

t'Hooft vs. Smith

# County hopefuls differ on growth

Analysis by JACK CONDLIFFE  
Of the Emerald

East Lane County voters should have a clear choice between moderate Lowell Mayor Bob Smith and conservative Otto t'Hooft for the county commissioner.

Smith, an Agripac supervisor, and county employee t'Hooft agree the main issue in their race is local control of land use and government decisions in general, but their approaches are significantly different.

T'Hooft favors passage of Ballot Measure 10, which virtually abolishes the state Land Conservation and Development Commission as a planning body with teeth. T'Hooft says Measure 10 allows more local control of land use planning decisions, and prefers the LCDC as an advisory body.

Smith opposes Measure 10, saying "I don't want a world created." The Lowell mayor does see changes ahead for the LCDC, but proposes that the board be half elected and half appointed, instead of its present structure, as a fully-appointed board. Smith was critical of acreage limitations which, for example, prohibit the owner of a twenty-acre lot from building a house for a son or daughter. He proposes removing acreage limitations.

The candidates also disagree on what the function of the Lane Council of Governments should be.

"The county should reduce its involvement in L-COG and do by itself any jobs it could do itself," says t'Hooft.

He says that county government is closer to the people and would do a better job of land use planning now done by L-COG.

Smith disagrees. "We need hard facts for any L-COG changes," he says. He criticized the present county commissioners for refusing to participate in a recent review of L-COG's functions. "There is very little duplication of functions," Smith says.

Smith says existing government structures allow for citizen involvement. Citizen involvement will work only if elected officials allow it to work, he adds.

Smith says the county commission threw citizen participation out the window in the case of CETA. The county Commission recently overhauled the Employment and Training Advisory Committee's (ETAC) recommendations for CETA jobs.

"The county has again ruined its credibility with citizen input," Smith says. "Here are citizens who spent countless hours with staff to make their recommendations. People ask, 'Why the hell should we participate?' The county commission should have paid attention to the majority of what the ETAC committee said," Smith says.

Smith has two goals if he is elected. He wants to establish a sunset ordinance for county

agencies which would phase out those agencies automatically unless the commission felt the agency was essential. He also wants to reestablish a county general administrator, which the present commission abolished a year and a half ago.

T'Hooft has no specific goals except that he wants "to see government work." He criticized the present county commission for being excessively divided.

T'Hooft plans to spend \$10,000 on his campaign, while Smith predicts expenditures of \$4,000.

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