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Rep. Carla Piluso to Retire in 2020

Piluso calls legislative service her 'greatest honor'

SALEM – Rep. Carla Piluso (D-Gresham) announced today that she will not seek a fourth term to represent House District 50 in 2020.

“It’s been the greatest honor of my life to represent the people of House District 50. I’ll never stop serving this community, but after three terms, it’s time for me to let the next generation take the reins,” Rep. Piluso said.

Rep. Piluso, who will serve out the remainder of her term, was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 2014, representing a district that covers Gresham and parts of East Multnomah County. She has been a lead backer of policies to support women in the workplace, welcome immigrants and refugees, and end no-cause evictions. Rep. Piluso, who serves as the co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety, is known in Salem as a voice for smart investments in public safety.

“Carla is always fighting for the underdog, and she has never stopped insisting that our criminal justice system can and should do better for every Oregon,” said former House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland). “The dedication, experience, and heart she brings to Salem are simply irreplaceable.”

Rep. Piluso’s career in public service began in 1979 when she joined the Gresham Police Department as its second female police officer. Over the next 30 years, she worked her way up through the ranks, retiring as chief of police in 2008.

Both as a member of law enforcement and as a legislator, she has prioritized combatting domestic and sexual violence. Since the late 1990s, Rep. Piluso has been involved in organizing Gresham’s annual Domestic Violence Vigil.

“Rep. Piluso has been a tireless champion for East County and for our most vulnerable residents,” said Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann. “She has served as a role model and mentor for youth and especially women.”

Stegmann continued, “Her values, dedication and compassion have strengthened the foundation of our community, and I am honored to call her my friend. I wish her well in her retirement but know she’ll probably never really retire, as it’s in her core to always give back.”

Rep. Piluso will continue serving as a member of the Gresham Barlow School Board. She also serves on the board of the non-profit Human Solutions and is involved with several other local organizations, including the Gresham Historical Society and Soroptimist International of Gresham.

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