

## New registration laws fail to create anticipated snafu

Political folklore says liberal registration laws favor the Democratic Party. Efforts to make it easier to register have been opposed by Republicans and when mail-in registration and registration up to and including election day became state law, many Democrats viewed it as a victory.

But Eugene Democrat Gratten Kerans, who chaired the House Elections Committee last session, isn't sure the 4-year-old laws have really helped the Democratic party. Kerans admits those who register late usually register Democratic.

"However, that doesn't mean they're going to vote that way. There are very few straight ticket voters in this state and probably not one under 25."

Kerans says Democratic registration just doesn't aid individual candidates that much.

"I can think of legislative races where young Democratic candidates put on intensive voter registration drives and lost simply because all the people they registered voted for the other candidate."

Kerans says over 75 percent of Oregon's voters are currently registered and that statewide there are less than 200,000 eligibles not registered. He estimates that in Lane County there are between 15 and 20 thousand eligibles not registered.

"The numbers just aren't there," says Kerans, "to make massive registration drives for a particular cause valuable."

When Oregon first entered into mail registration there were only three other states that had similar laws. That number has now grown to 22 and Don Penfold, who directs Lane County's elections, predicts mail-in will soon become federally mandated.

Penfold says he has noticed two changes since Oregon approved mail-in registration in 1975.

"We get a lot more re-registration than we did previously. The other thing is that there are more people that register independent and non-partisan now than a few years back."

Three to five years ago, Penfold says, independents and non-partisans made up three to five percent of total registrants. Today he places that percentage at 12 to 15.

Penfold says fears of increased voter fraud under the mail-in system have proved unfounded. That concern reached its height during the 1976 Democratic Primary when California Gov. Jerry Brown staged a last minute write-in campaign.

"The Secretary of State made a very intense audit of that election and evidence of provable fraud was negligible. The amount of fraud we've been able to detect has not been substantial."

But, Penfold complains that the state is not paying its fair share of election costs.

"Counties are providing to the state a considerable service for which we are not reimbursed," he says. "The financial help we get from the state is really quite nominal. It doesn't nearly meet our costs."

## Straub says state needs land plan, new industries

By GREG WASSON  
Of the Emerald

Bob Straub is Oregon's sixth Democratic governor of the century. He was in Eugene Monday asking the Lane County Demo Forum to help give him the chance to return to the governor's office for a second four-year term.

Straub lauded his first four years, saying that surrounding himself with a good staff has been "one of the hallmarks of my administration."

He claims to have taken an energy program that was scattered and diverse and turning it into a "unified, make-sense kind of energy plan."

By appointing new directors of major state departments, like the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) and the Department of Environmental Quality, Straub says he has made those agencies more responsive.

And Straub is concerned that the LCDC be responsive. He says the state grew 26 percent faster last year than did California and that there will be an additional 1 million Oregon residents by the year 2,000.

"Either we're going to develop tools to control that growth or it's going to overwhelm us and destroy the beauty we all value so highly."

Straub says he is committed to having the state planned and zoned by the summer of 1980.

Straub drew a direct relationship between jobs and energy. He says he accepts the projection the state's energy needs will grow by three percent in the near future.

"We need new industry coming into the state and we need new electrical energy to feed the needs of new industry. Oregon stands on the threshold of having more good legislation dealing effectively and adequately with conservation than any other state in the nation. But still, that's not enough."

Straub estimates it takes 25 thousand new jobs each year to deal with graduates of Oregon's high schools and colleges and that he has set a goal of 30 to 35 thousand new jobs a year.

Turning from the economy, Straub feels the state should do what it can to deal with the human resources it has. He says Project Independence had kept 8,000 senior citizens out of nursing homes by providing part-time help. He also supports community corrections programs.

"Two-thirds of the people committed to our adult institutions are people who've never committed a crime before, people who are non-violent and people that can better be dealt with on the community level."

# Discrimination has no place in Eugene.

## Your vote will make the difference on Tuesday, May 23.

**VOTE**  
**NO**  
**ON 51**

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Salami (turkey)  
Ham Stick (turkey)  
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