

The Oregonian

Portland Election Results 2018: Jo Ann Hardesty Wins Portland City Council Seat in Historic Victory

*By Gordon Friedman
November 6, 2018*

Jo Ann Hardesty won a seat on the Portland City Council, easily defeating Loretta Smith, according to partial returns tallied Tuesday.

Given that the council is only five members, Hardesty's victory is sure to change the governing body's politics and make it even more liberal for years to come. She will replace Commissioner Dan Saltzman, a moderate and the most-tenured member of the council, who is retiring after 20 years.

"This victory tonight is Portland's victory," Hardesty said to a passionate crowd of supporters Tuesday, declaring her win a mandate for change within City Hall.

"Time for a different kind of Portland," she said. "Time for regular voices to be center at City Hall."

Hardesty's win is also historic because she will be the first ever black woman on the city council and it is the first time the council will be majority women.

Mayor Ted Wheeler has said he will assign Hardesty, 61, the portfolio of bureaus currently run by Saltzman, putting her in a position of day-to-day oversight of the city fire department, 911 center and emergency preparedness agency.

Wheeler congratulated Hardesty on her win, tweeting "I look forward to working together to promote the needs of all Portlanders, and to make Portland a more prosperous and welcoming city for all." Yet in a sign of her dissatisfaction with the status quo, Hardesty derided Wheeler in her victory speech Tuesday, referring to him as "mayor what's his name."

Hardesty will sit on the city council during a pivotal moment for Portland. The city and its leaders have been grappling with a need for more affordable housing, rising rates of homelessness and political protests that frequently erupt into street brawls, all during a time of tremendous economic growth that has not trickled down to Portland's neediest.

Commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Amanda Fritz's politics align more closely with Hardesty's than they do with that of Wheeler and Commissioner Nick Fish. If Eudaly, Fritz and Hardesty decide to vote as a bloc, they would hold sway over council policy and could even overrule the mayor, giving Hardesty unusual leverage for a first-term commissioner.

Both Hardesty and challenger Smith, a Multnomah County Commissioner, weathered accusations of poor leadership throughout the campaign that raised questions about their ability to oversee bureaus that spend hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars.

Smith, who will remain a county commissioner until her term expires in January, has had eight chiefs of staff in as many years on the county board and had been the subject of a county investigation that found she may have bullied subordinates.

Hardesty was the subject of an investigation by Oregon Public Broadcasting that found that while she was head of the city's NAACP chapter she steered a \$10,000 project to her consulting firm without board approval and did not report the income to the IRS.

On Tuesday, Hardesty's supporters looked ahead, to a new council that they hope can better tackle the everyday worries that making Portland increasingly difficult to afford. Rent is too high, they said. Good paying jobs hard to come by.

They want Hardesty to make a difference, and made their high expectations clear.

Addressing the crowd, she ended her speech with a toast, raising a plastic cup of beer in the air. "To Portland," she said.

Protesters Rally Outside Portland City Hall on Election Night

November 6, 2018

Dozens of demonstrators gathered at Portland City Hall two hours before election polls closed Tuesday for a rally protesting against a ballot measure that would repeal Oregon's sanctuary state law.

The protest was organized by Abolish ICE PDX, whose members set up a camp outside the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Southwest Portland for about five weeks during the summer, temporarily causing the building to close.

Demonstrators oppose Measure 105, which would, if passed, withdraw a 31-year-old state law that forbids law enforcement from inquiring about a person's immigration status or apprehending them unless the person is suspected of a criminal offense.

As of 6 p.m., at least 10 police officers stood between City Hall and protesters as they chanted "Abolish ICE." Demonstrators set up several signs outside the building including ones that read "sanctuary now," "smash fascism" and "RIP ICE" on a mock tombstone and coffin.

Protesters also set up a table with bread, avocados and jars of queso dip.

Portland activist Francisco Aguirre told the crowd that he believes Portland is a city that cares about immigrants and said having a sanctuary law protects everyone in a country that was built by immigrants. Aguirre once took refuge in a Portland Lutheran church while facing a federal illegal reentry charge and deportation. The charge was later dismissed.

"If we don't fight in favor of sanctuary law, pretty soon we all are going to have worst laws that will divide us," he said.

Portland police earlier parked at least half a dozen motorcycles and a transport van outside of its downtown precinct in anticipation of the protest. The federal courthouse nearby closed around 4:15 p.m. to allow people to leave the area before the demonstration began.

Mayor Ted Wheeler earlier tweeted that he expected the protests to remain peaceful and that Abolish ICE PDX and other groups he'd heard were participating hadn't been in contact with police beforehand nor applied for a city permit to march.

Abolish ICE PDX confirmed police reached out to members before the protest. The group said it was disappointed the Police Bureau wouldn't discuss officers' use of flash bang grenades in prior downtown Portland rallies. The group also said it didn't agree to cooperate with police.

People who said they were injured by the devices during an Aug. 4 rally have announced plans to sue the city.

The election night protest comes two days before the Portland City Council is set to hold a hearing on a proposed Protest Safety Ordinance that would allow the mayor and police to restrict the time, location and manner of protests. The ordinance would apply if a group or groups planning to protest have a history of violence or if authorities believe there's a strong chance violence could occur at the event, according to a draft of the ordinance.

Wheeler has said previously that the proposal is an attempt to lessen brawls that have erupted during political demonstrations on city streets in recent years.

As of about 6:35 p.m., police had mostly backed away from the protest at City Hall and demonstrators were across the street holding signs in opposition of ICE.

Around 7:30 p.m., the crowd began marching along the sidewalks around downtown Portland chanting "Abolish ICE," "ICE out of Portland" and "Whose streets? Our streets." They later stopped at Pioneer Courthouse Square around 8:15 p.m.

By then the polls had closed and Measure 105 had been rejected by voters.

Portland Election Results 2018: Voters Pass City Campaign Spending Limits

*By Gordon Friedman
November 6, 2018*

Portland voters have overwhelmingly adopted Measure 26-200, establishing strict campaign finance limits for city races -- limits that are likely to be challenged in court.

The measure amends the city charter to limit individual or political committee donations to \$500 per election cycle, limits campaign spending and requires campaigns to disclose advertising funders, among other restrictions. The limits apply to races for Portland mayor, commissioner and auditor.

Multnomah County voters adopted a nearly identical measure in 2016, but it was struck down by a judge this year. Judge Eric Bloch of the Multnomah County Circuit Court ruled campaign spending caps created by the county measure were "impermissible" under the Oregon Constitution's free speech protections. Supporters have appealed.

Jason Kafoury, an attorney and organizer for the county and city measures, has said his coalition hopes the Oregon Supreme Court will eventually reverse its 1997 decision striking down campaign finance caps. Several of the justices at the time were Republican appointees; today, they are all Democratic appointees.

The Portland Tribune

Hardesty Celebrates City Council Victory

By Jim Redden

November 6, 2018

Early returns show activist leading Smith by 62 to 37 percent, with many votes left to be counted.

Activist Jo Ann Hardesty defeated Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith to become the first African-American woman elected to the Portland City Council.

The first returns showed Hardesty leading Smith by a margin of 62 percent to 37 percent, with the rest going to write-in candidates. Her lead never diminished as the evening went on.

"I want to thank the voters of Portland for trusting that I had the best interest of voters at heart," she said, while promising to empower regular voices at City Hall. "I want to thank the voters for knowing that this is the beginning."

Smith conceded about a half hour after the polls closed, saying she had planned on winning, "But life sometimes puts bumps in the way and sends you off in a different direction."

Smith did not mention Hardesty by name, but said she was proud that two African-American woman had made it in the general election in a city that is only 5.8 percent African-American. She said she plans to continue in some form of public service.

Hardesty is a former Portland state legislator and well-known activist who also has a consulting business. Smith is a former aide to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and current Multnomah County Commissioner representing parts of North and Northeast Portland.

Both candidates promised to stand up for under-represented Portlanders of color and lower-income residents in East Portland if elected. Hardesty also reached out to outer Southwest Portland voters, arguing their part of town has many of the same problems as East Portland, including a lack of sidewalks and substandard streets.

The race was to replace Commissioner Dan Saltzman, who did not run for re-election. Women will be a majority on the council for the first time when Hardesty takes office in January.

Hardesty finished first in the May primary election but did not receive the majority necessary to win the race outright. Her 46 percent was significantly higher than the 21 percent that Smith received, however. The four other candidates in the race split the difference.

Only around 33 percent of Portland voters actually returned their ballots in the primary, however, making it difficult to predict how well Hardesty and Smith would do in the November general election, where many more voters traditionally participate. Smith released a campaign poll on Oct. 25 that said the race was tied at about 39 percent each with 22 percent still undecided.

Smith raised far more money than Hardesty in both elections.

Developers Fight Over Location of Homeless Navigation Center

By Jim Redden

November 6, 2018

Jim Winkler is challenging the cleanup plan approved for the project proposed by Homer Williams.

Two prominent Portland developers are fighting over whether to open a homeless shelter and navigation center near the Pearl District.

Homer Williams wants to open the temporary facility on city-owned land near the west end of the Broadway Bridge. Columbia Sportswear executive Tim Boyle has pledged \$1.5 million toward the project, which would be built and operated by Oregon Harbor of Hope, a nonprofit organization founded by Williams.

But Jim Winkler is challenging the cleanup plan for the location approved by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The property has been used by railroads in the past and is too contaminated for occupancy without being cleaned up. Winkler has asked DEQ to reconsider its approval, saying the plan it approved is not as complete as the one previously required for an adjacent parcel where a building housing the OSU Food Innovation Center is located.

"It's a matter of environmental justice. I'm requesting that everyone be treated equally. Why should a lower standard be applied to marginalized people?" says Winkler.

Winkler admits he owns property in the area, but insists that is not the reason he asked DEQ to reconsider its approval. Winkler says he does not any plans for his property at this time.

Williams could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Oregon Harbor of Hope project was first announced at a press conference on April 9 attended Williams, Boyle, and such civic leaders as Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler; Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury; Portland State University President Rahmat Shoureshi; and David Bangsberg, the founding dean of the joint Oregon Health & Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health.

Williams planned to have the facility opened by the fall but had to delay the start of construction in order to complete a cleanup plan for the property, which is owned by Prosper Portland, the city's economic development agency.

DEQ approved a "Focused Remedial Action Plan for the Harbor of Hope Navigation Center" on Sept. 14. Winkler asked that it be reconsidered on Oct. 19.

Winkler says if the DEQ turns down his reconsideration request, he will probably challenge it in Marion County Circuit Court.

Winkler praises Williams for wanting to help the homeless, and says that he has been trying to find a suitable site for a comprehensive service center, too. He had bid on the former University of the Western States property in East Portland, but it was recently sold to Linfield College instead.

Winkler says he believes the former Multnomah County Wapato Jail is a better site for such a facility than the one Williams is working on, in part because the Broadway Bridge could collapse in an earthquake.

"I wish Homer well, just at another locations," says Winkler.

You can read Winkler's request for reconsideration [here](#).

Willamette Week

She Learned the Ropes at One of the Most Corrupt Police Departments in the Country. Now Danielle Outlaw Runs the Portland Police—and She Wants More Power.

By Katie Shepherd

November 7, 2018

She doesn't look like many of Portland's past police chiefs. She doesn't act like them, either.

As a child, Danielle Outlaw was scared of cops.

Growing up in East Oakland, Calif., she was taught to run when she saw a police officer. When she was in middle school, Oakland police arrested her cousin. Outlaw was an only child, and her cousin was like a brother to her.

"The police took away someone I loved very, very deeply for a very long time," she recalls. "You came and created a void in my life, and I don't like you because of it."

More than three decades later, Outlaw isn't just a cop—she's running the Portland Police Bureau. She doesn't look like many of Portland's past police chiefs. She doesn't act like them, either.

The first black woman to lead the bureau is tough-talking, frank, almost schoolyard in her bluntness. In her first year on the job, she's taunted protesters—"you get mad because I kicked your butt," she said on the radio in August—and publicly challenged her boss, Mayor Ted Wheeler, when he asked police to stay away from a protest camp.

"In Oakland, we tell you what we mean and we mean what we say," says Regina Jackson, who knows Outlaw from California. "She's an Oakland girl—a straight talker, a straight shooter. That kind of leadership is a risk, but good leaders take risks."

After one year as police chief, a clearer picture of the 42-year-old Outlaw is emerging. Since the August radio interview, she's grown more cautious in her public statements. According to more than two dozen people who discussed Outlaw with WW—City Hall insiders, colleagues on the police force, and friends and peers from her days in Oakland—Outlaw is a smart, careful, cops' cop who seems less interested in the kind of police reform her boss Wheeler campaigned on than in taking back control of the city's streets.

Wheeler hired Outlaw last year because he wanted to show he would make big changes—starting at the top—to a bureau he said badly needed a shakeup.

But instead of reform, she's pushing to put greater power into the Police Bureau's hands by, among other things, forcing protest groups into what are effectively "free-speech zones"—limiting when and where groups may demonstrate.

A newly proposed ordinance the City Council will debate Nov. 8 would give Portland police broad latitude to corral protesters. Two commissioners—Amanda Fritz and Chloe Eudaly—are opposed, and undecided Commissioner Nick Fish will likely be the swing vote.

Outlaw and the mayor's office both say she asked for the change, after August protests spun out of control.

"If we're getting involved where it's already jumped off, it's too late," she tells WW. "At that point, all we have is force. We really don't want to use force if we don't need to. The best thing to do is be strategic and get ahead of it."

The effort to reassert police control over political speech tests how much trust Portland has in her at a crucial time.

Portland's penchant for protest has always made it a hard town to police (that's how we got the '90s nickname "Little Beirut"). That reputation has now made the city a target for political extremists and white nationalists. Since the last election, Portland has seen political violence on its streets unprecedented in scale and intensity.

Is Outlaw up to the moment?

If you didn't know her and saw Outlaw out of her dress blues, you wouldn't guess she's the highest-ranking cop in Portland.

At 42 years old and standing only 5 foot 4, she's younger and smaller than the average police chief. She keeps her long, meticulous braids pinned to her head while on duty, but off the clock, they fall nearly to her waist. Her arms are inked with tattoos: a Taoist symbol, a treble clef, and a quote from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*: "Though she be but little, she is fierce."

Danielle Outlaw's yearbook photo. Danielle Outlaw's yearbook photo.

Danielle Outlaw was born on the rough east end of Oakland, a city with a long history of animosity between citizens and the police. Gang violence, shootings and corrupt cops have given Oakland a reputation as the gritty cousin to San Francisco.

Outlaw's father worked for the state's transportation department and her mother for AT&T. One day, when she was in grade school, Outlaw recalls, she was playing in a plastic pool in the front yard when a man walked by and spat into the water. Her mother decided to move: "And she said, 'That's it. It's time to go,'" Outlaw says.

At 14, she enrolled in an all-girls Catholic high school in the rolling hills of Rockridge—a middle-class neighborhood with few black families. She got into Holy Names High School when the administration ignored counselors who said she "had a problem with authority."

For four years, Outlaw studied in halls adorned with Catholic statues and paintings. She says the school and the friends she made there "probably saved my life."

That same year, 1990, she decided to become a police officer—after the school sent her on a ride-along with an Oakland cop. Her family and friends were baffled.

"No one was saying they wanted to be a police officer growing up," Outlaw says. "People were shocked. My dad told me flat out it was a waste of a degree."

Outlaw stayed in Catholic schools and earned her undergraduate degree at the University of San Francisco, graduating in 1998.

Fresh out of college, she joined the Oakland Police Department—a far less sedate place.

Outlaw worked for OPD for 20 years. During that time, she witnessed some of the worst police scandals in the country.

In 2000, four of her colleagues, known as the "rough riders," were charged with planting drugs on black suspects. They were all terminated, and the city paid victims more than \$10.9 million, but the criminal charges didn't stick against the officers. Nine years later, Outlaw witnessed her city's outrage over police shooting black men—including Oscar Grant, who was shot by transit police while lying face-down on a train platform in 2009.

But no case revealed the rot inside Oakland's force like that of 17-year-old Celeste Guap.

In 2015, Guap, the daughter of an Oakland police dispatcher who said she had been working as a prostitute, threatened to reveal that an Oakland police officer named Brendan O'Brien and several other officers were having sex with her.

O'Brien killed himself. Oakland police hid his suicide note and the allegations for months before finally opening an investigation. The criminal cases floundered, ending in dismissals or lenient plea deals. Just one Oakland captain was convicted and sentenced—to three years' probation.

Outlaw was deputy chief as the scandal unfolded. She watched the OPD burn through three police chiefs in a week after Guap's story became public. Outlaw was never implicated in the thorough investigation of the abuse and cover-up that followed.

"When she started, OPD was close to, if not the worst department in the Bay Area, and there were a lot that were not good," says civil rights lawyer Jim Chanin, who made a career suing Oakland police and other law enforcement agencies. "If you used force, you were admired. It must have been very hard to come up with any integrity at all."

Chanin remembers Outlaw as a well-respected officer who worked up the ladder without a scandal. "Being a police officer is not an easy job, and it's even tougher for women," he says. "She had to struggle in that environment, and she did very well."

Outlaw was a beat cop only briefly. She rose through the ranks, eventually becoming Oakland's second female deputy chief and, for several years, the highest-ranking woman in the department.

She served as commander overseeing the records division, the 911 dispatch center, and training. She worked as a public information officer and then as a captain in the internal affairs division.

"I was assigned cases where the hard calls had to be made," Outlaw says. "The one where folks would go, 'Ooh, that would end up on the news.'"

Regina Jackson, who runs the East Oakland Youth Development Center and also sits on the Oakland police citizen review board, says Outlaw was the kind of cop who embedded herself in a community. Outlaw met Jackson six years ago, over a cup of coffee at Starbucks.

"I had never had an officer try to reach out with no specific problem," Jackson says. "It was pleasantly surprising."

Jackson says she doesn't think Outlaw focused on what she'd call "sexy projects," but took a lot of jobs other officers wouldn't gravitate toward—like internal affairs. "The optics of the jobs she was doing," Jackson says, "they were jobs people didn't want to do."

Outlaw was a lieutenant in 2011, when the Occupy Oakland protests set up camps in the city and refused to move.

One day, Oakland police struck the Occupy protesters with flash-bangs, bean bags and other less-than-lethal munitions, leaving several people with bruises, chemical burns or permanent hearing loss.

The city of Oakland paid protesters \$1 million in damages and implemented a number of reforms local civil rights leaders say have drastically reduced the department's use of force on protesters.

"Since the Occupy Oakland demonstrations, Oakland police have dramatically cut the use of flash-bangs," says Chanin. "It's so much better now than six or seven years ago."

Outlaw, who worked in internal affairs at the time, oversaw all of the complaints filed against the Oakland police after the protests.

The lesson she took away from handling those complaints? She says she learned to balance the safety of protesters and the protection of private property.

"We were still of the mindset of 'Just as long as no one gets hurt, we're good,'" she says. "I walked away from that saying, 'OK, there has to be balance.' The merchants also wanted to feel safe. There were a lot of windows that had been busted out."

In Portland, Ted Wheeler ran for mayor in 2016—and said the Portland Police Bureau was the city agency most in need of reforms.

Six months after his election, Wheeler named Outlaw chief. Outlaw says one of the reasons she applied for the job was because she knew the city had a reputation for large, tense public protests.

"A lot of the work had already been done in Oakland, and I was there at the table for it," she says. "I really wanted to make sure my skill set contributed to something where you could see it."

The debate over how Portland police control protests has become the central question defining Outlaw's first year on the job.

Interestingly, Outlaw authorized the firing of flash-bangs into a crowd of leftist counterprotesters opposing Patriot Prayer during the Aug. 4 protests. A 52-year-old woman suffered chemical burns, and a young man was rushed to the hospital with a brain hemorrhage after being struck directly with a flash-bang—the kind of munitions Outlaw helped phase out in Oakland.

Chanin, the Oakland lawyer, was surprised to see Outlaw giving flash-bangs the go-ahead.

"This was a big deal when she was here," he says. "I thought she learned the same lessons the whole department did."

When WW asked about that contradiction, Outlaw said the use of flash-bangs was under internal review. She added that she wanted as many tools as possible: "We know these events are going to continue to happen and folks are going to continue to test the water."

But this fall, the tensions building around Portland police became national news.

It started with a shooting.

On Sept. 30, officers responded to a 3 am fight in a downtown parking lot. As officers walked toward the scuffle, 27-year-old Patrick Kimmons pulled a pistol and fired five shots into the crowd, hitting two men. Then he ran toward police.

Sgt. Garry Britt and Officer Jeffrey Livingston fired 12 rounds at Kimmons, hitting him nine times.

In an ambulance, another officer held an oxygen mask over Kimmons' mouth as he struggled to breathe. "Don't let me die, bro," Kimmons begged. "I'm gonna die." He died 32 minutes later.

The following Friday, Oct. 5, Outlaw spoke to Kimmons' family and friends in a meeting room at the bureau's North Precinct. It was an unprecedented encounter in the wake of a police shooting.

"I'm a mother first," she said, telling the crowd her 17- and 20-year-old sons were flying to Portland that day to visit. "I couldn't imagine if I got a phone call saying something had happened to my 17-year-old whose flight didn't land or something. I couldn't imagine."

Her voice wavered. "But I need us to get to a place where we recognize we are all community," she said, in video published by The Oregonian. "I live here, too."

Kimmons' death still set off a chain reaction that has drawn national attention.

A group called Don't Shoot Portland led black-clad marchers through downtown in early October. They chanted, "Black lives matter!" and blocked traffic.

A frustrated driver tried to push through a small crowd of those protesters Oct. 6. As he slowly pushed his car into a man who refused to move, other protesters banged their fists on his silver Lexus.

Fox News and other conservative media outlets seized on video of the confrontation. They accused Mayor Wheeler and Portland police of allowing "mob rule" to take over the city.

Vancouver, Wash., right-wing protest leader Joey Gibson, incensed by the Fox News story, organized a "flash march for law and order" that brought a roving group of Proud Boys to downtown Portland on Oct. 13 near dusk. They got into a massive brawl with antifascist protesters—the two sides beating each other bloody as cameras rolled.

The brawl was the last straw for Wheeler. Two days later, he announced his proposed ordinance to give Outlaw the power to make it tough for the Proud Boys and Antifa to fight in his city.

Wherever Outlaw goes, people want to talk to her about how Portland police handle protests.

They tell her police are cracking down too hard on protesters. (During the Aug. 4 protests, leftists screamed insults at her, calling her a race traitor.)

Or, like the young Trump voter who confronted Outlaw last month, they say cops should crack down more.

Frank George, 19, who leads a conservative student group at Warner Pacific College, pitched a fastball during an Oct. 15 Q&A with Outlaw.

He claimed he had watched police stand by in November 2016 while leftist protesters beat an elderly man in the streets and pepper-sprayed his 70-year-old wife. "And I called out to them for help," George said. "They said no."

Outlaw gripped the back of a wooden chair and swayed.

"We get criticized for doing way too much," the chief answered. "Or we do way too little and we get comments like yours."

She described her frustration with the rules of engagement for cops faced with protesters who arrive with express intent to hurt each other. Her large brown eyes widened when she suggested sending an officer into a crowd of 40 or 50 people.

"Quite frankly, we all want everyone to have the ability to come and express whatever it is they want to express safely. But let me say this: If I send one officer into a group of people maybe this size, and my officer gets caught up in whatever that is, what good did sending my officer do?"

Two hours later, Outlaw stood with Mayor Ted Wheeler at a podium in City Hall—and said they were going to change the rules.

Wheeler introduced an emergency ordinance that could authorize Portland police to place restrictions on when and where people may protest, if those demonstrators have a history of violent clashes. Under the new rules, police would be authorized to tell protesters where they may gather—in theory, allowing them to keep alt-right instigators on one side of the river and their Antifa foes on the other.

The mayor's office says Outlaw asked for the new rules.

"She was looking for a tool to keep demonstrators with a past history of violence separated," says Berk Nelson, an adviser to the mayor. "People from the far right see it as a violation of their First Amendment rights, as well as those on the far left. But people's speech is being chilled now—and it's not coming from the government."

When Outlaw discusses these policies, her usual directness turns into a focus on granular detail. But she's clear: She wants this rule, because she believes it will keep her officers from having to use munitions like flash-bangs.

"It gives us more teeth," she says, "to make sure we can ensure a safe environment for everyone."

Outlaw is taking criticism from the left and right.

"She uses all this woke rhetoric, but then her police go out and use the same brutal tactics," says Olivia Katbi Smith, who co-chairs the Portland chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. "I don't give a fuck about what she's saying. What matters is what she's doing."

James Buchal, chairman of the Multnomah County Republican Party, likes that Outlaw criticized Antifa on The Lars Larson Show in August. "I think it showed she had good instincts," Buchal says. "Whether she's allowed to use them remains to be seen. Making the mayor into the free speech kommissar who can make up the rules as they go isn't the right approach."

The police union praises her. Her bond with the union—and its president, Daryl Turner, who is also black—is unusually strong.

Sources close to the bureau say Turner has been forgiving to Outlaw, even when she annoyed the rank and file.

"Daryl Turner has been uncharacteristically positive toward her," says a source close to the bureau. "He is invested in her somehow. He was making excuses for her, which means he believes he has influence with her."

Turner did not respond to a request for comment.

For years, Portland police have had problems. The U.S. Department of Justice in 2012 found a "pattern and practice" of using excessive force on the mentally ill. And growing crime connected to the city's housing crisis has left many Portlanders with little faith in the cops.

But Outlaw's only significant changes in the bureau have been relatively small, or increased the police's power.

She added a new position to the executive leadership team. The bureau won an additional 58 officers when City Hall battled over the city budget. And she has been a champion for putting more resources toward decreasing shootings by reworking the former Gang Task Force to focus entirely on gun violence—a move that is universally palatable and has been done before.

Why hasn't Outlaw focused on more substantial changes?

Sources with inside knowledge of the bureau say Outlaw has been slow to make key decisions, allowing programs to languish and failing to keep promises.

One example: Last December, Wheeler ordered the Police Bureau to alter its policy to tow stolen vehicles so that low-income victims of auto theft wouldn't have to pay hundreds of dollars to get their cars back. The chief did nothing.

Outlaw says she wants to make some reforms, but change has to come gradually, especially because she's an outsider in the bureau.

"If you come in here and say, 'I'm going to change everything all at one time,' you're going to lose people," she says.

The delay in changing the bureau's tow policy is not the only time Outlaw has shrugged off the mayor's instructions. In July, she insisted Portland police sweep an encampment of Occupy protesters outside Immigration and Customs Enforcement headquarters after Wheeler had ordered the bureau to keep the conflict at arm's length. She said publicly she "wasn't asking for permission" when she told Wheeler her officers would intervene.

But the mayor's new reform to keep demonstrators separate has Outlaw's backing. It meets both of their needs for a high-profile win.

Critics on the left and within the bureau suspect Outlaw is already looking toward her next job.

"Some officers have wondered, is Portland just going to be a stopover and then she's going to be moving on," says one source close to the bureau.

It is a criticism Outlaw acknowledges but dismisses. "People are seeing in me something that I'm not even thinking about," she says.

Yet Outlaw certainly has spent a significant amount of time building connections outside of Portland. In 2018, she traveled to Philadelphia, Nashville, Arlington, Va., and even Israel to attend or speak at law enforcement events.

By her one-year anniversary in the job, Outlaw had spent 56 days away from the city, at conferences and out-of-state speaking engagements, according to her public calendar. That's more than 20 percent of her working year out of town. The mayor is aware of the extensive travel, but allows the Police Bureau broad latitude in authorizing the trips.

Her decision not to rock the boat in Portland could help Outlaw land a future job in a larger city.

Pleasanton, Calif., police chief Dave Spiller, who serves a smaller city in the same county as Oakland, agrees she is probably just getting started.

"I suspect her law enforcement career is limitless," he says. "She's just that kind of person. She's experienced a lot in Oakland, and that has probably taught her who she wants to be and who she never wants to be, and she carries that with her."

A Dispute Over a “Satanic” Board Game and Perfume Blew Up a Meeting Between City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly and Black Constituents

*By Rachel Monahan
November 7, 2018*

“It’s PRP—Portland racial politics. White politicians and elected officials are used to dealing with approved black folks.”

A group of black constituents came to meet with Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly last month about their concerns regarding urban renewal efforts in a North Portland neighborhood.

But the meeting quickly went haywire.

On the conference room table in Eudaly's office was what the visitors believed to be a Ouija board.

"It was some sort of satanic, demonic game," says North Portland resident Alicia Byrd. "It looked like we were interrupting a Ouija session. There were cards and little pieces." (Some Christians shun Ouija boards as occult.)

That was a misunderstanding, says Eudaly's chief of staff, Marshall Runkel. Runkel says what the visitors saw was Illimat, a board and card game developed in collaboration with the Portland band the Decemberists.

But misunderstanding or no, the constituents decided they wanted the game removed. That's when Eudaly walked in.

Byrd says Eudaly was immediately cold to them. When one of their party requested the game be removed, Eudaly took offense. Then, Byrd says, Eudaly demanded to know who was wearing perfume and abruptly walked out of the room.

Eudaly declined comment, referring questions to her staff.

The incident provides a window into Eudaly's evolution from a bookseller with no previous political experience into an elected official nearly two years into her first term.

Eudaly has broken the mold at Portland City Hall, pushing for the adoption of tenant protections. She backed Measure 26-201, a tax to fund green energy projects, when her colleagues in the building were reluctant to do so. Most recently, she led the newly renamed Office of Community & Civic Life in a door-to-door get-out-the-vote effort that her colleagues mostly walked away from.

While she has pushed the envelope on policy decisions, Eudaly has generally earned high marks at City Hall as she's learned the ropes of governing. But she can be prickly, particularly when meeting with citizens.

One manifestation: Eudaly demands outward shows of respect. The commissioner has called out members of the public who don't address her by her title during City Council meetings. And her staff admits shows of respect are important to her; this isn't the first meeting with Eudaly where things have gone awry.

"The commissioner nearly walked out of a meeting with the Portland Business Alliance when they treated her disrespectfully," says Runkel. He's referring to an April 17 meeting with the PBA during the city's budget process, after which Eudaly sang "You Don't Own Me" into a

karaoke microphone on her way down from the third floor of City Hall, as WW reported at the time.

"The commissioner works productively with a wide array of Portlanders regardless of their economic or ethnic backgrounds," Runkel adds. "Respect is a requirement for successful communications."

Runkel says the constituents who came to talk about redevelopment in North Portland behaved disrespectfully. "The group reacted hostilely and disrespectfully to the presence of a game on the conference room table, then insisted it was their conference room because City Hall is a public building," says Runkel. "That's when the commissioner walked out."

Runkel also says Eudaly's staff will be adding a note every time a meeting is scheduled to make clear that no fragrances are to be worn in City Hall. (The prohibition on perfume and cologne, approved in 2011, is aimed to protect people who suffer from asthma or allergies.)

Besides Byrd, the meeting's attendees also included Shei'Meka Owens and Omar Shabazz, according to the activist Teresa Raiford, who helped organize the group, called Emanuel Displaced Persons Association 2. The group consists of complete outsiders to a formal public process in North Portland.

Byrd says her group's treatment by a Eudaly staff member and the commissioner herself contrasts with the treatment they've received in other commissioners' offices.

"We all know that Eudaly is a loose cannon," Byrd says. "Why is that OK? Why does she continue to get away with this? I'm not into making excuses for people. She's a grown woman and an elected official. She was so irate and so unreasonable and so out of control."

The constituents recorded their conversation with Runkel after Eudaly left.

"I'm trying to figure out why there was an aversion to removing the Ouija board from off the table," says a woman in attendance on the audio.

"If I'm going to be coming to the meeting, I'll make sure I'm fragrant-free," says a man on the recording.

Although Runkel told WW the constituents were disrespectful, the recording captures him offering excuses for Eudaly's actions and an apology.

"This got off on a terrible foot today," says Runkel, who takes the blame on the recording for not sufficiently preparing the commissioner. "Frankly, I've never seen something go as poorly, so I feel embarrassed. I'm really sincerely apologetic that things did not go better."

But that stance has left Byrd convinced that although Eudaly demands respect, she doesn't show much deference to ordinary black constituents who lack titles or influential positions.

"It's PRP—Portland racial politics," she says. "White politicians and elected officials are used to dealing with approved black folks."

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler Does Not Have the Votes Secured for His High-Profile Public Safety Ordinance

By Rachel Monahan

November 6, 2018

The ordinance for which Wheeler has sought national attention is not guaranteed to pass.

Portland Commissioners Amanda Fritz and Chloe Eudaly are opposed to the high-profile ordinance that Mayor Ted Wheeler has filed to block the clashes between dueling protesters in the streets of Portland, say their chiefs of staff.

A third colleague—City Commissioner Nick Fish—hasn't taken a position.

"Commissioner Fish is looking forward to the hearing and a discussion on Thursday and has not taken a position on the proposal," says Fish's chief of staff, Sonia Schmanski.

The opposition of two commissioners means the ordinance can't pass as an emergency measure Nov. 8, as Mayor Ted Wheeler had planned. An emergency ordinance requires a unanimous vote of the council, with at least four members in attendance. Wheeler doesn't have that—which means his proposal won't go into effect on Thursday.

"This is an urgent and necessary tool," says Wheeler in a statement. "I am hopeful the Commissioners will see that the Protest Safety Ordinance not only protects 1st Amendment rights but at the same time creates common sense guidelines that aims to prevent violence and protect the public's safety.

"If we don't have the votes to pass, I would be willing to take off the emergency clause," Wheeler adds. "That would make it a regular ordinance. That means, the hearing would be treated as a first reading and then it would pass to a second reading ('a vote') as early as the following week."

But the larger question is whether the high-profile effort will pass at all. That will require three of five votes. (The fifth vote, City Commissioner Dan Saltzman, has said he supports the ordinance.)

It's an unusual choice for a mayor or commissioner to bring a high-profile resolution to City Council without having at least three votes lined up.

Wheeler has at times engaged in brinksmanship with the rest of City Council, including during the budget negotiations when he did not have the votes for the increases to the police budget he proposed. Ultimately, he succeeded in passing a budget with significant increases. A similar outcome here is possible but not guaranteed.

The ordinance is designed to address the clashes between Patriot Prayer and Antifa that have been repeatedly taken place in Portland streets. It will require groups that have a history of violence to gather in areas designated by police.

The mayor has faced criticism from civil rights groups.

Portland Police Say Election Day Demonstrations Are Unlikely To Cause Disruptions, Despite Mayor's Tweets

*By Katie Shepherd
November 6, 2018*

"We are choosing to over communicate about what is going to happen tonight," the mayor's office says.

The Portland Police Bureau says there is no evidence to suggest Election Day demonstrations in this city will block streets, cause disruptions or erupt into violence.

"At this time the Police Bureau has not identified information that suggests there will be a major interruption on roadways," says spokesman Sgt. Christopher Burley.

Despite the bureau's assurances that tonight's protests will likely unfold peacefully, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler has suggested—in multiple tweets that might gin up fears—that roads could be blocked and that public safety could be at risk.

"Portland, we want everyone to have a safe and fun election night," he tweeted Nov. 6. "We want everyone to be able to safely exercise their 1st amendment rights. But know the laws: You cannot block streets, freeways or public transportation. And most importantly — violence will not be tolerated."

He continued: "Here's what you need to know about the demonstrations tonight. We know of at least 6 groups coming to downtown Portland. Portland Police reached out to them to have a conversation. They have not yet responded. None of the groups have applied for a permit."

Wheeler's warnings come just days before Portland City Council will discuss an ordinance that would give police more power to tell protesters when and where they can demonstrate, if the groups at the event have a history of violence. Civil rights advocates have voiced opposition to the proposed change, citing concerns that it would violate the First Amendment.

The mayor's sudden staunch opposition to protesters marching in the street without a permit marks a shift in the city's approach to peaceful events in the past. Last year, Portland's Resistance marched during a vigil for Heather Heyer (the protester killed by a white supremacist in Charlottesville last year) and sat on the Hawthorne Bridge in a moment of silence. Portland police did not intervene.

"Here is our position now," says the mayor's communications director Eileen Park. "We fully expect everyone to obey the rules of traffic and if you decide to block streets we defer to Portland police on how they want to handle that."

She adds that the mayor's office does not anticipate violence at tonight's demonstrations.

"We fully expect this to be a peaceful and safe demonstration," she says. "We are really excited and we love that people exercise their First Amendment rights. However, in the past two years we have seen violent protests erupt—sometimes planned and sometimes out of nowhere."

Last week, the mayor suggested explicitly that this week's protests will impact traffic and public transportation and urged Portlanders to "stay safe." Portland police say they do not have any evidence to support those claims.

When asked why the mayor's statements differ significantly from the Portland police's, Park claims the two agencies are "completely aligned."

"We are choosing to over-communicate about what is going to happen tonight," she says. "People are more than welcome to exercise their first amendment rights. It's just a matter of being transparent and over-communicating."

The Police Bureau says it will continue monitoring the protests, but doesn't expect problems.

"The Police Bureau will continue to gather information and work with community members who are planning on demonstrating," Burley says. "If and when information is learned that suggests there will be an impact to the community, the information will be shared via FlashAlert or through the Bureau's Twitter feed."

Jo Ann Hardesty Is the First Black Woman Elected to Portland City Council

*By Rachel Monahan and Katie Shepherd
November 6, 2018*

After a hard-fought City Council race, a historic outcome.

Former legislator Jo Ann Hardesty will become the first black woman elected to Portland City Council.

"I am proud to say this is the Portland I thought it was," Hardesty said in a speech shortly after the initial returns rolled in. "I thought this was a city of compassionate people. People who thought we could do better than jail cells for people who are homeless."

Hardesty is cruising to victory tonight in early returns in the Portland City Council race. She was up 62 percent to 36 percent in early returns against Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith.

The results were expected after the nonpartisan primary. Hardesty beat Smith by 25 points in May. The two women finished first and second in a six-way race to replace departing Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

The results are historic. The two women were competing to become the first African American woman elected to Portland City Council. Hardesty will also be just the ninth woman to serve. For the first time in the history of City Council, women will hold the majority of votes.

"I want to thank the voters for knowing there is a difference in black skin," Hardesty said—making a not-so-veiled reference to Smith.

She urged her supporters to keep working. "You know what you did [after] Obama. You went home and put your feet up. That's not acceptable today."

She says when she takes her seat she'll be ready to "do the people's business."

Hardesty's supporters had gathered in the blue lights of the nightclub Holocene in Southeast Portland to cheer her victory. Many had their eyes locked on a projection of ABC's election coverage. They cheered as the Democrats took control of the U.S. House minutes before Oregon's early election results were posted.

They lined the stage and cheered as it became clear Hardesty had won in a landslide. A live band played and the crowd chanted "Jo Ann" as she took the stage. She stopped along the way to hug supporters and members of her campaign team.

During her speech, Hardesty was interrupted by a little boy who said he wanted to show her his dance moves. She replied, with a laugh: "I have some dance moves. They get me in trouble sometimes."

That's an obvious reference to the defining moment of the fall contest: Hardesty dancing the "electric slide" with former City Hall staffer Baruti Artharee, who had sexually harassed Smith years ago. Smith repeatedly attacked Hardesty on the campaign trail for dancing with her harasser.

In North Portland, the mood in an Elks Lodge where Smith supporters gathered was muted. A sympathetic cheer went up when early results appeared.

Smith invited her family to join her on stage.

"The chapter on Loretta Smith is not done yet," she said, "and if you leave with one thing know that I am unapologetically black. And I'm proud to be a black woman in this city.

"The saying says black don't crack," She concluded. "It don't, we just come back."

Hardesty is a former state legislator whose most high-profile recent role was as president of the local chapter of the NAACP of Portland.

Smith has had a long career in public service. She served for two decades on Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon)'s staff before serving two terms on the county commission. (She faced term limits and could not run for reelection this year.)

In the last weeks of the election, Smith campaigned aggressively on the idea of turning never-used Wapato Jail into a homeless shelter. Hardesty scorned that plan.

Hardesty and Smith were both damaged by concerns about their record of management. Hardesty faced questions about her financial management of the NAACP chapter. Smith was investigated at the county for allegedly bullying employees—a charge an investigator found was probably true.

In the race for Multnomah County Auditor, Jennifer McGuirk leads Scott Learn.

And in the contest for an open seat on Metro Council, state labor spokeswoman Christine Lewis narrowly led Lake Oswego restaurant owner Joe Buck.

The Portland Observer

Shelter Prepared

*By Danny Peterson
November 11, 2018*

Walnut Park to open space for homeless

A new homeless shelter slated to open by Thanksgiving in the heart of Portland's historic African-American community will give those struggling to fend for themselves on the streets a place of refuge and assistance.

Coming to the Multnomah County-owned Walnut Park building at the corner of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Killingworth Street, the shelter will offer accommodations for about 80 people seeking an overnight stay on a referral basis, with an emphasis on housing people 55 and older, those with disabilities, and veterans, official said.

The building is already used for several public purposes, including a county health center, multicultural senior center, and dental clinic, activities that will continue.

Transition Projects, a Portland nonprofit, will run the new shelter, offering basic accommodations, like bunk beds, a place to store belongings, and bathroom and hygiene supplies, officials said. The shelter is also slated to allow pets. Regular meals and other services will not be offered.

Reservations for the shelter can be made by phone at 503-280-4700 or by visiting the Transition Projects Resource Center at 650 N.W. Irving St.

Mayor Proposes Protest Curbs

By Danny Peterson

November 6, 2018

Would apply to groups with history of violence

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler will bring a proposed emergency ordinance to the City Council on Thursday asking the city to restrict when and where protest groups with a history of violence may gather and demonstrate, saying tougher regulations are needed to curb injuries to people, damage to public property and offset other safety concerns.

Wheeler cites the rash of violent confrontations between rivaling factions in public demonstrations that have occurred over the past two years as the catalyst for the ordinance, including an Oct. 13 demonstration that culminated with right-wing Patriot Prayer and counter-protesting Antifa brawling in the streets.

“We’ve become a magnet for agitators either with a history of—or an expressed intent to violent,” Wheeler said.

The new regulations could be applied when two groups announce that they’ll meet at the same place and time for a demonstration and each have a history of violence with each other, officials said. If the new rules are broken, violators could face a misdemeanor charge and fine of \$500 and up to 6 months in jail, or both.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon has condemned the proposal saying it regulates Constitutionally-protected speech and assembling with no meaningful oversight for abuse.

“The proposed ordinance raises many constitutional concerns,” said Mat Dos Santo, legal director for the ACLU of Oregon. “Perhaps worse than the legal issues it raises, is that this ordinance is being sprung on the public with little notice as an emergency measure that will take effect immediately.”

Dos Santos said he expects the opposition to grow with more public outcry, planned demonstrations and challenges in court.

OPB

Portland Voters Elect Hardesty As 1st Woman Of Color To City Council

*By Amelia Templeton
November 6, 2018*

Portland voters elected civil rights activist Jo Ann Hardesty to fill the seat of retiring Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman. She is the first woman of color to serve on Portland City Council. Hardesty led with 62 percent of the vote in unofficial returns while Loretta Smith had 36 percent. “I can’t wait to see what she’ll do,” said John Mayer, a Hardesty supporter who was waiting for her to take the stage Tuesday night.

The Norman Sylvester Band got the crowd at Hardesty’s party on their feet. Hardesty took the stage shortly before 8:30 p.m., as the band played Bob Marley’s “Get Up, Stand Up” and the crowd cheered “Jo Ann!”

After her speech, Hardesty got on the floor and started dancing — alongside one of her youngest supporters, 7-year-old Forrest Matlow Bach.

Hardesty was the first person to declare her candidacy, originally as a challenger to Commissioner Dan Saltzman. Shortly after she announced her challenge, Saltzman decided not to seek a sixth term.

Congratulating Hardesty, he said the city needs new voices at the helm as it grapples with economic inequality.

“We should all rejoice in electing the first African-American woman to the City Council,” he said. “The growing inequality we all see is having a profound impact on our public resources and more and more people are looking to their local government for answers and help.

“This is a very appropriate ending today. I think me and my opponent, we really raised the level of consciousness of community members about issues,” said Loretta Smith, in her concession speech.

“And those issues are very real because Portland has changed since 1944. It has changed so much. Housing is not affordable anymore. The unprecedented prosperity that we’ve had for the past five to seven years, there are a lot of folks in our community who have not experienced that prosperity and that is the voice I wanted to lend to the city of Portland,” said Smith.

Hardesty is a civil rights activist and consultant who ran on a long record of public service. It includes her stint in the U.S. Navy from 1978 to 1984 as one of the first women to serve on a ship and two terms as an Oregon state legislator from 1997 to 2000. More recently, she led the Portland chapter of the NAACP and served on the boards of several nonprofits.

“We have big problems in this city but I am proud to be joining commissioner Amanda Fritz and Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. And I’m even going to be joining mayor ... what’s his name? Ted Wheeler, and of course Commissioner Nick Fish,” Hardesty quipped.

Hardesty ran a strong grassroots campaign, coming in well ahead of the other four candidates in the May primary and raising more than \$400,000 from a broad network of supporters, with an average contribution of \$150.

“I am so proud of all the incredible 1,900 individual donors, over 32,000 doors we knocked on. I am proud to say that this is the Portland I thought it was,” Hardesty said.

“I thought this was a city of compassionate people, empathetic people, people who believed we can do better than jail cells for people who are houseless.”

Hardesty’s election could lead the council to adopt more liberal policies, particularly on issues related to homelessness and police oversight. For example, she has said on the campaign trail that the city should reduce its sweeps of homeless camps, and she promised to push once again to withdraw the city from the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Shortly after her speech, Hardesty embraced Ibrahim Mubarak, a longtime advocate for homeless Portlanders and a founder of two organized camps, Dignity Village and Right 2 Dream Too.

“It means we have another voice in city hall,” Mubarak said, noting that Commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Amanda Fritz are already outspoken advocates for Portland residents struggling to stay housed.

“Those three women are going to help people understand that houseless people are human,” he said.

Hardesty was endorsed by Commissioners Eudaly and Fritz, prompting speculation that the three could form a coalition with enough votes to shape the council’s agenda. Fritz and Eudaly do not always vote together, but both have been voices of dissent on parts of Mayor Ted Wheeler’s agenda.

Tenants rights activist Margot Black was also among the crowd celebrating Hardesty’s victory. “It’s a very very good day for renters,” she said. “Eat your heart out.”

Portland is the last remaining major city in the United States with a commission form of government, in which members of the city council serve as city administrators overseeing services, as well as legislators.

“When I first supported her, people said to me, you can’t support her. She has sharp elbows and a sharp tongue. And I said, yes, but she has a sharp mind, and she’s committed to people in this city. And I’ve supported her the whole way,” said former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts.

Wheeler, who makes bureau assignments, has said the new commissioner will oversee the same public safety portfolio assigned to Saltzman: Portland Fire & Rescue, the Bureau of Emergency Communications, the Bureau of Emergency Management and the Fire & Police Disability & Retirement Fund. Hardesty and the mayor will share oversight of the Portland Children’s Levy and the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services.

“I did my research on Jo Ann,” Wheeler said Tuesday night. “I spoke to a lot of people who worked with her in the Legislature and they said they found her to be a collaborative partner even if they didn’t agree on particular issues. They always found her to be above the board.”

“Jo Ann and I have had disagreements. We’ve had agreements. We’ve had conversations. And on the whole I believe we’re going to have a very, very positive and productive relationship in the years ahead,” said Wheeler.

Saltzman, who served five terms on the City Council, is famously laconic, publicly and privately: His mother once told an Oregonian reporter she learned more about his work from reading the paper than from talking with her son.

While quiet, he was considered an effective policy maker and advocate in City Hall.

He led the effort to create the Children's Levy, a tax measure that provides roughly \$15 million in annual funding for health and education programs for vulnerable children, and helped open the Gateway Center for Domestic Violence Services. During his tenure as housing commissioner from 2013 to 2016, he beefed up the city's development of affordable housing, passing an inclusionary zoning measure, helping bring a \$258 million affordable housing bond to the ballot, and reallocating the city's urban renewal dollars to fund more affordable housing projects.

Saltzman has said he plans to focus on his work with children in his retirement.

"Now you know what you did to Obama, you went home, put your feet up. That is not acceptable today. We're going to work, but we're going to party first. Then we're going to take a little rest, and then we're going to come back and do the people's business," Hardesty said.

Portland Voters Pass Campaign Finance Limits

By Amelia Templeton

November 6, 2018

Portland voters have passed a campaign finance measure that limits large contributions in political campaigns and requires candidates in city elections to disclose their funders in advertisements.

The measure, which amends the city charter, was passing with 87 percent of the vote in favor and 12 opposed in unofficial returns as of Tuesday night.

It could set Portland squarely in the middle of a statewide fight over campaign finance limits.

Oregon is one of only five states with no limits at all on political contributions, despite decades of effort by campaign finance activists.

The Portland measure bars political contributions from corporations and limits the amount a candidate can receive from an individual donor to \$500. Individuals can give no more than \$5,000 total to city candidates and initiatives per election, while political committees can make aggregate contributions of no more than \$10,000 per election.

Small donor committees — groups that limit individual contributions to \$100 — are exempt from those limits.

The limits are essentially the same as campaign finance measure adopted by Multnomah County voters in 2016 with 89 percent approval.

A Multnomah County judge ruled earlier this year that those contribution limits violate the free-speech protections in Oregon's Constitution. That ruling was based on a 1997 Oregon Supreme Court decision that struck down statewide campaign finance limits.

The county measure's backers are appealing that decision, arguing that the free speech provision in Oregon's Constitution is not unique and that many states with similar free speech protections limit political spending.

Meek says passing campaign finance limits by a wide margin in the most populous city and county in Oregon is part of a broader strategy to challenge that 1997 Supreme Court ruling.

That strategy could include another effort to amend the state's constitution to allow political spending limits.

In 2006, Oregon voters rejected a constitutional amendment that would have allowed limits on political spending.

Separate from the campaign finance limits, which are vulnerable to a legal challenge, Portland recently adopted a public finance system for campaigns that is set to roll out in 2020.

It was championed by Commissioner Amanda Fritz and adopted by a Portland City Council vote, rather than by voter approval.

The city will provide matching funds to eligible candidates for mayor, city commissioner and auditor, with funding starting in 2019 for the 2020 election.

To qualify for the public matching dollars, candidates for mayor will have to raise at least \$5,000 from 500 individuals. Candidates for commissioner or auditor would have to raise at least \$2,500 from 250 people.

In exchange for agreeing to limit individual contributions to \$250 or less and abiding by other fundraising limits, qualified candidates will receive a 6-to-1 match for campaign contributions of \$50 or less.

Portland has had an on-again, off-again relationship with publicly funded campaigns.

Voters repealed Portland's previous attempt at publicly funded elections in 2010, after a high-profile case of fraud.