

It is important to ask the candidates questions which represent the interests of the voters and communities of the 1st Congressional District. Send us your questions at [info@lwvpdx.org](mailto:info@lwvpdx.org) by Monday, Nov. 29. Please type "Questions 1st Congressional District" in the subject line of your email.

We will not be able to use every question we receive. We will try to select questions that represent the interests and issues expressed in the questions submitted. We look forward to receiving your questions. Please be informed and vote, and remember that your vote counts.

MARY MCWILLIAMS

League of Women Voters of Portland president

EXHIBIT: 27  
2012 SESSION S VETERANS' & MILITARY  
AFFAIRS  
DATE: 2/28 PAGES: 2  
SUBMITTED BY: Robert Thornhill

**Veterans should not have to fight for job preference rights**

Over four years ago, in 2007, the Oregon Legislature enacted a law (SB-822) giving Oregon veterans hiring preference for public civil service positions with the state, counties, cities and certain other local government entities.

It was recently reported that a veteran won a settlement from the state because the Oregon State Hospital in Salem failed in 2009 to consider his status as a disabled veteran. As a part of the settlement, in addition to \$2,100 and attorney's fees, the hospital agreed to train its managers to comply with the law.

According to (a Nov. 11 Oregonian article), Cameron Smith, senior policy advisor to Gov. Kitzhaber, acknowledged that the preference is not well-understood among public human resources representative and probably not by other levels of government — counties, cities, school districts.

I do not know who, if anyone, Gov. Kitzhaber holds responsible for ensuring the implementation of this 4-year-old law. However, Oregon Revised Statutes 406.030 prescribes that the director of Veterans Affairs shall organize and coordinate the administration of all present and future federal and state laws pertaining to veterans.

The director of Veterans Affairs has a large staff, has the publicly funded VETS NEWS, and has access to a large number of state and county veterans services to spread the word. Veterans' preference is not rocket science.

It is a disgrace that this 4-year-old law has not been fully implemented. The men and women who have laid life and limb on the line for their country deserve better. Veterans should not have to file a suit to realize their preference rights.

ROBERT THORNHILL

Southwest Beaverton

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ENCL #4

View Cemetery adjacent to 146 acres of undeveloped land purchased a transaction that may soon end up in court.

TRIBUNE PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER ONSTOTT

gressive, so who cares about hazards, right?

James Paul Bro  
Northeast Portla.

## READERS' LETTERS

### Portland following Greece's footsteps

Portland's economic model is not too different from that of bankrupt Greece: massive public borrowing, hosing state and federal government taxpayers and creating a populace overly dependent on government handouts instead of individual productive effort (*Public's bucks give builders a boost*, Oct. 27).

It took several decades for Greece's economic model to be called out, and Portland is likely to find a similar Waterloo when the federal government and state government rein their lavish spending on Portland.

**Bob Clark**  
Southeast Portland

### Complaint abuses waste city time

"Liefeld says the city doesn't maintain a formal policy to cut off people who repeatedly file unfounded complaints. But, he says, if staff have investigated our unfounded complaints by the neighbor against another, the fifth complaint they generally don't conduct as thorough an inspection" (*Anonymous complaints serve up a heap of trouble*, Nov. 10). So it's four strikes and you're still not out? Someone files our unfounded complaints against the same entity and the city still investigates the next one — just not as thoroughly?

At what point is a false accuser "out"? When does he/she have to pay for the wasted city staff time? Not to mention the time of the business owner/property owner.

There are benefits to a complaint-driven system, and there are benefits to keeping complaints anonymous. But it is surprising to learn that the only constraint to prevent abuse of the system is professional discretion. It seems to me that opens a whole other can of worms.

I'm sorry but four false complaints is abuse, and staff should be able to point to a clear rule that allows them to ignore number five and so on. What's Saltzman's take on this?

**Tony Fuentes**  
Northeast Portland

### Neighbors should work out differences

Everyone should have the right to face their accuser, even if it's a neighbor (*Anonymous complaints serve up a heap of trouble*, Nov. 10). In fact, particularly if it's a neighbor.

Neighbors should be able to work out their own differences and not consume city staff time. Our taxes are already too high as it is — we don't need city staffers sucking up taxpayers' money to essentially impoverish other taxpayers out of business.

**Jim Atwood**  
Southwest Portland

### Law still has not been implemented

More than four years ago, in 2007, the Oregon Legislature enacted a law (SB 822) giving Oregon veterans hiring preference for public civil service positions with the state, counties, cities and certain other local government entities.

It was recently reported that a veteran won a settlement from the state because the Oregon State Hospital in Salem failed in 2009 to consider his status as a disabled veteran. As a part of the settlement, in addition to \$2,100 and attorney's fees, the hospital agreed to train its managers to comply with the law.

According to the report, Cameron Smith, senior policy advisor to Gov. (John) Kitzhaber, acknowledged that the preference is not well-understood among public human resources representative or other levels of government — counties, cities, school districts.

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It is a disgrace that this law has not been fully implemented.

**Robert H. Thornhill**  
Beaverton

The Portland Tribune welcomes essays on topics of public interest. Submissions should be no longer than 250 words. Both submissions should include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Please send submissions via e-mail: [tribune@tribune.com](mailto:tribune@tribune.com). You may fax them to 503-546-0727 or send them to "Letters to the Editor," 6605 S.E. Lake Road, Portland, OR 97222.

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