

Kulongoski, Packwood take Senate race



Ted Kulongoski

Emerald photo

Tuesday's Senate race held no surprises, as both Republican Bob Packwood and Democrat Ted Kulongoski won landslide victories.

Packwood, a 12-year veteran, garnered 62 percent of the vote, finishing ahead of runner-up Brenda Jose, who took 15 percent.

Kulongoski's main opponent, Charles Porter, was second with 21 percent of the vote, while Jack Sumner of Hepner finished third at 14 percent.

"Ted's feeling is that it is going to be a real horse race between him and Packwood," said Marv Fjordbeck, Kulongoski's press aide. "It's going to be a close race."

Packwood was surprised at his large victory margin since he spent little money on primary campaign advertising, according to Craig Smith, Packwood's campaign manager.

After his victory was guaranteed, Kulongoski challenged Packwood to seven debates around the state before

the November general election. Smith said Packwood will debate, but declined to say when and where the senator will take on Kulongoski.

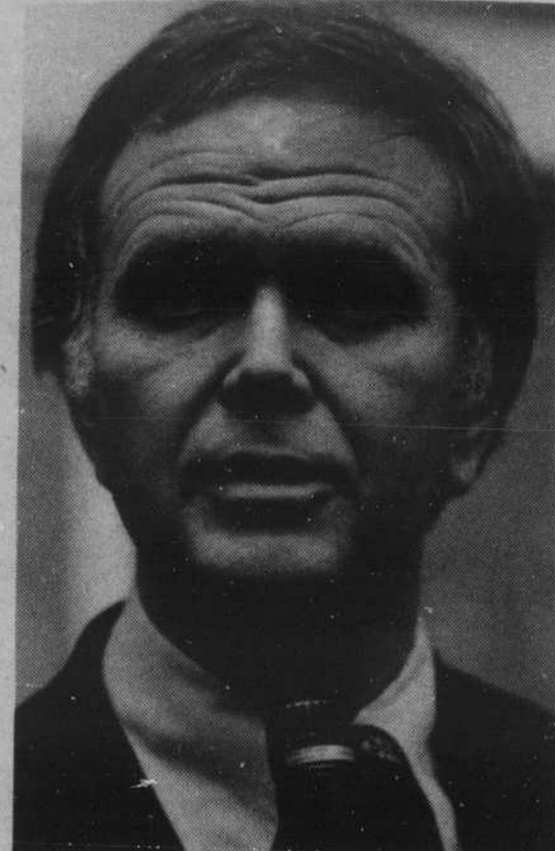
"I believe that holding the debates throughout the state would best facilitate voter decisions in all regions of Oregon," Kulongoski said.

Smith said Packwood's first goal for the primary election campaign is to "get the issues out early."

Jose and Huss, Packwood's strongest opponents, accused the senator throughout the campaign of liberal voting in the Senate. Packwood is best known for his support of abortion rights.

Kulongoski and Porter, both Eugene attorneys, agreed on almost every issue during the campaign.

Packwood holds positions on the Senate finance and banking committees. He has raised more than \$1 million to finance his campaign — a state record.



Bob Packwood

Emerald photo

Weaver, Fitzgerald take party primaries

Incumbent Jim Weaver sailed to victory Tuesday over weak opposition from self-proclaimed "workers' candidate" John

Newkirk in the Democratic 4th Congressional District primary. Republican Mike Fitzgerald also easily defeated his opponent,

Rutledge Jay.

With 94 percent of the precincts counted Weaver, a three-term Congressman, gar-

nered 74 percent of the vote to Newkirk's 26 percent, while Fitzgerald scored 77 percent to Jay's 23 percent.

"I am grateful, first of all, to the people who turned out to make our campaign successful," Fitzgerald said at his Rodeway Inn election-night headquarters. "And I want to thank the voters who turned out in such great numbers."

Fitzgerald predicted he would face stiff opposition from Weaver in the general election.

"You bet I'm going to have a problem with Mr. Weaver," he said.

Fitzgerald accused Weaver of presenting himself as a conservative in the 4th district while voting as a liberal in Washington. Fitzgerald also denied that his extensive ties with the timber

industry would hurt him in November.

"This is a timber economy here, and it needs to be represented in Congress," Fitzgerald said.

Weaver, a traditional liberal, was unavailable for comment. His victory was no surprise, since Newkirk, a political unknown, waged only token opposition.

Fitzgerald, a Curry County commissioner, is a former advertising executive from San Diego.

With 463 of 493 precincts reporting, Weaver led Newkirk 59,054 to 19,856, while Fitzgerald led Jay 41,596 to 12,541.

The economy and unemployment should be the predominant issues in the general election campaign.

Voters approve Lansing, Myers in treasurer race

In Tuesday's state treasurer primary race, Republican incumbent Clay Myers and Democrat Jewel Lansing decisively beat their respective opponents, Republican George Wingard and Democrat Jason Boe.

Myers beat Wingard by a vote of 123,990 to 87,799.

"My race is going great," Myers said in a telephone interview before the final results were in. "I had been predicting between 53 and 59 percent to Bob Packwood as we sat in the whirlpool, listening to the election returns."

Of his defeat, Wingard said, "I tried to get across the point that he wasn't a good (money) manager, but the people just weren't responsive."

But Wingard doesn't feel his race was a total failure.

"I don't know if my campaign failed or Myers' was just successful," he said, adding that Myers had 90-percent name familiarity to his 27 percent.

Wingard will continue his two-year term as state senator and says he is "looking forward to new leadership in the Senate," now that Jason Boe is no longer senate president.

Myers will face Democrat Jewel Lansing in November's general election.

Lansing, Myers' opponent in the 1976 general election, Tuesday received 00,000 votes to Boe's 00,000.

Alyse Lansing, Jewel Lansing's daughter and press aide, said her mother was "really tickled and excited" about the results and "feels much stronger now" than she did in 1976.

Her background as a certified public accountant and as five-year Multnomah County Auditor qualify her for the state treasurer post, she said.

Because all Oregon's land and mineral rights come under the state land board's jurisdiction, Lansing said serving on the board is one of the treasurer's primary responsibilities. She proposes creating an agency to coordinate federal and state policy on state lands because "so many of the lands fall between the cracks" of state and federal agencies.

Because of the speculative nature of Myers' controversial stand-by commitments, Lansing would change the administrative regulations to disallow those types of commitments.



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