

Secretary of State

Wilkins:

Would revise state auditing process, work for simpler election framework

By GREG WASSON
Of the Emerald

Caroline Wilkins' experience with statewide politics as State Chair of the Democratic Party didn't satisfy her political appetite; she wants to be Secretary of State.

"Through my work in the Democratic Party, I became aware of the increasing inefficiency in the office of Secretary of State as much as four years ago," Wilkins says. The office simply lacks a cohesive oversight, says Wilkins, "and I feel I can iron out the problems."

Among the problems Wilkins sees is auditing process done now by the Secretary of State's staff. "Currently, the audits being done are not useful to the Legislature or the Executive because of their timing. The audits and the budgets are completely out of whack."

Wilkins favors timing the audits better, to help the Legis-

lature and incorporating into the reports some type of performance audit.

"The Legislature itself is crying for this information. During the budget hearings, legislators don't have sufficient information to ask hard-hitting questions of the state agencies they're reviewing."

In the area of election administration, a job the constitution requires of the Secretary of State, Wilkins promises to work for a simple, understandable elections framework.

"Quite simply," Wilkins says, "I will see to it that the elections division of the Secretary's office is an efficient servant of the people of Oregon."

Like other Democratic contenders for the office, Wilkins is opposed to the cross-party primary being supported by Republicans around the state. "I think the Secretary of State should work to bring people

into the existing system," Wilkins says.

"Executive Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Wilkins is a Benton County Democrat who, for a time, taught at Oregon State University.



Caroline Wilkins

Paulus:

Three-term state rep says she's 'a real scrapper'

By BRAD LEMLEY
Of the Emerald

What this state needs is "a real scrapper" at the post of Secretary of State, says Norma Paulus, and she feels she fits the description.

A three-term state representative from Salem, Paulus feels she is qualified for the job because she has "developed a reputation for fighting for conservation of our natural resources" and, as Secretary of State, she would be a member of the State Land Board. She says her experience as a drafter of the Forest Practices Act and her general "legislative expertise" in this area would make her an effective member of the board. She adds that her legal background (she has practiced law in Salem since 1962) is also invaluable because "much of the land board's work is based on ownership and title disputes."

The Secretary of State is also the chief elections officer, having jurisdiction over all publications relating to elections, including the voters' guide. Paulus asserts that because she has served on two committees which draft election laws she is qualified in this area as well.

A third duty of the office is auditing all public accounts.

"An independent task force determined that there are several deficiencies in the system of auditing as it exists today," she says. "Every candidate is going to be talking about



Norma Paulus

changes that should be made, but I feel that the biggest change should be made in the area of regulating 'sensitive' public accounts, like the Children's Services Division, with greater regularity."

In general, Paulus believes that her "very thorough knowledge of the state system of agencies," and the fact that she is "recognized as one of the foremost people in the state who understands the bonding system" make her a logical choice for the job.

Kelting:

Says he would favor open primary and multi-lingual voter's pamphlet

By BRAD LEMLEY
Of the Emerald

John Kelting believes that one of the most important jobs of Oregon's Secretary of State is serving as the governor's back-up person.

"The Secretary of State functions more in the state as a lieutenant governor than as an administrator. He answers the press and the public because he has more time for that than the governor."

Kelting sees the policy-making aspect of the job as insignificant. "I don't think the Secretary of State really makes any policies. Of course, he sits on the state land board and the state education board, but it's really more of a case of having the policy already set."

As the state's chief elections officer, Kelting says he would favor an open primary. "It



John Kelting

would give the independents a right to vote," he says. "Anyway, I'd get more votes if the Democrats could vote in the Republican primary. Friends of mine have said that I was

the best Democrat the Republicans have."

He would also encourage publication of a multi-lingual voter's pamphlet. "I feel it (the pamphlet) should be printed in at least three of the major languages of the state," he says citing English, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese as possibilities. He would place the burden for coming up with translations on the non-English speaking people themselves, and feels that they would rise to the task, "simply out of pride."

Above all, Kelting feels it is important to get his political ambitions out in the open because, "everyone who gets involved in this lies. Yes, I'm going to run for governor. I'm running for Secretary of State now; I'll be running for Governor next. And as soon as I turn 35, I'm going to run for President."

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District Attorney

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