

General Election 78 ASUO Ballot Measure Endorsements

People's Utility Districts (PUD's) #4 YES

People's Utility Districts are local units of government set up to provide public utility services including electricity and water. Measure #4 makes it easier to form PUD's, which in turn can buy power from Bonneville Power Administration more cheaply. This will bring lower utility rates to affected customers.

Denturism #5 YES

This measure would authorize the practice of denture technology and establish a program to certify and license denture technicians and denturists. Under present Oregon law, only licensed dentists may take impressions of the human mouth, make, fit or repair dentures. Passing this measure would give the patient a choice and could reduce the cost of dentures. Also, a denturist must meet set standards by the State Division of Health, and a patient's safety is assured by the requirement that a dentist certify the health of a patient's mouth.

Property Taxes #6 NO

The ASUO discourages the California-style Proposition #6 which would reduce Oregon property taxes to 1.5% of their value. This type of across-the-board tax cut would cause a raise in other taxes (state income tax, etc.). Local control would be lost and many valuable programs (such as renter's rebate) would be discontinued.

Abortion #7 NO

The ASUO opposes this measure which, if passed, would cut off all state expenditures for abortions. Needy women would be denied their constitutional right to choose abortion as an alternative to pregnancy. There would be no funding for abortions going to victims of rape or incest. There would be no exceptions, even for a deformed fetus, or to preserve the life of the mother. This measure will not change the legality of abortions. It simply denies poor people the right to have them.

Public Utility Rates #9 YES

Ballot Measure #9 would prohibit utilities to charge consumers for construction costs unless such property is providing service to customers. Rate payers should not have to pay for the economic risk of a new plant; stockholders should bear that burden. This measure will slow the rate of rising utility costs.

Land Use Planning #10 NO

The ASUO is a strong proponent of land-use planning and zoning. This measure, if passed, would nullify the current Land Conservation and Development guidelines. Therefore it would hamper and disrupt all progress made thus far in land-use planning.

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state rep races

District 39

Grattan Kerans: Democrat

State Rep. Grattan Kerans, D-Eugene, has represented the Bethel and River Road areas for four years. In that time he has amassed considerable influence in the Legislature.

In his second term, Kerans was named chair of the House Elections Committee and was elected Democratic Majority Whip by his fellow party members. This year, Kerans is expected to seek the position of Democratic Majority Leader.

Kerans is strongly pushing Ballot Measure 11. "It is the key element in the next legislative session and the key element in my race," he says.

Kerans has assumed the task of becoming a tax expert in the Legislature. During the Legislature's recent special session, Kerans was on the joint legislative committee which helped shape Measure 11, the Legislature's alternative to Measure 6, before the session. He continued to be influential as the session proceeded.

In the 1977 session, Kerans was one of the prime movers of Renter Relief Program (HARRP) which benefits low income families, including many students and senior citizens.

He is concerned that Measure 6 will greatly hurt the state's bonding capacity, because prop-

erty taxes will no longer be based on the true cash value of a home. Oregon currently saves a significant amount of money because Oregon's bond interest rates are very low. Uncertainty caused by Measure 6's impacts could cause those rates to rise.

Another tax issue in the race between Kerans and opponent Gary Wright is the state's inheritance tax. Kerans strongly opposed phasing out this tax. Wright says that the phase-out will greatly assist small business owners who want to leave a business to a spouse or child.

On another issue, nuclear power, Kerans takes a hardline stance against the construction of any new nuclear power plants. Proponents of nuclear power, he says, "did not consider the cost of decommissioning." He also says nuclear power is uneconomical and has a terrible safety record.

On the two energy related ballot measures, Kerans supports Measure 4 simplifying election procedures to establish People's Utility Districts (PUD's). "The current law is a trick on the taxpayers," he says.

He also supports Measure 9, to prohibit utilities from charging consumers for the construction costs of thermal power plants before they are completed. If passed, company stockholders will have to bear the costs of con-

struction.

Kerans takes a dim view of continued use of herbicides. He says he favors a ban on the use of 2,4-D, and 2,4,5-T which contain dioxin, suspected to cause miscarriages in pregnant women.



Grattan Kerans

A late blooming issue in the Kerans-Wright race is Kerans' charge at an October 25 press conference that campaign literature issued by Wright is "innuendo, distortion and outright smears." Kerans refuted the literature's statements item by item.

Gary Wright: Republican

Gary Wright, a republican who lost to Rep. Grattan Kerans in 1976, says "he's better prepared this time around."

Wright points to his involvement in community activities as an example of why he's more prepared. Wright is a member of two Lane County advisory bodies, including the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission. He is also active in the Santa Clara neighborhood group.

The major issue in this District 39 race is tax reform. Wright claims Kerans has switched his position from 1976, when he says Kerans talked about increasing state services and now has jumped on the tax revolt band wagon.

Both candidates favor passage of Measure 11 over Measure 6.

Wright is critical of Kerans' support of the Homeowner and Rental Relief Program — which refunds part of their yearly rent to renters. Wright says he favors refunding the money directly to the homeowners instead of renters.

Wright also endorses a phasing out of the state's estate tax, saying it will assist small business owners who want to leave their businesses to their relatives.

Wright says he opposes making any cuts in the higher education budget, but adds that he "doesn't really know" what to cut.

He is not supportive of the proposed RARE II wilderness areas calling it an example of going "overboard." He endorses a stepped-up reforestation program in Oregon. "We aren't doing enough. Oregon is trees, right? Let's insure that for the next 20 years."

Conservation of energy is where the Legislature should concentrate on in the upcoming session he says. He is critical of nuclear power, and says that "We've used up just about all the hydroelectricity we can."

Wright, an office manager for a real estate firm, says he supports continued use of herbicides with strict controls.

He opposes ballot Measure 9 — which would prohibit utilities from charging ratepayers for the cost of construction in progress. "The utilities' ability to accumulate enough capital is already handicapped," he says.

Wright is against Ballot Measure 10 saying that although there are problems in land-use planning in Oregon, it is essential to preserving the

quality of life in Oregon.

He says that 50,000 acres of fields burned a year, which is the federal standard, is enough. "We just get to change the way they burn those fields,"



Gary Wright

Whether Wright holds the key to election the second time around depends, of course, on the voters. But Wright is spending twice as much as his opponent in hopes to gather votes this time around.