

The Oregonian

Charlie Hales is losing Jackie Dingfelder, another top aide

*By Andrew Theen
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Portland Mayor Charlie Hales is losing another top policy adviser.

Jackie Dingfelder, the former Democratic state senator and one of Hales' three policy directors, will leave City Hall in January for a Fulbright fellowship in New Zealand.

Her eventual departure, coupled with Josh Alpert's promotion to replace former Chief of Staff Gail Shibley means Hales will have several new faces on staff as he seeks re-election in 2016.

Dingfelder is Hales' liaison to the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability, and the office is deep in the weeds in updating the city's framework for the next 20 years of growth.

The timing isn't ideal, Dingfelder said, because she is leaving while work remains on both the comprehensive plan and the recently updated Climate Action Plan.

"It is just too good of an opportunity to pass up," she said of the fellowship.

She learned last month that she was one of two U.S. recipients of the Ian Axford Fellowships in Public Policy for 2016. She'll study water resource management with a focus on implications for the indigenous Maori population.

Dingfelder is also finishing a doctorate in public policy at Portland State University.

She is taking unpaid time off for the seven-month fellowship and said Hales is "leaving the door open" for her possible return later in 2016.

But, she added, "I don't expect them to hold a position without filling it for that many months."

Dingfelder, 54, resigned from the Legislature in October 2013 to join Hales' staff.

Steve Novick pulls in more than \$57,280 in campaign cash, records show

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Steve Novick has a thick Rolodex.

Since April, the first-term Portland commissioner reported more than \$57,280 in campaign contributions from at least 134 donors, according to state records.

The supporters range from the chairman of the Portland Development Commission to professional sports owners, Washington D.C.-based consultants and Portland-area professors and academics.

Novick is up for re-election in 2016 and so far faces one declared challenger, real estate broker Fred Stewart.

In the month of July alone, Novick's campaign committee reported donations from developer Dike Dame, Portland Timbers and Thorns owner Merritt Paulson, Josh Kardon (former longtime chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden), economist Joe Cortright and Matt French, the managing director of Zidell Yards and ZRZ Realty.

Candidates have up to 30 days to disclose campaign contributions.

Developer Martin Kehoe this week contributed \$5,000, the largest donation.

Novick said in a May interview that his push for a proposed street fee in 2014 probably hurt his standing with some voters. "The percentage of people who don't like me I'm sure went up," he said. "I don't know by how much."

But it appears the street fee hasn't hurt his standing with political backers.

Novick previously worked for the Oregon Health Authority and the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2008, Novick lost the U.S. Senate Democratic primary to Jeff Merkley despite winning Multnomah County by 10 percentage points.

Candidates have until March to file paperwork to run for office. Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Amanda Fritz are also running for re-election.