

## Video: Peterson prevails as mayor

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Statesman Journal

May 19, 2010

Salem with Anna Peterson as mayor will likely be similar, but with some subtle differences, to the city overseen by Janet Taylor for the past eight years.

Voters on Tuesday gave Peterson a lead over challenger and City Councilor Chuck Bennett.

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Bennett conceded the race to Peterson in a phone call from his home shortly before 11 p.m.

"I congratulated her and told her we'd be looking forward to working with her in January," Bennett said. "I told her that if I can be of assistance in any way between now and then, I'd be more than happy to help."

Peterson's election as Salem mayor marks the first time she will hold elected office.

Like Taylor, Peterson advocates for a business-friendly city, the expansion of jobs and a focus on the core downtown area.

But she says her approach to addressing the city's issues will be broader.

Among the first actions she'll take as new mayor are establishing three advisory councils — Natural Resources, Cultural and Ethnic Relations, and an advisory panel from business and economic sectors. She will use those councils to advise her in order to meet needs in the city and take opportunities that will move Salem beyond its current status.

"I will be looking at Salem from a culture of abundance, recognizing our assets, resources and talents, and bringing them together to seize opportunities, solve problems and meet needs," she said. "Most of all, to recognize opportunities and to move on them."

She said that as mayor, she'll work to bring transparency, disclosure and openness in city government.

Peterson, a graduate in journalism at the University of Oregon, said her legacy will be one of "inclusion and innovation."



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Anna Peterson speaks to supporters Tuesday while waiting for election night results in Salem's mayoral race. Peterson defeated Chuck Bennett.

Before she heads out and about in the community, where she has spent much of her time in volunteer service, she'll first have a gathering with council members to learn their personal goals for the year and to find common ground.

Peterson held her election party at the Grand Hotel, where she initially announced her bid for Salem mayor.

More than 100 supporters were at her side.

As she waited for election returns to trickle in, Peterson sat sipping warm water with lemon and honey, saying she had bronchitis.

Still, she took time to recognize all of her campaign volunteers by name and duties as they waited for more results.

She then recommended a "good, stiff drink" to the crowd, saying it was going to be awhile before the next round of returns.

Born May 30, 1947, in Corvallis, Peterson grew up in Portland.

Peterson managed all four of her husband's successful statewide campaigns for election to the Oregon Supreme Court and was the manager of Taylor's first mayoral campaign in 2002.

A longtime civic leader, Peterson is perhaps best known for her dedication in the fight against methamphetamine.

She co-founded the No Meth — Not in My Neighborhood Task Force.

Peterson is the third woman to be elected Salem mayor since the city incorporated in 1857.

She'll take the oath of office Jan. 1.

She will take over the helm amid a sputtering economy, high employment and budget cuts.

After serving four two-year terms as mayor, Taylor last year decided to not seek re-election.

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**Video: Chuck Bennett**