

# District Attorney

## Horton: Claiming his critics are badly misinformed, the D.A. boasts the highest efficiency in the U.S.

By TOM JACKSON  
Of the Emerald

Incumbent District Attorney Pat Horton is defending his past term in office from attacks from State Sen. Ed Fadeley as well as his opponents in the race.

He claims his critics are "badly misinformed." He claims the lowest rate of plea bargaining in the state is in Lane County, and he says that of felony cases going to court, 87 per cent ended in victories for the DA's office.

Horton also claims that the cost of operation for the DA's office has only increased seven per cent in the last year.

Citing the "cost-bill" program as an example of programs of the office which have

monetary returns, Horton says the apparent budget and the actual budget for the office differ greatly. The cost bill program charges convicted persons for the prosecution and is paid in monthly installments.

According to Horton, his opponents are "not aware of this, and they speak before they hear the facts."

He says his is "perhaps the most efficiently run DA's office in the country."

Regarding the issues of the campaign, Horton says that gun control "doesn't stop crime" and pointed to the laws of New York as an example of the ineffectiveness of controls.

Horton has concentrated his efforts in the area of narcotics investigation, the hard drug user and "hard core pusher."

Horton says the marijuana citation program which replaced the arrest program is a "fair, expeditious law." He says "the police were wasting their time with marijuana convictions. He adds that "it also decreased the jail population of people who shouldn't even be there in the first place. I don't regret for a minute that we made a commitment to the people to concentrate on hard drug cases."

Horton says the Lane Interagency Rape Team (LIRT) is a "great success" and cited the increase to 95 per cent convictions for rapists as evidence of the effectiveness of the law and LIRT. "More women now report rapes," says Horton.

Horton says the proposal for



Pat Horton

a public defender's office meets with his approval if it is "fiscally sound" and provides the defendant with "adequate representation." But he adds that defendants now get "a high quality of defense at a low cost to the taxpayers."

## Charles: Promising to raise the standard of the office, he says the D.A. has done a terrible job

By TOM JACKSON  
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John Charles, city prosecutor and attorney for Springfield, is running for the Lane County DA's seat on the promise of raising the standard of the office, improving prosecution, and enforcing all the laws.

Charles feels that Horton, the incumbent DA, has done an "extremely terrible job," and that he has created a "tremendous communication gap" between the DA's office and the police agencies.

Charles also criticizes his other opponent, Betty Browne. Browne, says Charles, is a "professional politician," and he feels she is "unqualified for the job."

Charles calls the county plan for a regional corrections

facility to relieve the crowded county jail "extremely impractical." He feels that a regional facility would result in transportation problems and less local control of the jails.

Charles would favor another jail facility, however. He says such a facility could be built at a cost of only \$15 per year per homeowner for 10 years. "We have to have a facility," says Charles, "because of the conditions in the jail now." He says the jail is operating at about 50 persons over capacity.

Charles is opposed to the proposal to form a single metropolitan police force. He says there would be a loss of local control and the "priorities would be reduced to the lowest jointly agreeable common denominator." This, claims Charles, would "reduce overall efficiency." He says it would

lead to "watered down crime control," and adds that "each community is unique."

Charles is "very much in favor" of the Lane Interagency Rape Team (LIRT). He says he would prefer to have women on the rape team. He would, however, decentralize LIRT because he does not "believe in roving teams because they are inefficient." He favors more local control for LIRT. Charles would also provide a legal advisor out of the DA's office, and would favor a "coordinator" who would also educate the public about the services of the team.

Charles also favors the proposal for a public defender's office. He says the staff of professionals would give more justice to the defendants and reduce the cost to the taxpayers.



John Charles

Charles says he is "law and prosecutor oriented." He wants to "make the DA's office a career and clean it up—make it as non-political as possible."

## Browne: Alleging increased and improper spending, she also cites the D.A. for lack of leadership

By TOM JACKSON  
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State Sen. Betty Browne is running for the Lane County District Attorney this year in spite of the fact that her term as state senator will not end for another two years. She said she will resign her senate post if elected to the DA's office.

Browne serves District 22, which includes all of Lane County except for the Eugene-Springfield area and part of Douglas County.

Much of Browne's campaign has been based on criticism of the incumbent DA Pat Horton.

"We need a DA who will stay home and do the job. I believe my experience as an attorney, a legal author, a deputy prosecutor, law enforcement instructor and chairman of the

Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee qualify me to do the job," says Browne.

Most of Browne's criticism is based on Horton's increase in salary and office expenditures, and also includes Horton's alleged spending of state money for personal gain.

Regarding the issues of the campaign, Browne says she believes the state penal system has a "poor record for rehabilitation." Browne says she supports the concept of a regional jail facility for first time offenders and non-violent offenders. She says they are more "effective because they are more selective."

Asked to comment on the feasibility of cooperation between agencies for a single metropolitan police force, Browne said she feels the single force could work under

the lead of the DA, and added that "there is not the leadership there should be for the police agencies."

The Lane Interagency Rape Team (LIRT) is "not effective at the present time," according to Browne. She feels there is not enough concern for the victims of rape and added that help should be available "24 hours per day." She also believes that there should be more convictions for perpetrators of rape. A specialist for trying rape cases should be added to the staff of the DA, she says.

Prosecutions for environmental cases should be handled by a specialist also, says Browne. The DA should play a more "meaningful role" in environmental prosecutions according to Browne.

Browne believes a public



Betty Browne

defender's office should also be established with some reservations. "I'd like to see one," she says "but mixed with private appointments. Until the public defender's office builds up a cadre of experienced defenders, judges should appoint someone they think is appropriate."