

Vote Harrington, Park for Metro Council

Running for Metro Council is complicated not only by the 217,000 people in each district, but also by the need to explain, to quite a few of them, what Metro does. Some voters have heard of the regional government, but to most it's a mystery.

So a key question in the May primary is: Which Metro candidates can help to demystify the agency, strengthen its ties to the 25 cities in the region and make it more effective? Metro oversees the Oregon Zoo and the Oregon Convention Center, but its most important job is planning for growth.

Both Metro Council President David Bragdon and incumbent Councilor Brian Newman are unopposed in the May primary. Both have polished diplomatic skills. District 4, which covers

Hillsboro, Cedar Mill and northern Washington County, deserves an equally effective representative. It's not an easy call, but the best candidate in this open race is Kathryn Harrington.

Al Young, a former state representative dogged by questions about a failure to pay some back taxes, probably shouldn't have run. Tom Cox, a management consultant who previously ran for governor as a Libertarian, is sharp and engaging but unfortunately inclined to caricature and to demonize Metro, which isn't very helpful.

Election 2006

Endorsements



Harrington



Park

Metro.

A former Intel software engineering and product marketing manager, Harrington takes a fresh but meticulous approach. She would do more than voice her opinions. Harrington would assemble the evidence to persuade her

Kathy Christy, a real estate agent and former teacher, has a wealth of experience and a deep fund of common sense. But in what is admittedly a close call, we think Harrington has more persuasive ability, and that's the key to getting anything done at

Metro colleagues to re-examine *their* assumptions, and look at Washington County with new eyes.

On the other side of the region, voters should return incumbent Rod Park to represent Metro District 1, which covers Gresham, Happy Valley and Troutdale. Park, owner of a nursery business, faces a challenge from Jim Duncan, who retired from Boeing a decade ago. This one is an easy call.

Although Duncan has decades of community service to his credit, Park has an intricate understanding of Metro. He's also a passionate advocate for preserving farmland.

Vote for Park and Harrington, the two who would do the most to solve the mystery of Metro.