



# SALEM CITY CLUB

and with co-hosts

American Association of University Women  
Capital Community TV

League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties  
Statesman Journal

present

## **“Making the Case for Good Governance” 2008 Candidate Forum for secretary of state and Marion County clerk**

**This forum will feature candidates for Secretary of State:  
Sen. Kate Brown (D), Rick Dancer (R) and Seth Woolley (Pacific Green);**

**and candidates for Marion County Clerk:  
Bill Burgess (D) and Randy Franke (R)**

**Chemeketa Community College**

**Building Number 2**

**Thursday, October 2, 2008**

**6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**Forum Host-Kathrine Reed, President**

**League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties**

**Forum Moderator-Dick Hughes, editorial page editor of the  
Statesman Journal**

**Replayed on CCTV Comcast Channel 21: Friday 10/3 @ 2 p.m. | Tuesday 10/7 @ 6 p.m.**

**Wednesday 10/8 @ 3 p.m. | Thursday 10/9 @ 8:30 p.m. | Saturday 10/11 @ 3 p.m.**

**Wednesday 10/15 @ 3 p.m. | Thursday 10/16 at 9 p.m. | Tuesday 10/21 at 4 p.m.**

**Wednesday 10/29 @ 1 p.m.**

To provide you, the voter, with additional information about the candidates' vision and priorities, the City Club developed two questions for each candidate to answer in writing. Below are their answers:

### Office for Secretary of State

<b>Question 1:</b> Describe your background as an Oregonian and the experiences you have had with the workings of government here in the state. How do those experiences, and your temperament, best qualify you to hold the position of Secretary of State?		
<b>Sen. Kate Brown (D)</b>	<b>Rick Dancer (R)</b>	<b>Seth Woolley (Pacific Green)</b>
<p>I began my work at the Legislature as an advocate for a women's organization that was fighting for stronger laws to protect victims of domestic violence, enforce child support collections and women's health. I also worked with a coalition of advocates to pass family medical leave, allowing parents to stay home with their children without fear of losing their jobs. When Gov. Roberts signed the bill, Oregon became the first state in the nation to provide family leave. I realized then that I could make Oregon a better place. Almost seventeen years later, I still believe I can make a difference.</p> <p>My experience of serving in the Oregon Legislature is an excellent background to become Secretary of State. I have been the caucus leader for nine years, working across the aisle to solve Oregon's public policy and budget issues. These experiences have taught me to be a fiscally prudent budgeter, listen to all sides and seek common ground. I came into the Legislature as an idealist. Having worked with citizens and legislators from all walks of life, I have become very pragmatic. Despite the fact that I have been a caucus leader, I check my politics at the Capitol door and work every day to do what is right for Oregonians.</p>	<p>My family's background in Oregon started 128 years ago when the Maxwell family homesteaded in Haines near Baker City. There were 10 children in the family; my grandfather was one of them. I was born in Hillsboro, Oregon and grew up in the area when it was a small town. I graduated from Hillsboro High School when it was the only high school in town. My college years were spent at both Portland Community College and Pacific University in Forest Grove, where I received my bachelor's degree in Communication. I got my first job doing radio news in Coquille on Oregon's south coast. My first Television News job was in Coos Bay/North Bend. I moved to Eugene/Springfield in 1987 where I worked as a journalist for 23 years.</p> <p>I've covered literally every corner of the state from French Glen, Jordan Valley and Imnaha to Port Orford and Seaside. I understand Oregonians and what they want and don't want. Many of my years in the news business were spent working the legislative beat in Salem. I'm passionate about people and their participation in government. The Secretary of State should be there to ensure that the government listens to the people. I've made a career of being objective and proven I'm nonpartisan. In my profession I examine, research, ask questions, listen and learn and allow the facts to lead me to a solution, not some political agenda. This is the experience needed to be an effective Secretary of State.</p>	<p>I was born in a Seattle bedroom community where I lived in a mobile home until moving to Salem to attend Willamette University, across from the Capitol. There I became involved in the local Green Party chapter as the founding secretary and co-chaired the Campus Green Party. I later became the State Party Secretary and a three-term State Coordinating Committee member. I'm now the most senior and youngest SCC member. My major activities in Salem were to support Ralph Nader, oppose endless wars and Measure 9, and campaign for Bill Burgess, Anna Braun, and Bill Smaldone. I became Secretary of the Agenda for a Livable Salem's offshoot, Citizens for Livable Communities, and managed the website while they were active. After Taylor was elected through the effort of some "knuckle-dragging neanderthals" awash with corporate money, I made a decision to leave Salem for the more modern climate of Portland, where it was better for small businesses. I now own a home with my wife, whom I met in my first week at Willamette and married in Salem. We now live in Portland's Grant Park / Alameda neighborhoods.</p> <p>I best qualify for the position of Secretary of State because I'm the only candidate untainted by corporate cash and PAC money. I'm also a senior software engineer with domain expertise in security auditing, high performance, high capacity supercomputer clustering, and spatial databases. Particularly, I work at the company that runs 90% of the mobile navigation market world-wide and to whom Google</p>

		<p>paid to power the first versions of its Google Maps software. I'm currently the principle spatial and relational compiler engineer. There are only a handful of experts in my domain, worldwide, which is uniquely relevant to state administration, including opening access to government and redistricting. Being 27 years old, I also represent the future of Oregon. People my age are in majority refusing allegiance to the two so-called "major" parties, who are astonishingly out of touch with future generations of Oregon's leaders.</p>
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**Question 2:** What has motivated you to seek this position and what goals do you expect to accomplish? How will your approach to the position reflect both the letter and the spirit of the requirements?

<b>Sen. Kate Brown (D)</b>	<b>Rick Dancer (R )</b>	<b>Seth Woolley (Pacific Green)</b>
<p>I hope to achieve a number of things as Secretary of State, but my primary goals are three.</p> <p>I want to restore integrity in Oregon's initiative system, I led the charge in the Senate to crack down on fraud in our initiative system by writing the laws to give the Secretary of State more tools to combat abuse, and preventing anyone convicted of fraud, forgery or identity theft from collecting petition signatures. I want to continue this fight so that the citizens of Oregon own their initiative system.</p> <p>While Oregon has a relatively high voter turnout, there are still hundreds of thousands of citizens who are not registered. I want to decrease barriers for political engagement for youth, people of color and low-income communities. One place to start is working with nonprofits and our schools to get young people involved in public policy making at the state and local level. They will become engaged in the political</p>	<p>As a veteran journalist, I've worked for years researching, exploring and relaying information to the public to encourage them to get involved in the process. I believe it is time to do more than talk about it. As Secretary of State I can actually work to bring fairness and balance back to the office. The Secretary of State is accountable to the people of Oregon. He or she is not there to represent his or her own opinion or the opinion of their party. I will approach the position of Secretary of State the same way I approached my job as a journalist. I'll keep my opinions out of the office and uphold the law.</p>	<p>I seek this position because I grew tired of Democrats ignoring Preference Voting and Campaign Finance Reform, both enabled by voters, while preventing third party access to the ballot, particularly in two notable cases. First, the fiasco in 2004 with the wanton illegality surrounding Bradbury's successful bid to keep Ralph Nader off the ballot. Second, Bradbury's and Brown's successful, and under the radar, passing of HB2614 in 2005, which made getting an independent on the ballot virtually impossible.</p> <p>The two most important functions of the Secretary of State are elections and auditing. We can't just say, "Every vote must be counted." Rather, "Every vote must be meaningful." Our votes are meaningless without preference voting to eliminate spoiled elections and campaign finance reform to end legalized bribery. The two major parties gave us two wholly inadequate candidates: a stunningly unqualified Republican and an insidiously partisan Democrat. My Pacific Green principles of</p>

<p>process when they know that their voices will be heard and that their votes matter.</p> <p>As the caucus leader, I encouraged the legislative budget committee to implement performance based budgeting - establishing performance measures for agencies. Because of this, we are doing a good job measuring outcomes. As Secretary of State, I want to enhance our performance auditing and ask the important question: are we delivering services as effectively and efficiently as possible?</p> <p>My nearly 17 years of public service has demonstrated that I have the patience, passion and persistence to deliver results for all of Oregon. Oregonians expect their Secretary of State to be fair and impartial, and to provide leadership on issues of statewide importance. I am the best-qualified candidate in the race to be the next Secretary of State.</p>		<p>unfettered participation, strong protection of direct democracy and initiatives, and true, multi-partisan pluralism inform how I would execute the office.</p>
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### Office for Marion County Clerk

<p><b>Question 1:</b> Describe your background as an Oregonian and the experiences you have had with the workings of government here in the state. How do those experiences, and your temperament, best qualify you to hold the position of Marion County Clerk?</p>	
<p><b>Bill Burgess (D)</b></p> <p>I came to Oregon State University in 1972 to attend Pharmacy School. I had previously spent summers in Dallas, Oregon with my grandparents, where I learned to swim, played Kids League baseball, and picked beans and berries.</p> <p>As a member of the Board of Delegates of the Oregon State Pharmacists Association and and President of the Marion-Polk-Yamhill Pharmacy Association, I worked on Oregon pharmacy legislation and rules.</p> <p>I experienced local government, first as a member and Chair of my Liberty-Boone Neighborhood Association. Twice elected to the Salem City Council, I practiced various aspects of local governance, including legislative, administrative, and quasi-judicial roles of city government. This involved collaboration with other entities as I chaired the Salem Area Ambulance Service, and the Water and</p>	<p><b>Randy Franke (R)</b></p> <p>Background &amp; Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grew up on a family farm in Gervais</li> <li>• Graduated University of Oregon, BS, 1969</li> <li>• Graduated Western Oregon University, MS, 1974</li> <li>• Attended Harvard University, 1980, John F. Kennedy School of Government.</li> <li>• Attended American Leadership Forum, 1987-1988, Pacific Program, 1989</li> </ul> <p>Military Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lt. j g U.S. Navy flight program, Honorable Discharge</li> </ul> <p>Relevant Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected to six four-year terms as Marion County Commissioner – responsible for setting policies,</li> </ul>

Sewer Task Force, and served on the City-County Data Center Board and the Solid Waste Board. I served on the Salem Urban Renewal Agency, the Salem Housing Authority and the Salem Budget Committee. I also served on the Fire Service, Police Service, legislative, and appointments committees and chaired the Financial Audit committee. I worked with the Oregon League of Cities and the National League of Cities.

While on the Salem City Council, I earned a Master of Public Administration from Lewis & Clark, receiving the honor of “Outstanding Graduate Student “.

My almost four years experience as your current Marion County Clerk, and my tenacity best qualify me for continuing to serve in this role. The upcoming election will be the 15th election of which I am accountable. We have moved the curbside ballot drop site to the Marion County Courthouse for improved safety, security and convenience. We have added five additional official ballot drop sites. On my watch, we have converted to the Oregon Centralized Voter Registration and election management system, updated our marriage license procedures, developed and implemented the domestic partnership registry, moved the Licensing and Recording Office three times due to the November 2005 Courthouse fire incident, and are in the process of updating our land document recording system, all while continuing to receive compliments on our customer service.

procedures and budgets exceeding hundreds of millions, supervising department heads and commission staff, conducting performance reviews, establishing work plans and hiring and firing personnel. Participated in and developed strategic plans for the county and other organizations.

- Served on numerous national, regional, state, and local boards and commissions. In addition, was the lead on many notable projects which saved taxpayer dollars, put criminals behind bars and protected our environment. Elected President of National Association of Counties and Association of Oregon Counties and served on various committees within both organizations.
- Present consultant with Franke & Associates, Owner, and Open Doors Consulting, Founding Principal
- Appointed by 4 Oregon Governors (Republican and Democrat) to serve on 7 different State Commissions
- Appointed by President Clinton to the President’s Council on Sustainable Development, U.S. Advisory Commission in Intergovernmental Relations

My temperament can best be described by comments from staff that I worked with as a Commissioner and accomplishments that required sound reasoning and collaboration:

- His leadership provided Marion County with more than two decades of balanced budgets and the highest ranking possible for government accounting and financial reporting standards.
- Through collaboration and a well organized community effort, Randy lead the effort that was successful in building a new county jail.
- Randy was ‘green’ before being ‘green’ was popular. Under his leadership recycling depots, residential curbside collection, commercial recycling and educational programs were developed, initiated, enhanced, and remain successful today.
- His peers recognized Randy’s abilities nationally when he was elected President of the National Association of Counties. American City & County magazine also recognized his leadership by naming him County Leader of the Year. Ambassador Magazine described Randy by saying: “He has built his career around a concept often foreign in partisan politics – uniting people of contrary views to solve common problems through negotiation and collaboration.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ "... Randy has proven his ability to take new, sometimes difficult ideas, and end with a successful product that has shaped our future," <i>James V. Sears P.E., Former Director of Public Works Marion County</i></li> <li>■ Other Marion County Staff: "Pillar of strength &amp; consistency." Leads by example with integrity and trust." A leader that can be trusted and brings out the best in staff." Outstanding leadership &amp; commitment to the citizens of the county."</li> <li>■ In addition, Randy recently received the unanimous endorsement of Marion County Employees Association OPEU Local 294, the organization that represents the Clerk employees.</li> </ul>
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**Question 2:** What has motivated you to seek this position and what goals do you expect to accomplish? How will your approach to the position reflect both the letter and the spirit of the requirements?

<b>Bill Burgess (D)</b>	<b>Randy Franke (R)</b>
<p>I enjoy my role in promoting democracy, protecting your property rights and delivering great customer service, while treating all our customers with dignity and respect. I enjoy delivering on my vision and commitment of government responsive and accountable to its citizens. I've had this passion since high school and college. If re-elected, I will continue my drive to improve our operation and our service delivery. We will update our land records management system. We will digitize older records, simplifying records searches, better protecting historic records, and reducing the need for our employees to deal with heavy, unwieldy books and plats. Digitation will allow implementation of greater safeguards to identity theft. We will update aging vote tally equipment.</p> <p>My approach to this position is to lead and support my excellent employees; promote our mission to the public, partners and stakeholders; understand our external environment and plan, prepare for, and guide the future.</p>	<p>I heard a growing dissatisfaction and concern about a number of issues including the way the office was being managed. That was followed by several folks asking me many times if I'd consider returning to public service and enter this race.</p> <p>As a grandfather of three coupled with my consulting businesses, I was happy in retirement. But many felt my skills and experience were needed to address problems in the Clerk's office.</p> <p>My top priority: To provide the utmost assurance of election process integrity. That means attention to detail, non-affiliation with campaigns or candidates, and providing strong, consistent leadership.</p> <p>To assure public confidence the first action I'll take is to look at everything in the department to see what has changed in the past four years of the incumbent's tenure. Under his predecessor, Al Davidson, the bar for quality assurance and confidence had been set at the highest level. All changes by the incumbent will be individually evaluated. If they detract from the mission of the office, negatively affect staffing, or diminish voter confidence, there will be a correction.</p> <p>The Marion County Clerk is a non-partisan position and the Clerk should be apolitical at all times. This means having no affiliation with politics, campaigns, or elections other than my personal party registration and running for this office.</p> <p>This means that if I am invited to a partisan event, any political event for that matter, I will only attend</p>

if I am the speaker and the topic is this office or the processes that pertain to voters or the conduct of the office.

As a resident of this community I was shocked by the findings in the recent management review ordered by Marion County, primarily the statement ***“There is a lack of management oversight provided by the County Clerk.”***

It was also surprising to read that the Clerk’s office lacked policies addressing cash handling, and was inconsistent in the fees charged and fees reimbursed. In addition, I would expect any elected official or department head to provide leadership; however the report further mentions the lack of a plan to guide personnel in operating the business and for making consistent decisions. These issues along with the other 28 findings contained in the report are inexcusable to me. As a candidate for this office, I’m very pleased to see such a thorough assessment and would work to correct and improve each of the 30 findings.

Commitments:

1. I will ensure that our voting process is fair and accurate, one in which both voters and candidates will have confidence.
2. I will manage the office of Marion County Clerk as truly non partisan, where everyone is treated with equal courtesy and professionalism.
3. I will provide the kind of consistent presence and leadership that the public and Clerk's staff require.
4. **I’ll take a proactive role in protecting citizens’ personal information from being used for identity theft.**

Salem City Club thanks our co-hosts:



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*“providing a common meeting ground for persons of divergent beliefs, politics and occupations, for the interchange of ideas and stimulation of intelligent thinking and action on civic affairs; and to inform and activate its members and the community in public matters, and to arouse in them an appreciation of the responsibilities of citizenship.”*

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