

Small party wants bigger say on 'pocketbook issues'

1. Adjective
2. Noun
3. Noun
4. Adjective
5. Noun
6. Adjective
7. Adjective
8. Noun
9. Noun
10. Adjective
11. Noun
12. Adjective
13. Noun
14. Verb - Past Tense
15. Noun - Plural
16. To
17. Verb - Present Ends In S
18. Number
19. Number
20. Job
21. Organization
22. Location

23. Name _____

24. Organization _____

25. Issue _____

26. Name _____

27. City Government Office _____

28. Issue _____

29. Year _____

30. Issue _____

31. Color _____

32. Color _____

33. Color _____

34. Color _____

35. Color _____

36. Color _____

37. Name _____

38. Job _____

39. Political Party _____

40. Adjective _____

41. Adjective _____

Small party wants bigger say on 'pocketbook issues'

With the primaries ended this week, a small, little-known political party that focuses on workers' issues is

launching a _____ Adjective _____ Noun _____ Noun _____ in anticipation of the November election.

The aim of the Oregon Working Families Party is to influence state policy by _____ Adjective _____ rural and urban

voters around _____ Noun _____ table economic issues that matter to working people. The party, which takes no

position on _____ Adjective _____ issues such as _____ Adjective _____ Noun _____ or _____ Noun _____, promotes itself

as "the _____ Adjective _____ Noun _____, pocketbook issues party," says Jeff Anderson, a member of the party's

steering committee.

A powerful tool it will use to push its agenda is an electoral strategy called fusion voting, a version of which

became legal again in Oregon in 2009. It allows political parties to _____ Adjective _____ candidates on the ballot --

that is, to give their _____ Noun _____ to candidates from other parties.

"It allows us to endorse candidates and then hold them _____ Verb - Past Tense _____," said Barbara Dudley, party co-

chair, "without running our own candidates who could function as _____ Noun - Plural _____."

Party representatives will soon start _____ to _____ major party candidates to _____ Verb - Present ends in S _____ where

they stand on Working Families Party issues.

The

party has about _____ Number _____,000 members, mainly in the Portland area and many of whom are union affiliated. Dudley hopes to have _____ Number _____,000 registered members by August.

So who is joining the party and why? Bruce Cronk, 68, is a retired _____ Job _____ and member of the _____ Organization _____ Steel Workers Union who lives in suburban _____ Location _____. He joined the OWFP after the 2008 general election because he felt that Republicans and Democrats were beholden to big business and Wall Street.

"Sen. Ron Wyden," he said, is "unabashed about his support of free trade. That doesn't make any points with me. The Democrats need a third party to push them to deal with workers' issues."

_____ Name _____ Carter, 24, works for the _____ Organization _____ Authority of Portland. She attended an OWFP happy hour presentation about fusion voting.

"It really caught my interest," she said. "It allows third parties to play a much greater role. I decided that it was a party I wanted to give my full support to. Being a single mom, I love that they are pushing for _____ Issue _____ disability insurance for all Oregonians."

Another Portlander, _____ Name _____ Haines, 49, works part time for the city's _____ City Government Office _____ of Planning

and Sustainability and part time in a restaurant. She describes herself as very progressive and says she is passionate about the right of workers to organize. She also likes the party's campaign to _____ Issue _____ a state-owned bank, similar to the one that has existed in North Dakota since 1919.

"I like the idea of keeping investments local," she said.

The idea is that state agencies would deposit their funds in the bank, which would then use them for loans to local farmers, students and small businesses and to promote the local economy in other ways. The party is asking major party candidates seeking endorsements to support the creation of a state bank.

Also on the platform for _____ Year _____: _____ Issue _____ higher education and a call to "tie _____ Color _____ strings to _____ Color _____ jobs." In other words, to make sure that _____ Color _____ jobs that garner tax breaks for corporations are worker-friendly. Some _____ Color _____ jobs -- recycling or solar energy installation, for example -- can pay low wages with no benefits.

"I really like that it doesn't have to be about _____ Color _____ or _____ Color _____," Haines said, "to be able to take an issues-based stand, and judge a candidate on those, is really effective."

_____ Name _____ Rodgers, 39, a _____ Job _____ from Sweet Home, makes a similar point. He was a registered _____ Political Party _____

before switching to OWFP, which, he said, "does a good job of isolating _____ Adjective issues and concentrating on issues that really _____ Adjective to working people.

"The workers of this country," he said, "need a third party that looks out for them."

--Rebecca Koffman, Special to The Oregonian