



SALEM CITY CLUB

along with co-hosts

American Association of University Women
Capital Community TV

League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties
Statesman Journal

presents

“Who do you want to represent you?”

2008 Candidate Forum for Salem House Districts 19, 20 and 22

Your candidates are:

House District 19

Rep. Kevin Cameron (R) and Hanten Day (D)

House District 20

Rep. Vicki Berger (R) and Richard Riggs (D)

House District 22

Rep. Betty Komp (D) and Tom M. Chereck, Jr. (R)

Louck's Auditorium - Salem Public Library
Thursday, September 18, 2008 from 6:30–8:30

This evening's host, Bradd Swank, President-Salem City Club
This evening's moderator, Betsy McDowell, Mountain Pacific Regional
Director-American Association of University Women

Live Telecast Provided by CCTV Beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Replayed on CCTV Comcast Channel 21: Friday 9/19 @ 2 and 9 p.m. | Tuesday 9/23 @ 4 p.m.
Thursday 9/25 @ 2 p.m. | Tuesday 9/30 @ 3 p.m. | Thursday 10/2 @ 9 p.m. | Friday 10/10 @ 1 p.m.
Tuesday 10/14 @ 4 p.m. | Thursday 10/16 @ noon

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:

House District 19

Question 1: In which neighborhood do you live? What is a major local issue affecting your neighborhood? How would your being in the state legislature help address this issue?	
<p>Rep. Kevin Cameron (R)</p> <p>I have been a resident of Salem, Oregon since 1988. My home is in the Twin Fir Neighborhood, a southern rural area of Salem, Marion County, Oregon. As State Representative for District 19, I represent parts of South, East, NE Salem, Turner, Aumsville, and rural areas surrounding these cities.</p> <p>As I listen to the people I represent, I hear the local issue to be really one of a broader issue. It is the economy and the difficulties facing families in meeting the basic expenses of living. Today, we, as citizens, are faced with extreme inflation in gasoline, food, energy and medical expenses. The runaway prices are squeezing all individuals and families. The forecast this winter is for even higher home energy bills.</p> <p>As a state representative for our district, I will work to double the family child tax credit to \$500 per child. This will allow a family of 4 to keep an extra \$500 to help offset the immediate cost of food and energy that we are all facing. I will work to increase the lower and middle income tax brackets; thus allowing these families in Oregon to keep more of their hard earned dollars to meet the increase in basic costs of food and energy. These two actions would bring much needed relief to those Oregonians who need the help the most.</p> <p>I will also work with others to extend and improve the Energy Tax Credit programs in our state. These programs promote conservation and reduction of energy use, as well as provide incentives for citizens and businesses to add alternative energy solutions to their residence and business facilities. These programs will reduce energy usage, improve supplies, and will create jobs that our citizens need.</p> <p>My personal history of working with people to find practical solutions to challenges is a strength I bring to the Oregon Legislature. I believe it is my personal responsibility to listen and understand others, so that we can find common ground that helps in collaborating to develop common sense, practical solutions to today's challenges.</p>	<p>Hanten Day (D)</p> <p>I live in SE Salem of Oregon House District 19 (Salem, Aumsville, Turner and surrounding areas) and have personally knocked on hundreds of doors and talked to thousands of people in our neighborhood. I learned a lot on the campaign trail, many issues are not easy to realize or grasp by sitting in offices or living in "ivory towers." It's a very humbling and rewarding experience that puts me even closer to the people, the constituents of House District 19.</p> <p>Most of us may not know what life is like without health insurance, facing a house foreclosure, working multiple jobs and rushing from one to another, choosing between food, gas and drugs, struggling to find baby-care and send kids to college, worrying about loved ones who are serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, living in a mobile home or manufactured park where owners charge exuberant amount of fees (\$90 per month water & Sewer for a single senior on fixed income) ... I learned them all by outreaching to people in their home, on the bus, in community parks in our HD19 neighborhoods... some of them told me stories with tears in their eyes while others were simply asking for betterment – "do something for us!"</p> <p>In summary, the major concerns/issues fall on the following categories: gas/food prices and economic hardship; lack of health insurance and high prices of medical care/prescription drugs; senior/disability and veteran issues; government bureaucracies and high taxes ("always wants and asks for more"); jobs, education and school issues; safety and crime prevention; land use/development vs quality of life/open space issues; lack of recreational facilities and opportunities for kids in the community...</p> <p>As a people person never wants to be out-of-touch, I strive to become the people's voice and the citizen's representative. In this difficult and challenging time, in which some think we can not do much about gas/food prices and other issues, I always believe we can do better and you deserve better. I will work hard and smart on the issues of most concern and collaborate with other lawmakers to bring "H.O.P.E." to the constituents and the people of our great state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Health Care Reform (Help kids, seniors/disabled, veteran & the working uninsured) -Open Government and more Opportunities for jobs, college and small business -Public Safety (Prevent crimes, Patrol highways, Protect children and families) -Education Excellence, Equal Rights, Economic and Environment Sustainability <p>Serving constituents will always be my top priority. I pledge to have monthly town hall meetings, not just at</p>

	<p>elections times as some are doing. I have already created “HD19DAY” and met people in various places on each and every 19th day of the month because we live in House District 19. I plan to continue it if you elect me to be YOUR representative so we can make it our district tradition. I also plan to have open office hours and strive for open communication with constituents as I have been replying calls and emails directed to me in the last 3+ years serving on the School Board. I work for the taxpayers and not the other way around. <u>We can do better!!!</u></p>
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Question 2: What do you personally view as the appropriate role of each of the branches of state government? How is each branch currently performing?

<p>Rep. Kevin Cameron (R)</p>	<p>Hanten Day (D)</p>
<p>I continue to be humbled in my position of service to our state. Our form of government obviously is not perfect, but we are blessed to have the privilege of serving and striving to continue the principles of our founding fathers, participating in government of the people, by the people and for the people. Many have come before us and some are with us today defending this great country and our representative form of government. I pledge to honor their sacrifice by doing what is best for all in my role as state representative.</p> <p>The Legislative branch, in which I currently serve, is the branch that is constitutionally responsible for approving the state budget. It also shapes policy through laws that the Executive branch implements. The Judicial branch helps to make sure the policy is followed correctly based upon the intention of the law, and it exercises judgement on whether the laws are Constitutional.</p> <p>The citizens continue to express the need for our government to become more efficient and to improve the services without wasting or throwing more dollars at bureaucracy. In the 2007-2009 Biennium, the state had a legislatively-approved All Funds Budget of slightly over \$48 billion. With approximately 3.7 million citizens, this comes out to spending \$6486 per citizen per year. If you have a family of 4, that figure is close to \$26,000 that the state spends on your family’s behalf every year. One must ask the questions, “where does it come from and where is being spent?” The Legislative branch needs to have auditing ability to help hold the Executive branch accountable for spending the tax payers’ dollars efficiently. We need to move some existing resources from the Secretary of State’s auditing function to report directly to the legislature and hold agency managers accountable for improving productivity.</p> <p>The Executive branch, led by the office of Governor, must set the tone and direction for our state. Our current Governor has some initiatives to point our state toward the alternative energy industry and create new jobs for the future. He has a desire to see us build our transportation infrastructure which is important for our state’s future. These are directions that most citizens understand to be important through their everyday experiences, but they also express the need for</p>	<p>I support our constitution(s) and the common wisdom regarding the three branches of government. The appropriate roles should be very clear – legislative, executive and judiciary – to provide the best check-and-balance for the utmost goal of an open, efficient government OF, BY and FOR the People, with liberty and justice for all.</p> <p>I believe the hard-working people in all the branches want the best for our state and our citizens and try their best to do so. There is always room for improvement in terms of bipartisanship, efficiency, openness, transparency, fairness and justice for all. It will be great if the legislative branch can minimize partisan bickering and work out what’s the best for the people, not the parties or lobbyists; It will be wonderful if the executive branch can constantly strive for high efficiency/cost-effectiveness and do the best for the taxpayers, not the bureaucrats and vested interest groups; it will be desirable for the judicial branch to uphold the constitution and laws without legislating from the bench and do the best for all citizens, not just the rich and powerful. <u>Together, we can do better!!!</u></p>

<p>government to accomplish these priorities within the existing resources that are available.</p> <p>This requires strong leadership and making choices that are difficult. It requires seeing that some systems/services are either no longer needed or need to be delivered in a different way. It also requires strong internal and external communications to reduce anxiety and create momentum for change. I believe now, during this economic slow-down more than ever, the people of Oregon are in need of some good news from the top. How are the state services being transformed in order to bring economic relief and growth to the citizens of our state? We need to hear how change is going to be accomplished and what role each citizen will be asked to play. This is the responsibility of the executive branch.</p> <p>In any free market society, investment is only attractive if the rules are known and the risks can be fairly assessed. This is the role and importance of having a strong Judicial branch. Our courts are the cornerstone to a free and safe society. We must support them with the funding they need to move into the future. The technology investment to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our courts is a priority for our judicial system.</p> <p>Here in Marion County, I have witnessed the strong collaboration between the courts, Sherriff's personnel, district attorneys, defense lawyers, and our honorable judges. They work hard to find balance and do what is right for our community within the limited resources available. I will continue to be an advocate to support our public safety as a whole system, understanding that when you take an approach that is not balanced, you will have bottlenecks and the public will not be served efficiently.</p> <p>If you are reading this, I thank you for listening to me describe what I have heard from citizens and personally believe to be the important issues that are facing our community and state. I understand that I am only 1 of 90 people in the Capitol that will vote to shape policy dealing with these issues. You, the citizen, carry tremendous responsibility in exercising your right to vote, in communicating with me as your representative, and in being involved in the community where a real difference is made. Our communities are only as strong as the citizens that participate. Thank you for your participation and thank you for your support. I will be honored to serve you this next term, if that is the will of the people.</p>	
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House District 20

<i>Question 1: In which neighborhood do you live? What is a major local issue affecting your neighborhood? How would your being in the state legislature help address this issue?</i>	
<p>Rep. Vicki Berger (R)</p> <p>I have lived in the West Salem since 1972. It is a wonderful, family oriented neighborhood which has good schools and proximity to downtown Salem and state government, which is the area's largest employer.</p> <p>I would like to stress two significant statewide issues which directly affect my neighborhood. First is funding for state services. My district depends on the state's economic viability for the services which all citizens need:</p>	<p>Richard Riggs (D)</p> <p>I live in West Salem. Over the last several months I have met with hundreds of my neighbors and overwhelmingly their primary concern is access and affordability to healthcare. Since 2002 healthcare costs have risen 87%, and just months ago Regence BlueCross announced additional rate increases of 26% for individuals and 16% for small employers. Double digit increases in healthcare costs are unsustainable, and cost many families an</p>

<p>affordable and accessible healthcare, good schools, crime free neighborhoods. My focus for three legislative terms has been keeping Oregon's job base healthy and thereby keeping state services funded. Oregon is first in the nation for states dependent on a single source of taxation: the state income tax. Without a solid job base, income taxes fall and the state budget suffers. In the absence of a balancing sales tax, which Oregon voters have consistently rejected, I will continue to stabilize our school and state services funding by building the Educational Stability Fund and the new Rainy Day fund so my neighbors have better protection from economic instability.</p> <p>The second issue important in West Salem is transportation infrastructure. With the spiraling cost of gas, West Salem is close to the job base across the Willamette River which is a good thing. A continuing bottleneck however is the bridge system. I continue to work with the Oregon Department of Transportation to keep the new river crossing project on track. While alternative modes of transportation need to be encouraged, the development of Polk County depends on good roads in order to get people and goods across the Willamette into Salem and onto the rail and interstate transportation grids.</p>	<p>amount equivalent to a mortgage payment every month. As State Representative in District 20 I would sponsor legislation requiring health insurance companies to justify their rate increases at a public hearing, in essence opening their books, so that the public could see where every healthcare dollar is spent. Until we have transparency in the healthcare system and understand where insurance companies are spending our hard earned dollars we will have no hope of controlling healthcare spending and will continue to see double digit rate increases year after year.</p>
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Question 2: What do you personally view as the appropriate role of each of the branches of state government? How is each branch currently performing?

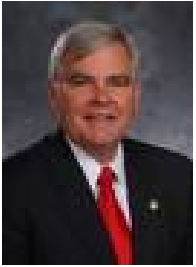
<p>Rep. Vicki Berger (R)</p> <p>As a member of the legislative branch of state government, I am concerned that we are moving significantly away from the original framers notion of equal branches of government. By design, the legislature is a large complex body with a complicated process for developing statutes by way of representative government. As our political climate has become more contentious the public has lost faith in the ability of the legislature to deal with the really tough issues. This has resulted, particularly in Oregon, in more and more dependence on the initiative process by disgruntled or highly motivated advocacy groups.</p> <p>As the legislative branch of government has become more gridlocked, the executive branch has gained power by being able to move more quickly to address issues. The judicial branch has also gone significantly beyond merely interpreting constitutionality and is now determining policy. For example, court decisions regarding forests and salmon have led to significant policy shifts which directly impact resource management.</p> <p>The Public Commission on the Legislature was charged by the 2005 Legislature to address some of the process issues which undermine confidence in Oregon's legislative branch. To that end, a number of changes to legislative process have been implemented including the recent experiment in a short annual session, a commission to determine pay for public officials, and ethics law reform. The voters will ultimately decide if these or other changes are beneficial to the process and should be continued.</p>	<p>Richard Riggs (D)</p> <p>Our society is based upon the rule of law. Corporations are established, education is provided for, and Oregonians have the ability to turn to the courts for redress of grievances because our State Constitution provides the foundation in law for these and many other societal needs. Oregon's Constitutional preamble, states "We the people of the State of Oregon to the end that Justice be established, order maintained, and liberty perpetuated, do ordain this Constitution." The framers of our constitution thought that order, Justice and liberty to be paramount concerns, and the branches of our government must function together as equal partners on behalf of all Oregonians to meet these concerns. Since the approval of our constitution on November 9th 1857, Oregonians have also reserved to themselves the additional power of the initiative process to enact laws and amend the constitution, essentially a fourth branch of government. Unfortunately Oregon's initiative process has been hijacked by a handful of special interest groups, and individuals for personal and financial gain. While I believe that our initiative system is broken, I do not want to throw it to the scrap heap. I will work to find sensible reforms that will maintain the power of the people to enact laws but limit the powers of those who currently abuse the system.</p>
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House District 22

Question 1: In which neighborhood do you live? What is a major local issue affecting your neighborhood? How would your being in the state legislature help address this issue?	
<p>Rep. Betty Komp (D)</p> <p>I live in Woodburn which is in the northern part of House District 22.</p> <p>A major issue in our community is the economy and work force development.</p> <p>My role in the Legislature has a critical impact on Oregon's economic future. As a member of House Majority leadership, I have a voice and responsibility to support strong policy development. My background as a teacher helps me find ways to prepare our students and workers who are making a career change.</p>	<p>Tom M. Chereck, Jr. (R)</p> <p>We live in the Neighborhood Association called the Northeast Neighbors in Salem, adjacent to the East side of the State Fairgrounds.</p> <p>A major local issue affecting our neighborhood is access to our homes and property. I have tried to communicate directly the last few years to State Parks about access issues but haven't gotten anywhere. I probably should be working on it with the Northeast Neighbors.</p> <p>We have been blocked from returning home after fights have broken out at the Pavilion during an event. Yet local residents already home aren't notified about a problem. This is limited to a few homes along Sunnyview and 17th that have been blocked during these times of which we are a part.</p> <p>Better customer service and access off Evergreen should be allowed along with encouraging local land owners with parking vehicles as they once did. I don't think there needs to be a legislative solution to every state agency problem. We need to find the right avenue, communicate and resolve the issue.</p>

Question 2: What do you personally view as the appropriate role of each of the branches of state government? How is each branch currently performing?	
<p>Rep. Betty Komp (D)</p> <p>The executive branch has the top leadership role in our State. It manages the budget, oversees agencies and forms policy proposals for each session. The legislative branch is responsible for the system design of our government and the rules in which practices are formulated. The judicial branch is responsible for ensuring each and every one of us follow our state and national laws.</p> <p>Our state government is performing at an average level. There is always room for improvement and yet, agencies strive to be efficient and meet the demands placed on them.</p>	<p>Tom M. Chereck, Jr. (R)</p> <p>There are three branches of government. The Legislative, the Executive and the Judicial.</p> <p>The Executive branch is to support the decisions brought forth in the Legislature while blocking radical changes to the moral structure of the culture. Recently the Executive branch has moved away from this violating the two statements etched in Marble at the North entry doors to the State Capital Building & the statement in the Rotunda underneath the Governors office.</p> <p>The Judicial branch is to support the decisions brought forth in the Legislature while blocking radical changes to the moral structure of the culture. For quite some time though the Judicial branch has been legislating from the bench & the Legislature has allowed them to do this to the detriment of the culture. The Legislature has then responded to Judicial legislation with its own subservient legislation.</p> <p>The Legislature should be the guiding direction of the State of Oregon, but this direction must be grounded in a good moral direction. There is only one good moral direction. That is laid out in the Bible. Some expect that we can have good moral direction without the Bible yet all attempts to do such have been a failure. Only causing the government to grow to the over bearing point that it is squelching Life, Liberty & Property. The next to go will be happiness when we become so taxed that we have nothing left to motivate us to work.</p>

Salem House Candidates House District 19



Rep. Kevin Cameron (R)

Education: Executive MBA, University of Colorado-1 year; BS, Business Marketing, Oregon State University.

Professional Experience: Small Business Owner, Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Café Today; District Manager, Denny's Restaurants; Director of Operations,

Vip's Restaurants.

Political Experience: Oregon House of Representatives, 2005-present.

Appointed, Oregon State House of Representatives, 2005



Hanten Day, (D)

Education: Attended: Harvard, South Carolina State University, University of Connecticut, University of Maryland.

Professional Experience: Health System Analyst, Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research; Assistant

Professor; Chief Research Analyst; Education Specialist Health System Analyst; Health Planning and Information Officer; Information System Specialist; Physician; World Health Organization Fellow-Harvard University.

Political Experience: Salem-Keizer School Board member.

House District 20



Rep. Vicki Berger, (R)

Education: BA, University of Wyoming, 1974.

Professional Experience: Owner: West Salem Lazerquick, 1995-1999; Project Manager: Neilsen Manufacturing, 1988-1994.

Political Experience: Oregon State

House of Representatives, District 20, 2002-present; Salem-Keizer School Board, 1988-1992.

Committees: *Vice Chair:* Elections, Ethics and Rules; *Member:* Oregon State Hospital Patient Care; *Vice Chair:* Revenue.



Richard Riggs (D)

Education: JD, Willamette University College of Law; BS, Mathematics, Oregon State University

Professional Experience: United States Naval Officer, Retired; Instructor, Willamette University College of Law.

Political Experience: Member, Polk County Democrats; Board of Directors, Chemeketa Community College; Chairman, Monterey Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee.

House District 22



Rep. Betty Komp, (D)

Education: MA, Western Oregon University, 1992; BA, Western Oregon University, 1990.

Professional Experience: Principal, French Prairie Middle School; Assistant Principal, Woodburn High School; Teacher, Woodburn High

School.

Political Experience: Oregon State House of Representatives, 2004-present; Chair, Mount Angel School Board.

Committees: *Vice Chair:* Education; Member: Judiciary.

No picture available

Tom Chereck, Jr. (R)

Birthplace: Portland, OR

Home City: Salem, OR

Salem City Club thanks our co-hosts:



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Salem City Club is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to
“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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