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MCFB Endorses Starr, LeCompte

Marion County Farm Bureau has endorsed Bruce Starr for Oregon Labor Commissioner and Kathy LeCompte for House District 22. The action occurred at the Board's June 20th meeting in which candidates for Labor Commissioner and House District 22 appeared before the Board to discuss their campaigns, core values, and reasons for seeking office.



Sen. Bruce Starr

In the race for Labor Commissioner, candidate Bruce Starr stated that Oregon can no longer afford to ignore the impact of high unemployment and stagnant economic growth on the families of our state. Emphasizing the need for elected officials to help ignite a new period of economic growth in the state, he stated, "I will devote myself to finding ways to make the Bureau of Labor and Industries part of the solution, rather than part of the problem.

In House District 22, the Board endorsed Kathy LeCompte, owner and operator of Brooks Tree Farm for over thirty years, past President of the Oregon Association of Nurseries, past Chair of the Oregon Nursery Political Action Committee and most recently, Chair of the



Kathy LeCompte

Government Relations Committee. She identified her primary concerns as job losses, out of control spending, and the continual declining of Oregon's schools. In her discussion with the MCFB, candidate LeCompte stressed her strong ties to the agricultural community and the need for a more economic development friendly climate in Salem. In her announcement for candidacy for House District 22, she stated, "It is imperative that we focus on job creation while cutting our spending. We must focus on what is important first.

Images: freedigitalphotos.net

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MCFB Positions on Statewide Ballot Measures

The Board of Directors of the Marion County Farm Bureau wants to make members aware that we have taken positions on several statewide ballot measures that affect the farming industry. We hope our members will make note and vote accordingly in November. Key measures are as follow:

Ballot Measure 84—Elimination of the “Death Tax”:

Ballot Measure 84 phases out the Oregon estate tax by reducing the existing tax by 25% in 2013, 50% in 2014, and 75% in 2015. As of January 1, 2016, the tax is zero.

MCFB Supports Ballot Measure 84

Measure 84 forbids any new tax on any property transfer among living family members. It phases out the capital gains tax on property sales within a family on the same schedule as the phase out of the death tax.

This creates two safe harbors. One prohibits any estate or inheritance tax by any unit of government in Oregon; the existing tax is phased out over three years, and then it is prohibited. This allows families to do whatever they want with their estates.

The second safe harbor is for property transfers among living family members. Any property transfer within a family cannot be subjected to any new tax, and the existing tax (the capital gains tax on property sales) is phased out.

So, as of January 1, 2016, families can do whatever they want to transfer their property within the family without having to pay state or local taxes.

The next MCFB board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 19,** starting **6:30 pm** at the **Marion County Farm Bureau Office (1284 Court Street NE,).** The meeting is open to any farmer.

Ballot Measure 79—Prohibition of Real Estate Transfer Tax:

The Oregon Real Estate Transfer Tax Amendment, Measure 79, also known as Initiative 5, is on the November 6, 2012 statewide ballot as an initiated constitutional amendment. The measure would prohibit real estate transfer taxes.

MCFB Supports Ballot Measure 79

Amends constitution. Current statutory law prohibits a city, county, district, or other political subdivision or municipal corporation from imposing taxes or fees on the transfer of real estate (with certain exceptions). However, the state legislature has the authority, subject to Governor approval, to impose such taxes and fees or to change current statutory law.

Measure prohibits the state and any city, county, district, or other political subdivision or municipal corporation from imposing taxes, fees, or other assessments based upon the transfer of any interest in real property or measure by the consideration paid or received upon the transfer of any interest in real property.

Measure exempts from the prohibition any taxes, fees, or other assessments in effect and operative on December 31, 2009.

PGE Meets with MCFB on Cascade Crossing

On June 20, representatives of Portland General Electric met with the MCFB Board of Directors to discuss the proposed Cascade Crossing Transmission Project. John Sullivan, Cascade Crossing Project Manager, described the structure as “120-190 steel lattice towers—no more than five per mile—with a right-of-way width between 180-225 feet. The structure will extend from Salem to Boardman.

PGE is conducting studies to determine “potential temporary and permanent impacts” on agricultural lands and says it is working to minimize disturbance to existing agricultural practices. The company will negotiate directly with property owners in an attempt to agree upon a one-time payment, based on a fair market appraisal from an independent appraiser. MCFB Board members questioned the validity of a one-time payment, given that future agricultural impacts could be significant and ongoing. Others questioned the fairness of the company’s ability to site the structure over prime farm land.

Your MCFB Staff: Meet Genoa Ingram

Genoa began her career with the Oregon legislature's non-partisan Office of Legislative Research in 1980 and this year celebrates 30 years of involvement in the legislative process, both as legislative staff and as a legislative advocate. Her previous assignments include implementation of association government affairs programs, including technical support, strategic planning, staff management, and budget oversight. Genoa has served on numerous advisory committees relating to ethics reform, housing and political grassroots lobbying. She is the owner and president of Court Street Consulting, which she founded in 2007. In addition to providing association management, client membership services, and legislative advocacy, Genoa also serves as Executive Director to several client associations.



MCFB Launches New Website!



Although still under construction, MCFB has launched its new website. The website represents a valuable "one-stop" resource for gaining up-to-the-minute information about issues that affect Marion County farmers. The site includes live news feeds from the Capital Press, links to valuable agriculture information sites such as the OSU Extension Service, and other useful information. MCFB members are invited to submit their farm photos for display on the website, which is located at www.marioncofarm.com.

Submit photos with description to jessica@courtstreetconsulting.org

Farm Bureau Meetings/Important Dates

Sep 3	Labor Day-Office Closed
Sep 5-7	Admin & Financial Officers Conference, Nashville
Sep 12	OFB Budget Committee meeting
Sep 13-14	OFB Board of Directors meeting
Sep 21	Resolutions Deadline
Sep 25-27	AFBF Promotion & Education Conference, Kansas City, MO

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MARION COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Promoting, protecting & advancing
farm interests in Marion County

IMPORTANT DATES:

<u>Farm-City Week</u>	November 16-22, 2012
<u>Annual Dinner & Meeting</u>	November 28, 2012
<u>OFB Annual Convention</u>	December 4-6, 2012
<u>American Farm Bureau Convention</u>	January 13-16, 2013

Don't Miss Your Newsletter!

In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, MCFB plans to switch to e-newsletters to save money on printing and postage. Members are encouraged to forward your email address to jessica@courtstreetconsulting.org at your earliest convenience so you don't miss out on MCFB news. Those members who do not have internet access can request to receive their newsletters printed and mailed to them.