

Primary

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Opponents to the open concept say that primaries are party affairs and that only a member of a party should vote on who its candidate should be.

"Oregon's two major parties do not pay the cost of our present primary elections — all the taxpayers do," said Frohnmayer.

"Not letting independents vote on who the candidates will be is a form of taxation, paying for the primary without representation, the choice," said Myers. "This system would give the voters a much greater choice. It will allow the other two groups to vote on each candidate and will bring more voters to the polls."

Klonoski disputed this, however, and said that Oregon draws more voters in its partisan primary than Washington under its open primary.

Washington and Alaska are the only states with an open primary system. Ten other states allow independents to choose either ballot in the primary, a notion defeated in the Oregon Legislature last year.

Another problem cited by the opposition is "raiding," a practice where one party votes for the other party's weakest candidate. This puts a strong candidate of one party against a weak candidate of the opposing party in the general election.

Myers said that national studies indicate that raiding does not happen often while Klonoski said that a recently completed doctoral thesis by a professor in Michigan indicates that it does.

Klonoski, citing the greater number of candidates on the Democratic primary ticket than Republican, feels that the open primary would give Republican contenders a better chance by drawing some Democratic votes while Republicans continue to vote their party.

"Just look at the Secretary of State race. There are five Democrats and one Republican running as major candidates. This is how the Republicans win positions," said Klonoski.

Eugene-area representatives fall on both sides of the controversy. Opposition from Democrats is nearly total while Republicans tend either way.

State Senator Ed Fadeley (D-Eugene) said that the open primary would further degrade the level of responsibility in state government by weakening the parties.

"On a long-range basis, it will finish off the very weak party structure that does exist," said Fadeley.

"While a majority of Oregon people like the idea at first blush and it seems to increase flexibility, it would destroy what little responsibility there is left in the party labels."

Regarding independents, Fadeley said that "if they do not

feel allied with a political party, they do not belong in the nominating process for that party. Would we want the Mexicans to vote in our election?"

Fadeley's wife, Nancie, is united with her husband in this opposition to the open primary plan. She is a representative from Eugene and a Democrat.

"It would not lead to good government and would be a boon to the Republicans," she said. "If a party doesn't agree with a person's philosophy, then he shouldn't decide who the nominee will be."

Sen. George Wingard, (R-Eugene), also opposes the open primary although many in his party favor it.

"We have a weak party system, it shouldn't be weakened further. Parties make better candidates. Republicans think this is going to be a great panacea, but I think it's going to be a 'Pandora's Box' for them," he said.

Wingard agrees with the Fadeleys that independents "ought to get with a party and work within the party."

Rep. Ted Kulongoski (D-Eugene) said that he wouldn't mind independents being able to choose one party's ballot in the primary, but opposes a totally open primary.

Kulongoski said that besides enhancing liberal Republicans' chances, it would promote raiding.

Rep. Mary Burrows (R-Eugene) supports the open primary move.

"There's a large number of students who are independents and it seems so sad that they are not able to vote in the primary. We are losing a large electorate, including a lot at the University, by not having an open primary."

Burrows doesn't see the plan as a great help to the Republicans.

"The Republican leadership is not that enthused," she said.

The Democratic Party of Oregon anticipates a campaign against the open primary measure if it reaches the ballot.

CPA seeks treasurer chair

Oregon's state treasurer manages a \$2 billion trust.

"It's hard for some people to realize how much that is," said treasurer candidate Jewel Lansing to a Demo Forum audience Monday. "It's the size of Howard Hughes' fortune."

The state trust is one of the largest financial institutions in Oregon. The treasurer supervises the investment of this money, administers the staff, serves on the state land board and records and accounts for all treasury actions.

"My opponent said that if he was elected he'd hire a bookkeeper," she said. "I think he's referring to my being an accountant."

Lansing, a Democrat, presently serves as Multnomah County auditor. If she is elected treasurer it will be the first time a certified public accountant has ever held the office.

And, with the primary a month away, she is optimistic. She told

her fellow Democrats that she was the overwhelming favorite in a recent straw ballot by Portland's precinct committee people.

As the state investment officer, Lansing would continue investing money at the highest interest and the lowest risk. She sees the treasurer as a financial leader in the state and doesn't want to be involved in issues that are not re-

lated to her office. But, she admits, many legislative programs have a fiscal impact on which she would have to judge the fiscal soundness.

She is satisfied with the state's current financial practices. She said the bonded indebtedness level is reasonable and that the legislature has been responsible in forming a group of people who can advise parties which issue bonds.

Lansing said she believes that the treasurer's office has carefully scrutinized the businesses to which the state loans money, and she believes this is important, saying "Nothing is worse for a community than a business going belly up a year later."

Lansing expects to spend one quarter of her time on the job of "keeping the land, guarding it for the future. There are a lot of decisions to be made on which rivers are navigable, who owns dry stream beds and whether to cut timber," she said.



Jewel Lansing

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Ex-student dies

A 22-year-old December graduate of the University was killed Sunday in a two-car accident near Salem.

Alexander Sahonchik, who had recently moved to Reedsport, died five hours after the 12:30 p.m. accident. Sahonchik graduated with a degree in journalism.

Police said Sahonchik was a passenger in a car driven by Cynthia Bethell, 20, of Salem. Neither she nor another passenger, Susan Shrock, 21, also of Salem, was seriously injured. Police say Sahonchik was apparently thrown from the car.

Both occupants of the other car escaped serious injury. No one was cited, according to sheriff's deputies.

Services for Sahonchik will be held 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Lounsbury-Musgrove Funeral Chapel, 1152 Olive.

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