

OSTPDX Minutes  
November 13, 2018  
Analysis of the November 6<sup>th</sup> Election  
Attendance 111

Phyllis Brown introduced the meeting. 'We rocked the House 38 seats!'

Thanked all of the groups who worked on campaigns including: Indivisible Oregon, Move On dot Org, PerSisters, Nasty Women Get Shit Done, Indivisible Clackamas.

Acknowledged the OSTPDX leadership team and Task Force and Kate Schmitt for heading up the letters to the editor and Sara McKinney taking on the email blast

Next meeting January 8<sup>th</sup> – Key legislative issues

February – panel on immigration

Sending a survey tomorrow to all membership. Asked new attendees to sign up for email.

Requested donations for [National Indivisible](#) for all their work organizing state and local groups.

Phyllis also inspired us with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."*

Let's make this a movement, not a moment. This is not just a blue wave. It is a blue tide rising.

Phyllis introduced our speakers.

**Dr. Jim Moore** is a political commentator on OPB and professor of Political Science at Pacific University. Dr. Moore reviewed the National and State election outcomes.

The overall turnout was high for midterms. Oregon turnout 1.9 million which is the highest ever except for 2016. Republicans are generally more motivated to vote. This year Democrats turned out at same rate as R's.

Governor's race was interesting in that Governor Kate Brown (49.9 %) and Knute Buehler (43.6%) ran against each other for Sec of States in 2012 with almost the same % of the vote. In that election they spent \$3 million. In this governor race they spent \$38 million.

The Oregon Senate now has a supermajority of Ds counting Betsy Johnson who often votes with Rs

The Oregon House picked up 3 seats. Now two more Ds than Rs. The House tends to be more progressive.

Dr. Moore expects we will see more ballot measures in Oregon because Julie Parrish will have time to initiate and Kevin Mannix is also planning to be more active. Suggests we may want to develop our own ballot initiatives.

Kate will not run again for Governor again and second term governors get creative. Opportunity for her. Watch for budget in December as we have a structural deficit and need to raise revenue to avoid cutting services. At this time it is unclear what the move may be.

Gross receipts tax – Hatfield, Vic Atiyeh previously introduced. The legislature's first order of business will be the budget. Expects Cap and trade to be the next priority. Interesting that this was the R solution to reduce CO2 up until 1990s. It's a good time to be lobbying our representatives.

Ballot measures: 103 – 106 all lost by about the same amount 63%-37%. The unified Defend Oregon campaign worked on all.

National interest is ongoing with the Florida recount and the concerns in Georgia about voter suppression.

Nationally this is the greatest gain for women since 1992 yet the House is not even at 25% women. White college educated women 38% R and 62% D. Suburbs are becoming more D in that past 20 years. There was a cross over in the states that went for Trump in 2016, only three lost. Of those that went for Clinton 19 lost to Ds.

What to think about going forward:

- What happens in DC? Will the Ds try to build bridges or follow McConnell's advice to Rs during Obama's presidency and obstruct? Senator Wyden builds bridges.
- Nancy Pelosi – will be speaker and new people might stand against her but unlikely that she will lose the position.
- There will be younger candidates coming in 2020. There is tension in the Democratic Party between moderates and progressives.
- Does not expect to see impeachment proceedings although the investigation should be completed.
- May find common ground on infrastructure. Representative Peter DeFazio will play a role.

**David Sarasohn** is a former columnist with the Oregonian and now a freelance writer and political commentator. He provided commentary on the future outlook by asking the question 'How will the Democrats blow it in 2020?' Answer: by nominating a 70 year old. Not Hillary, Bernie, Mike Bloomberg. Democrats showed so much energy this election that they will not need to go for name recognition.

Congress now has 100 women in House, 25 in Senate. In 1992 number of women in Senate was 4. Votes tend to be split Ds to Rs 50/50 for men and 60-40 for women. Ds probably need a woman on the ticket. Several states that voted for Trump elected Ds for Congress in the midterm.

The three Pacific coast states are a Democratic strong hold. West coast D identity is personal liberty ("liberalitarian"). The businesses and technologies in the West end to attract liberal people. West coast economy feels differently about trade – all operate in world market. This drives different attitudes about immigration. We have a rising Hispanic population and growing Asian population in high tech that get H1B specialized visas. We have sanctuary cities and did not pass measure 105. CA filed a law suit to prevent the Feds from cutting funding.

Share concerns about climate change and reducing CO2. WA defeated first carbon tax. Portland passed PCEF. All the wild fires underline the interest in climate change.

West coast provides a direction for Ds. Maybe they should consider a West Coast candidate such as Kamala Harris, Jay Inslee, Merkley, Eric Garcetti. (Ds have never had a Presidential nominee from the West, other than Lyndon Johnson from TX). Ds on the East Coast but few in the middle of the country.

**Liz Kaufman** is a political consultant and was named in 2015 by Ballotpedia as top influencer of Oregon politics.

Liz asked why people got involved in political campaigns. Commons reasons: angry at the current administration. Were asked to be involved. Liz says to build on this. Go find new people. Especially people who don't look like us. Go meet some young people. Go meet people in Happy Valley.

Look at local issues like schools, gun regulations. Fighting for school funding must include other parts of the state to go lobby the legislators. Work on issues and push them.

Set priorities. There is so much to do and everyone needs something to do.

Communication with legislators AND City Hall.

Issues for the City include too many kids arrive at school hungry, why so many permits for apartments with no parking.

Apply to be on State boards and Commissions. The Governor appoints people Board of Forestry, Environmental Quality and others..

People who had never served got elected in 2016 and 2018. All offices are significant and good places to start such as School Board or PCP.

Ballot measures: We need some progressive ballot measures for 2020. Let's put great ideas on the ballot. Legislators don't take the risk to pass progressive legislation.

Work well with others. Find out what National Indivisible is planning, need limited National movements. Look at coalitions and decide who to work with. Our Oregon and Defend Oregon are good organizations. OSTPDX know how to get new people involved and could help them.

Democratic groups will have division around candidates for Pres. So learn to disagree with each other nicely and get new people in.

#### **Questions and Answers:** (Summarized, may have multiple answers)

Q - How does a vote by mail state influence other states do start vote by mail?

A - Oregon started vote by mail in 1981 for local and 1998 by referendum for national elections. Three states have vote by mail. People are using their absentee ballot system more. Senator Ron Wyden is advocating vote by mail. Don't see it moving without a big push. Indivisible National should push. At the least states need more polling places because no one should have to wait more than four hours.

Email from Phil Keisling re turnout: Top states: In MN & CO 63% voted; in OR & WI 61% voted. Two of these are vote at home states.

Q - Rs that lost were more moderate, does this mean there will be bigger divisions within the R party?

A - US House is divided based on ideology. The party is divided. Because we have closed primaries in OR the candidates are limited by the parties. Moderates in both parties come from swing districts.

Q - What do we need to do to prepare for districting?

A - Suggest a D Sec of State and the voters need to get involved. When OR adds a new House seat the new district should be divided so it is not as R as the current D2 (Walden's). At the state level the legislature needs to pass the bill, signed by Governor, and if can't resolve, then the Sec of State decides. At Federal level, the legislature/Governor decides and if cannot agree, then Federal Judge decides. The gerrymandered districts are in Texas and NC. Should be like CA with nonpartisan commission.

Q - Polarization in congress, seems partly due to gerrymandering, what are your thoughts re this election that might suggest there is hope to move away from gerrymandering?

A - Hard core Texas & NC not much hope for change. Kansas has had a demographic change. Portland used to be all R before the Great Depression. WA county demographics are changing with high tech moving in.

A – The idea of non-partisan redistricting commissions is spreading.

A - Jeff Kidder - Indivisible Guide 2.0 out tomorrow. Ezra Levin on Rachel Maddow tonight

Q – What should the national legislative agenda be for 2019?

A – Should build up a body of bills in the House even if don't pass will have them in the pipeline for 2021.

A – Agree that is a good plan if don't make it all repeal, repeal, repeal like the Rs did re ACA.

A – A D house could pass a new national minimum wage and protect coverage for pre-existing conditions. Even conservative states seem to want to expand medicare.

Q - What about FL reinstating vote for felons that passed 60%?

A – Think it passed because people know someone with a felony and felt they should be able to vote.

Q – Would you recommend being in a group like OST/Indivisible or working within the D party structure?

A – Jim Moore: stay out of the party structure, parties are weak. Parties can be good about making coalitions.

A – David Sarasohn: parties are the vessels by which you do things. Non-party energy turned into party wins. Within the parties there becomes a magnification of small differences.

A - Liz – BOTH. The D tent can be too big and doesn't appeal to smaller groups but if we don't get involved with the party can't get good people to run and can't get input into who will be running.

Closing:

Stay for drinks and treats.

Please complete the survey that will go out to all on the mailing list. Be sure to sign up January 8 meeting. Same time same location.