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Fairgoers want health care for all people

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Letter to the Editor: by Cheryl Simpson, La Grande

Last week, 164 people stopped by the Union County Democrats' booth at the fair to cast their votes on issues they believe would contribute to better futures for our generation and generations to come.

Each person had seven glass pebbles for voting. Thirty percent of the votes (338) were cast for "Health Care as a Human Right," declaring that it is a moral outrage for a country as wealthy as ours to leave 60 million people with no reliable access to health care and tens of millions more with inadequate or overly expensive coverage.

People said they are worried about the future and how they will access the care they need at a price they can afford.

The U.S. spends nearly twice as much as other high-income nations on health care but has lower life expectancy and worse health. The private U.S. insurance bureaucracy soaks up as much as one-third of all dollars spent on health care. Pharmaceutical interests over burden Americans through grossly inflated charges. Our health care system is broken. National efforts are not addressing issues of concern to millions of Americans.

We need universal, publicly funded health care, which would be provided by the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act (H.R. 676).

Oregon Rural Action's Health Care Reform Action Team is engaging Eastern Oregonians in conversations about how health care — or the lack of it — is impacting their quality of life. Health Care for All-Oregon is the statewide movement for universal, publicly funded health care (visit www.hcao.org.) You can be part of the action, If you have a story to share or want to participate, contact me at 541-663-6468.

Pebble Poll results for all issues are posted with photos on the Union County Democrats' website www.union.oregondemocrats.org. "Stopping Global Warming" received the second most votes in the poll taken at the county fair.

Join the Democrats for their monthly meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at Umpqua Bank, 1215 Adams Ave., La Grande. This moment in time calls for our best — join us.

Cheryl Simpson

Secretary and fair booth coordinator, Democratic Party of Union County

La Grande