



Harrington announces re-election plans

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By Nick Christensen
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Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington announced Wednesday that she will seek a second term representing western Washington County on the board of the region's planning agency.

Harrington, a former Intel engineer, was elected to the board in 2006, and has had the task of representing an area that is both dependent on sprawling high-tech factories and proud of the agricultural heritage of the areas that surround its suburban cities.

No other Metro councilor has such a varied constituency.

"It's been a great honor to serve as the Metro councilor for District 4," Harrington said. "There's so much more to be done to continue serving our community and ensuring that our communities evolve, with great economic investments."

At Metro, Harrington has been the council's point person on the designation of urban and rural reserves, a position that balanced the traditional pro-conservation interests of other Metro councilors with the desire of the cities in her district to have room for economic development.

"I want to make sure that the work and the decisions that Metro makes continues to contribute to job creation," she said. "We have to continue to help realize the community aspirations that we have, whether we're talking about the evolution of the Tanasbourne area to a regional center or Cornelius evolving from a main street to a stronger, vibrant town center."

Harrington, who lives on the far west end of Beaverton near Tanasbourne, is yet to draw an opponent. Former Hillsboro Mayor Tom Hughes is running for the position of Metro Council President, which is being vacated by David Bragdon because of term limits.

The primary election for Metro is in May. Because the position is non-partisan, the top two challengers from the primary would advance to the November general election; if a candidate gathers 50 percent of the vote in May, they will win the seat outright.