

New state rep proposes voter restrictions

By JIM ALLEN
Of the Emerald

A bill that would force Oregon voters to register at least 30 days before each election is already in the works, says state Rep. Bill Rogers, R-Vida.

Rogers, who won re-election to the District 44 seat Tuesday, says "There are a lot of citizens who don't feel people should be able to register so soon before each election," and adds that he will sponsor a registration measure in the 1979 Legislature.

Rogers advocates a bill that would reinstate the voter registration laws in effect before the 1975 Legislature, when voters were required to establish residency and

Residency, 30-day limit may affect student voting bloc

be registered at least 30 days before each election.

Currently, Oregon is one of only six states with a final-day registration program.

Rogers also hopes to curb the number of out-of-state voters casting ballots in Oregon elections.

"People come in here from out of state and vote in our elections," Rogers claims. "Many of the people I've talked to in my district, and I tend to agree with them, don't feel these people should be able to vote here."

"The bill I would propose would prevent outsiders from voting within this area," Rogers explains.

When asked about the effect the bill would have on student voter registration at the University, Rogers says he doesn't know what effect the bill might have on student voter registration, but adds he "might propose legislation to deal with that."

Emerson Hamilton, Eugene Chamber of Commerce president, agrees with Rogers.

"I don't think this bill would cause any problems," says Hamilton, whose group is aiding Rogers. "People would recognize the deadline and would register before then."

Hamilton complains many peo-

ple have tried to get absentee ballots at the Lane County Courthouse and have tried to get absentee ballots at the Lane County Courthouse and been held up by the long lines of people trying to register. He is "concerned" about the potential effect on students and may instead back only a 20-day rollback for registration.

Even a 20-day rollback would be a great blow to student voters, says Jeff Warren, ASUO vice president for state and federal affairs.

"This bill is aimed primarily at students," says Warren. "The combination of the 30-day limit and the ban on out of state voters would severely cripple student voting power. Students don't vote the way the Chamber of Commerce wants them to, and that's why it's being pushed."

During the 1978 campaign, the ASUO registered almost 4,000 student voters, including several hundred during October. Almost 30 percent of University students are from out of state and would be prohibited from voting under Rogers' bill.

"Students at the University are among the luckiest in the country," says Warren. "In some states, students cannot vote at all."

"I think the bill can be stopped if the students organize with us (the ASUO) during the next session," he adds. "If the Legislature continues to be dominated by Democrats, there's a good chance the bill will be stopped."

For that reason, Warren is concerned about Tuesday's election of Republican Victor Atiyeh to the

governorship.

"If Straub had been re-elected, there's a good chance he would have vetoed the bill," says Warren.

Warren has already enlisted the support of the Oregon Student Lobby to fight the bill next year. In its Oct. 22 meeting at the Rode-way Inn, the OSL voted to make opposition to Rogers' bill a "top priority" during the next legislative session.

While Warren is concerned about the measure, Don Penfold, Lane County Elections director, is strongly in favor of the new bill.

"I'm a strong advocate of any type of legislation in this area," says Penfold, who feels the current system "jeopardizes the integrity of the entire election system."

"The biggest problem we have is that the election staff only has a certain number of people," he says. "If most of the staff is busy registering people right up to the election, it would take their time away from the election itself."

Penfold cites the example of a recent election in Alaska, where election officials were unsure over the winners of several political races and ballot measures.

Like Rogers and Hamilton, Penfold doesn't think the earlier registration limit would hurt registration.

"Everyone has easy access to the election process through the registration-by-mail program," he says. "Oregon has one of the easiest voter registration setups in the nation right now, but you'll always have a certain segment of the population registering at the last minute. The people will still register, but it will just occur 30 days before the election."

Affirmative

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might have contact with the problem.

"A few years ago in the journal of the Modern Language Association, the most prestigious journal of its type, there was created an ethnic subdivision. But that's all but dead now, a victim of the insidious backlash to affirmative action that has swept the country," Coleman says.

Coleman says the end of the subdivision was an example of what he says is a "slippage" in the commitment to affirmative action policies.

"Here we used to have nine full-time black faculty, now we have four," he says.

But Coleman doesn't think the administration has actively conspired to keep minorities from gaining tenure. If there is a conspiracy, he says, "It's a conspiracy of ignorance of the built-in barriers of the academic system as it relates to blacks."

Rousseve says there were many reasons for the exodus of black faculty members from the campus, including disenchantment with Eugene because of its lack of ethnic communities, the chance for better opportunities elsewhere, and a failure on the part of individual professors to meet the expectations of the University.

But Carter says the University is

a "very discouraging place."

"In the academic world, there are informal networks of communication that you must use," he says. "Here there is resistance to allowing entry to those networks, and information is a scarce commodity."

Vice Provost Robert Albrecht, who oversees tenure, recruiting and hiring practices of the University, says he can't explain why the University is falling behind in its number of minority professors.

"I can't give general reasons, because we don't treat minorities as a group," Albrecht says. "This office reviews people equally on the basis of teaching and publications. Exceptions are not made."

Both Coleman and Carter agree that the University is doing something wrong in its recruiting and hiring programs.

"The University doesn't have the kind of reputation that should frighten blacks away," Coleman says. "In fact, universities that do have bad reputations with blacks, some of those in the South for example, have better affirmative action programs than ours."

Coleman says few blacks live in Oregon and that those who move to the state face a severe cultural readjustment.

"The big problem isn't racism," he says. "It's in the recruiting methods."

Coleman claims the University doesn't know what it's looking for, doesn't know how to deal with

black people, and sometimes isn't even serious about its affirmative action hiring program.

"They bring in an applicant and different administrators tell him different things about salary and what the University expects of him or her," says Coleman.

Carter says he negotiated over salary during his period of recruitment, but still took a pay loss in order to come here. Later he was told he had been made a good offer by University standards.

Rousseve says he realizes the University has a problem offering competitive salaries, but that he opposes offering minorities higher salaries.

Albrecht recognizes the problem of salaries, but offers no solution.

Recruiters don't take the process seriously, Coleman contends. "They'll bring in an unqualified person knowing he's unqualified, interview him, announce he's been found to be unqualified, and then say, 'But at least we fulfilled our affirmative action obligation, at least we looked at him.'"

Coleman says that only qualified blacks are ultimately hired, but, like Carter, he feels that once hired blacks often become discouraged because of limited opportunities for advancement to move on.

As a result, he adds, there's no sense of permanence or commitment at the University.

Corrections, amplifications

A meeting to organize those people interested in Elizabeth Prophet's teachings will be held on Monday, Nov. 20.

The meeting will be held at the Lane County Conference Center, formerly the Willamette Christian Center, 1330 Madison St. The Willamette Christian Center has moved to 2500 W. 18th Ave.

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