Mayor Vinis, former Mayor Piercy, six sitting Councilors, and OLCV.

**MARY VUKSICH-SHAFER**  
**LANE COUNTY ASSESSOR**



*"I wholeheartedly endorse Mary as the right choice for the next Assessor of Lane County. As Assessor, Mary will do an excellent job serving Lane County citizens, businesses, and taxing districts!" Mike Cowles, Lane County Assessor*

**Experienced, Ethical and Local:**

- Born and raised in Lane County (third generation).
- Currently serving as Deputy Assessor.
- Twenty years of public / private sector experience with Oregon Property Tax systems.
- 17 years in Assessment and Taxation helping taxpayers seek fair value outcomes.
- Three years supervising in a Looking Glass youth shelter.

**My commitment to Lane County residents:**

"My name is Mary Vuksich-Shafer and I've spent 46 years living, working, and playing this beautiful place we call Lane County. I grew up picking blueberries, working at Emeralds games, and looking forward to family beach trips to Florence. When I moved into the workforce, I dedicated my efforts to serving our community. I started as a case-manager in a youth shelter before transitioning to Lane County. In 17 years, I've experienced highs and lows through the eyes of taxpayers and gained perspective from every interaction. I am the acting Deputy Assessor and electing me will ensure a smooth transition with local and ethical representation. In other words, taxpayer dollars will not be wasted teaching a new hire what the people of Lane County expect and deserve. As a fellow taxpayer and community member, I look forward to serving you as Assessor." -Mary

Endorsements include current Assessor Mike Cowles, former Assessor Anette Spickard, former director of the Department of State Lands Louise Soliday, and State Rep. Marty Wilde.