

Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet

Primary Election 20____ General Election 2012 Special Election _____ (date)

Measure No.: 26-141

Argument in Favor
 Argument in Opposition

This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):

Name of person:

Shane Bemis

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:

Original Argument

Amended Argument

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)
Joan Albertson, 18233 SE Brooklyn Ct, Gresham OR 97030

Telephone (home)

Telephone (work)

503.666.5723

Argument Paid For By: (name and address)

*One Gresham
18233 SE Brooklyn Ct
Gresham OR 97030*

ATTACHED IS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Measure Argument
 Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed: _____)

Note: Language that violates any provision of ORS 251.405 or 251.415 may be excluded from the voters' pamphlet.

By signing this document, I hereby state I am responsible for the content of this argument. ORS 251.415 (2)

Signature of person furnishing argument
(must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

Date signed

9/10/12

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Staff Initials *CS*

Argument order number *A-1*

Cash or Check Number *1001*

Statement(s) of Endorsement? NO YES # _____

Receipt Number *22928*

Word/Number Count Total _____

VOTE NO 26-141

Dear Gresham resident,

Six years ago when I first sought the office of mayor, I promised you that I would always “call them as I see them,” and that you would never have to guess where I stood on an issue. I have worked very hard to do just that and to keep an open door for you, the people I represent.

Under my administration we have increased citizen involvement and have worked hard to be responsive to ALL of Gresham. Nearly everyone who calls or emails my office gets a response. This is how it should be.

The proponents of this measure would have you believe that no one is being represented and that everyone is disenfranchised. You know better. We have worked too hard on too many issues to believe this. The best part about being YOUR mayor is that we often work together to solve issues that affect you and your family.

Right now you have six councilors that work for the common good of all of Gresham. You get to vote for ALL six of them. Under the districts measure, you would only be able to vote for one councilor even though ALL six of them can affect you. I think it is crazy to give up your right to vote.

Right now you elect, from the entire city, people you believe to be the best candidates to serve. Under the districts measure you would have to vote for ONE person from some imaginary or gerrymandered line.

I agree with the Citizen Charter Review Committee who studied this issue and did not recommend a change. They got it right.

We have worked too hard to go backwards. Do not let Chicago style politics infiltrate your city government. We are better than political horse trading and false lines on a map!

Thank you for the great honor of serving as your mayor.

Shane Bemis

Mayor of Gresham

325 words

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Name of person:

Joan Albertson

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:

One Gresham

Original Argument

Amended Argument

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)
Joan Albertson, 18233 SE Brooklyn Ct, Gresham OR 97030

Argument Paid For By: (name and address)

*One Gresham
18233 SE Brooklyn Ct
Gresham OR 97030*

Telephone (home)
503.666.5723

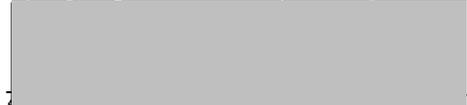
Telephone (work)

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9/10/12
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Staff Initials *CB*

Argument order number *A-2*

Cash or Check Number *1001*

Statement(s) of Endorsement? NO YES # _____

Receipt Number *22528*

Word/Number Count Total _____

Council Argument in Opposition

Measure 26-141 asks Gresham voters to *sacrifice your right to vote* for all of the city councilors who set policy for the city. We believe this is a bad idea, and here's why:

- **Districts would reduce your voice in Gresham elections.** Under the current at-large system, you get to vote for three councilors every two years. Under districts, you'd get to vote for just one every four years. Your voice will be diminished.
- **Districts would limit the community's ability to be represented by the very best candidates from across the city.** Councilors are unpaid volunteers, making it difficult to attract candidates. Finding candidates to run in a limited area such as a district would create an even greater challenge with a smaller pool of candidates to choose from. The quality of the city's leadership will suffer.
- **The Outlook Editorial Board agrees: "The members of the Gresham City Council obviously approach their duties with deep conviction for the entire city. We have no sense that any neighborhood benefits at the expense of another... Gresham's history supports the decision that led to the election of councilors to at-large positions... put us down for a "no" vote." Outlook Editorial, *The Outlook*, 3/24/12**
- **Citizen engagement is strong under an at-large system:** We're still a small city, and there are many ways for citizens to serve the community. In 2011, 2,800 residents volunteered over 14,000 hours of their time in neighborhood associations and citizen committees, making Gresham a stronger, more engaged community.

It's time to focus on the issues Gresham really cares about: public safety, supporting local businesses, creating jobs, and enhancing Gresham's high quality of life. With limited resources, we have to come together as a community to solve our common challenges. This measure would pull us apart.

Vote NO on 26-141.

Gresham Council President Karylinn Echols
Councilor Josh Fuhrer
Councilor Lori Stegmann

[307 words]

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Primary Election 20____ General Election 2012 Special Election _____ (date)

Measure No.: 26-141

Argument in Favor
 Argument in Opposition

This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):

Name of person:
JOAN ALBERTSON

Original Argument

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:

Oregon Gresham

Amended Argument

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)
Joan Albertson, 18233 SE Brooklyn Ct, Gresham OR 97030

Telephone (home)
503.666.5723

Telephone (work)

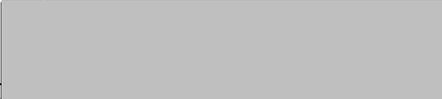
Argument Paid For By: (name and address)
Oregon Gresham
18233 SE Brooklyn Ct Gresham OR
97030

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9/10/12
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Staff Initials AD

Argument order number A-3

Cash or Check Number 1001

Statement(s) of Endorsement? NO YES # _____

Receipt Number 22918

Word/Number Count Total _____

We believe you should have a say in electing all of your city councilors. Your voice is important to the direction of our community, and some are trying to stifle it. We think that's wrong.

- **Districts limit voters' choice:** The current at-large system allows you to vote for all city councilors. Districts would only allow you to vote for **one** councilor every four years.
- **A recent poll showed that 77% of Gresham residents are satisfied with their city government.** Despite limited resources, we have competent leadership on the city council that engages the community and stretches your tax dollars further than any of the 10 largest cities in Oregon. The city council works together to create jobs, provide top-notch police and fire services, and make Gresham the most livable community possible. Districts would jeopardize their ability to work as a unified council to solve our community's challenges.
- Districts would limit you to electing just one councilor instead of all six, even though all six have a significant impact on the direction of the community. We believe in accountability in government, which means that *all* council members should be accountable to *all* citizens of the city they represent.
- "They shouldn't try to fix what isn't broken. The current six members of the council and the mayor are elected on a citywide basis, and we've seen no evidence over the past three decades to indicate that there's anything wrong with the at-large system. We believe it's much better to draw from the larger pool of candidates that will be available citywide. We fear that the [districting] proposal could be a distraction from the important business the council is dealing with today." -*The Outlook*, 6-22-12

Don't throw away your right to vote for 80% of those who represent you.

Please join us, and **vote NO on 26-141**. Keep your right to vote for your entire city council.

Learn more at www.onegresham.org.

[318 words]

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Measure No.: 26-141
 Argument in Favor
 Argument in Opposition

This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):

Name of person:
JOAN ALBERTSON

Original Argument
 Amended Argument

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:

ONE GRESHAM

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)
Joan Albertson, 18233 SE Brooklyn Ct, Gresham OR 97030

Argument Paid For By: (name and address)
One Gresham 18233 SE Brooklyn Ct Gresham OR 97030

Telephone (home) 503.666.5723
Telephone (work) _____

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[Redacted Signature]

9/10/12

Signature of person furnishing argument (must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

Date signed

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Staff Initials CS

Argument order number A-4

Cash or Check Number 1051

Statement(s) of Endorsement? NO YES # _____

Receipt Number 22928

Word/Number Count Total _____

-*Supporters Argument in Opposition

Please join your friends and neighbors in voting **NO on 26-141**. We believe in One Gresham.

Shane T. Bemis, Mayor of Gresham
Karylinn Echols, Gresham Council President
Josh Fuhrer, Gresham City Councilor
Lori Stegmann, Gresham City Councilor
David Widmark, Gresham City Councilor
Carol Nielsen-Hood, Former Gresham City Councilor
Dave Shields, former Gresham City Councilor
Thomas Griffith, Former City Councilor
Greg Matthews, State Representative
Brian Lessler, President/CEO, PDG Construction Services, Inc.
Carla C. Piluso, Gresham Police Chief, retired
Joan Albertson, Charter Review Committee
Harrison Braaksma, Charter Review Committee
Chris Lyons, Charter Review Committee
Travis Stovall
John Sage
Bess R. Wills
Jim Hood
Michael Patrick
Sue Piazza
Sherrill Widmark
Kirk French
Stan Morris
Sue O'Halloran
Michael McClintic
Mardella Stevens (Mardy)
Joyce E. Miller
Timothy M. Welch
Matthew Norquist
Martin L. Stone
Tom Hughes, Metro Council President

"They shouldn't try to fix what isn't broken. With all the economic and budgetary issues Gresham has in front of it right now, this does not strike us as the best time to bring up the question of whether city councilors should be elected by district in this city. It's hard enough already to find people who are willing to spend many, many hours each week in an unpaid position that also has a tendency to invite criticism and personal attacks from those who disagree with council decisions." Outlook Editorial, *The Outlook*, 6/22/12

We believe in OneGresham ... United.
Learn more at www.onegresham.org.

[241 words]

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

REGISTRATION (02-001)

Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet

Primary Election 20___ General Election 20___ Special Election _____ (date)

Measure No.: <u>26-141</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Argument in Favor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Argument in Opposition	This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet): Name of person: <u>BRIAN LESSLER</u> Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable: <u>PDG CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Argument	<input type="checkbox"/> Amended Argument	
Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument) <u>BRIAN LESSLER 500 SE BUTLER RD GRESHAM OR 97030</u>		Argument Paid For By: (name and address) <u>MTA One Gresham 18033 SE Brooklyn Ct Gresham OR 97030</u>
Telephone (home) <u>503.666.8434</u>	Telephone (work) <u>503.674.3232</u>	

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Signature of person furnishing argument: _____ Date signed: 9/10/12
(must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

2012 SEP 11 PM 09:59

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Staff Initials WJ Argument order number A-5
Cash or Check Number 1001 Statement(s) of Endorsement? NO YES # _____
Receipt Number 22928 Word/Number Count Total _____

Revising the structure of Gresham's city council around the parochial, district concept presented in Ballot Measure 26-141 is a bad idea for our community. Webster defines parochialism as "*the state of being parochial: especially: selfish pettiness or narrowness (as of interests, opinions or views)*". Under this six district structure, government decision making will grind to recurring stalemates as new districts' councilors, beholdng to their local constituency, will loose perspective on city-wide and regional goals and economic development.

Our current city council structure is a highly effective body of representation at large. It allows dedicated leaders from throughout the community to serve governance needs. The current council structure is very accessible and responsive to ALL individual residents, neighborhood associations and the business community. Under their leadership Gresham has achieved an unprecedented level of cooperation with our 3 neighboring cities resulting in the first regional, joint transportation study, funded by Metro. The outcome is an East County transportation plan, addressing the critical north south corridor improvements required to keep our region livable over future decades. District representation would be a giant step backwards, resulting in a council focused inwardly on small aspects of the community rather than forward thinking, big picture governance for the benefit of the entire community.

Creation of new district boundaries will obliterate current neighborhood associations' influence and ability to affect planning commission and city council decisions. Who or what interests will determine the boundaries of these 6 new districts? The formulation of these 6 districts have no assurance of increasing ethnic, economic, or demographic representation in city government. Presently all members of the community have an opportunity to vote for all council positions, not just a roster of candidates from an arbitrary district boundary.

Maintaining the current council structure is critical to the business environment and economic vitality of Gresham. District representation will negatively impact our ongoing ability to stimulate economic development and create new jobs in this local economy.

Brian Lessler