



**DEMOCRATIC
PARTY *of*
OREGON**

**Oregon Senate District 18
Nominating Election**

Voters' Pamphlet

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Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee

Candidates filed to be considered for appointment to the legislative vacancy in Senate District 18:

(Candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name)

Akasha Lawrence Spence

Sarah Lemley

Martin Mendelson

Mark Nerys

Candidate statements in this Voters' Pamphlet are provided by the candidate and are not vetted for accuracy, nor do they necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Akasha Lawrence Spence

Statement of Candidacy:

As a small business owner, civic activist, and public servant – the daughter of a single mother, immigrants, a veteran, and an 1199 SEIU nurse – I know firsthand the challenges facing our district, and I'm committed to representing the diverse needs of our community as the people's candidate for Senate District 18.



In 2020, I served as House Representative for District 36 when our state confronted unprecedented need: a global health crisis, economic crisis, and the youth led movement to demand racial justice and right historical wrongs. I worked in community to pass landlord and tenant protections, landmark police accountability bills, and a holistic COVID-19 response that provided direct economic support to farm workers, immigrant families, small businesses, working families, our Indigenous communities and \$62 million dollars to Black Oregonians who would otherwise be left out of the equation.

As monumental as those investments were, there is still an incredible amount of work to be done. I am running on a simple yet impactful economic justice platform because too many Oregonians are living in survival mode, negotiating between seeking healthcare and paying rent, unable to provide for themselves and their families.

I am running because I have proven firsthand through community centered leadership how the work we do in the legislature can repair harm and transform lives. I will continue to work collaboratively with community members, community based organizations, working families, and electeds at every level of state governance, to craft comprehensive and holistic policy that will:

- Center a just and equitable recovery for our hard-hit district
- Focus on housing policy that lifts our community members out of houselessness and housing insecurity
- Invest in holistic public safety that is reparative, proactive, and preventative
- Take bold action on the climate crisis
- Protect workers' rights
- Expand access to our democracy

Due to redistricting, my time as your senator will be short, but I have proven what we can accomplish in limited time, when our actions are moral and our resolve is strong, and I will continue this fight no matter where my commitment to public service leads.

Endorsers: APANO, Forward Together Action, Latino Network Action Fund, Planned Parenthood Advocacy, Safety and Justice Oregon, Next Up Action, WINPAC, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, State Reps. Lisa Reynolds and Dacia Grayber, Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle, Portland City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, TTSD School Board Chair Ben Bowman, and more at www.akashafororegon.com.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:

www.akashafororegon.com

Sarah Lemley
Statement of Candidacy:
No Candidate Statement Submitted.

Martin Mendelson

Statement of Candidacy:

I am a life-long Democrat. The first presidential candidate I voted for was John Kennedy in 1960. I am a scientist, carrying out basic neurophysiological research. I am also a family physician: my Family Medicine residency was at Emanuel Hospital. I've done primary care in Oregon and Washington, and taught in four medical schools. I completed a Public Health Informatics Fellowship at the CDC, and consulted on electronic medical records for hospitals and health departments. I was elected to the Board of Group Health Cooperative and served two terms, the second as chair of the Board Quality Committee. I have served on the Multnomah Democrats education and basic rights study groups, where I think I've had a positive influence. I strongly support public education from pre-K to university, and will work to eliminate private, profit-making companies from the education system. I believe that quality health care is one of our self-evident rights, and I have for years supported a single-payer system that would cover everyone. I supported the legislation that set limits on how private equity companies could purchase medical practices in Oregon, and combine them into little monopolies for high profits. I am an advocate for truly progressive taxation wherein the very well-off pay their fair share. I believe that we must eliminate the "kicker", and set aside excess income in a rainy-day fund so that Oregon will be able to easily weather economic shocks like that of 2018, and go on delivering essential services without interruption. I am keenly aware of the racially biased injustice system that imprisons disproportional numbers of person of color, and will seek ways to reform it. I know that climate change is human-caused, and that we in Oregon must find ways to reduce our greenhouse gas production, while finding ways to create environmentally-friendly jobs. If I am elected to this position, I will not run for reelection. Thus, I will not be susceptible to big money influence in pursuit of campaign funds for the future. I offer you a broad lifetime experience and a fierce belief in government for the people.



Mark Nerys

Statement of Candidacy:

Please, vote for Akasha Lawrence-Spence. She is far more qualified, capable, and equipped to be your next senator. If elected to this office I will serve.

CANDIDATE BIO:

Pronouns: he/him

PCP HD 27/36

Former Lead of the Basic Needs Study Group and member of the Platform Committee for the Multnomah County Democrats

Professionally: Instructor at PCC teaching 3D Modeling, animation, & game design (Member of AFT Local #2277)

Illustrator & Designer

Education: BFA Cooper Union 2009

Born: New Jersey (moved to Portland in 2011)

*No endorsements sought or received.

Please, consider supporting these organizations:

ACLU of Oregon

Oregon Justice Resource Center

End Clean and Safe

Sisters of the Road

Right 2 Survive

Hygiene 4 All

Western Regional Advocacy Project

The Afro Village

Sunrise Movement PDX

Breach Collective

We Shine

East County Rising

Thanks for reading and please, vote for Akasha Lawrence-Spence.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:

marknerys.com/SD18.html

