



April 27, 2016

PORTLAND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

# Advocate

## May 17th Elections: Here's How to Get Involved

PAT has released its full voters' guide for the May 17<sup>th</sup> election. [Download, share, and be sure and make your voice heard!](#)

One important way you can get involved is to canvass for Mayoral Candidate Jules Bailey! Jules is the recommended candidate of the PAT-PAC, and is an outspoken supporter of IP 28, the Better Oregon campaign.

If you aren't up for walking door-to-door, you can also phone-bank from campaign headquarters, 2075 SW 1st Ave., Suite 2B, on any of the canvass dates.

Sat. April 30<sup>th</sup>, 10AM

Sun. May 1<sup>st</sup>, 11AM

Sat. May 7<sup>th</sup>, 10AM

Sun. May 8<sup>th</sup>, 11AM

Fri. May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10AM, 1 & 5PM

Sat. May 14<sup>th</sup>, 10AM, 1 & 5PM

Sun. May 15<sup>th</sup>, 10AM, 1 & 5PM

Mon. May 16<sup>th</sup>, 10AM, 1 & 5PM

Tues. May 17<sup>th</sup>, 10AM, 1 & 5PM

Canvassers should meet at Jules' Campaign Office: 2075 SW 1st Ave., Suite 2B.

## You Are Appreciated

When my daughter was little, one night at dinner she announced that she wanted to be a teacher when she grew up. I come from a family of educators; both my parents were teachers and so are my brother and sister. But instead of excitement, I have to admit I felt a knot in my stomach.



Teaching is so much more difficult than when I started 20 years ago, and I realized I didn't want my daughter to follow in our family's footsteps until I could help **make things better**.

**I'm proud to say that's what we're working on every day at PAT**, and this work is starting to bear fruit.

Teacher Appreciation Week seemed like **the perfect time to let you all know how much your work means**, both for our students and for our profession, and to encourage you to hang in there.

Even in the face of all the challenges, you continue to make such an impact on our students, and our city's future. I see it first-hand with my own children; whether it's my daughter's elementary PE teacher Mr. Goodrich, or my son's art teacher Ms. Waldron, and the creativity these educators inspire. I see it in the way my kids have grown socially and emotionally through their public education experience.

Every single adult our students encounter plays a role enriching their education, and for that **we all deserve appreciation and thanks—not just this week, but year-round**.

And the same is true of our work in PAT. Whether it's our campaign for a Better Oregon, our efforts to secure a contract with the District that is good for educators and students, or the day-in/day-out work in our schools, thank you for everything you're doing to help build the schools our students deserve and need.

In Solidarity,

Gwen Sullivan

## Meeting a Milestone for a Better Oregon

On Friday April 15<sup>th</sup>, PAT surpassed its goal of collecting 10,000 signatures for the Better Oregon Campaign. We couldn't have done it without your hard work, so **thank you!**

We did our part to help get IP 28 in front of Oregon voters this fall, but there is still more we can do. First, we can help the Oregon Education Association, our statewide affiliate, meet its signature goal for all of Oregon. We're almost there, so we're asking PAT members to continue collecting signatures until May 1st.

Over the past few months, we've done a great job gathering signatures across the city. But as of April 7<sup>th</sup>, only 40% of our own members have signed. We can do better, which is why we're **working to get more than 50% of our members to sign a petition before May 1st**.



### Portland Association of Teachers

345 NE 8th Avenue

Portland, OR 97232

Phone: 503-233-5018

Fax: 503-236-5255

<http://www.pdxteachers.org>

### PAT OFFICERS

**Gwen Sullivan**

*President*

**Suzanne Cohen**

*Vice-President*

### OEA PROFESSIONAL STAFF

**John Berkey**

*Consultant*

**Kathi Koenig**

*Consultant*

**Marty Pavlik**

*Consultant*

### OEA ASSOCIATE STAFF

**Lisa Wilkerson**

[lisa.wilkerson@oregoned.org](mailto:lisa.wilkerson@oregoned.org)

**Kelli Williams**

[kelli.williams@oregoned.org](mailto:kelli.williams@oregoned.org)

### ENGAGE



### GET CONNECTED

Breaking news first  
on our Facebook Page:  
[facebook.com/patpdx](https://facebook.com/patpdx)

Join our private, members-  
only Facebook discussion  
group  
[facebook.com/groups/patpdx/](https://facebook.com/groups/patpdx/)

Follow us on  
Twitter@[pdxteachers](https://twitter.com/pdxteachers)

Not receiving important PAT  
updates or has your home email  
changed? Have us send it to your  
home email address to receive the  
latest bargaining information,  
member benefits and other news  
you need.

The Advocate is published  
periodically by the Portland  
Association of Teachers for  
PAT/OEA/NEA members. Send  
news tips and photos to  
[portlandteachers@gmail.com](mailto:portlandteachers@gmail.com)

©2016, PAT

Can you help us meet that goal? Please ask your colleagues down the hall, in your department, or grade level team if they have signed the Better Oregon petition. To make it easier, we've [created a pre-paid individual signature form anyone can print, fill out, and drop in the mail](#). Be sure and print out extras to carry with you!

The second area where we need your help is getting the word out about the benefits of this ballot measure. Once large corporations see IP 28 on the ballot, they will go into high gear, trying to convince Oregonians that this is bad for business, bad for Oregon.

We have to counter the misinformation put out by the big corporations and convince voters that funding K-12 education, healthcare, and senior services is important to Oregonians, young and old. We need to educate voters that this measure will not ruin Oregon, but better Oregon. If you need more petition sheets, or to have completed petitions picked up, contact Executive Board member Mike Bauer at [bigflapjack@gmail.com](mailto:bigflapjack@gmail.com) or (503) 484-8965.

## Report from the OEA Representative Assembly

The PAT delegation participated in the OEA Representative Assembly on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. PAT was recognized for our hard work collecting signatures for the Better Oregon campaign, and our Legislative Committee was given an award for our work in last year's School Board races.

In addition, the RA addressed several of PAT's priority issues:

- The RA formally endorsed the **July 8<sup>th</sup> Save Our Schools Coalition March** in Washington, DC, and is encouraging all Oregon educators to attend. The event is sponsored by a diverse group of organizations, ranging from the Bad Ass Teachers (BATs) Network to our parent union, the National Education Association. The march will take place at the conclusion of the NEA's Representative Assembly.
- PAT members Tom Kane and Hyung Nam successfully passed two resolutions related to **climate change** at this year's RA. As a result, the OEA will request an audit of PERS, to see how much money our retirement fund has lost over the last three and five years owing to fossil fuel investments. OEA will also work with various environmental groups in the state to lobby the Oregon Investment Council and the State Treasurer to divest the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) from stocks and funds that are in fossil fuels.
- The RA voted to create a toolkit to support local associations and leaders who wish to educate parents about their **rights to refuse high stakes standardized tests**.
- PAT member Adolfo Garza introduced three new business items that were adopted by the RA. First, to endorse and support **high school student leadership support models such as M.E.C.H.A.** (Morimiento Estudiantil Chicana de Aztlan), as well as promote the value of ethnic studies and other avenues for student support.
- Secondly, to examine the **impact of SB553**, focusing on what happens when suspensions are prohibited, but schools are not providing adequate funding or alternative options and support services for students, and make recommendations for what educators can do in the face of unsafe behaviors.
- Third, to extend solidarity to berry pickers in Washington state and San Quintin, Mexico, and endorse their call for a **boycott of Driscolls and Sakuma Bros berries** until the company negotiates a union contract for better working conditions and wages.
- The RA voted to lobby the Oregon Investment Council and the State Treasurer to **divest the PERS from stocks related to any and all private prison operations**, working with groups such as ENLACE and the Private Prison Divestment Campaign.
- Members committed to OEA **playing a leading role in combating institutional racism and educational inequality**, together with community partners and social justice organizations around the state.