

Paulus says 'buried bones' key to economic efficiency

By Duane Dungannon
Of the Emerald

Republican gubernatorial candidate Norma Paulus believes state government will regain the trust of Oregonians only when it manages to "do more with less," she said.

Paulus, former secretary of state, supported the 1985 referendum to implement a state sales tax but now believes voters will not approve any additional taxes until government sets its priorities and reduces spending.

Paulus believes she has the insight to make government operate more efficiently, she said.

"I know where all of the bones are buried," she said. "I want to change the direction of the way things are going economically."

Although Paulus advocates controls on spending, she does not support any of the ballot measures to provide revisions in the tax structure.

"I'm opposed to all of them," she said. "I think Measure 9 would be devastating to our school system, and the homestead exemption would result in higher income taxes."

"I also oppose the sales tax," she said, referring to Ballot Measure 7, which would create a 5 percent sales tax.

Paulus also stated her opposition to Ballot Measure 5, the initiative which would legalize personal use of marijuana for adults if passed.

Paulus opposed the construction of the Trojan nuclear plant at the time it was being built, she said, but she believes closing the plant would result in higher utility rates for Oregonians.

A major focus of the Paulus campaign has been an emphasis on support for education.

Paulus recognizes the problem presented by limited funds for higher education in the face of record enrollments at state universities, including the University, she said.

To deal with the issue of stretching the educational budget, Paulus recommends legislators and university officials adopt "a system of priorities."

"I hear legislators saying, 'We took care of higher education last year,' referring to money allocated from the lottery. That worries me, because that was just the first step," she said.

Diane Landers, her campaign manager, said Paulus has assumed "a focus based on the reality of what state budgets



Norma Paulus

are," noting she does not foresee substantial increases in funding for higher education in "the short term."

Landers said that "a top priority for Paulus is keeping tuition affordable, and that's based on personal experience."

Paulus, who faced financial difficulties when attending college, vowed that she would "do everything possible to keep tuition down."

In addition, Paulus "would do everything possible to make financial assistance available to needy students," she said.

Paulus proposed offering tuition discounts to students willing to participate in civic work programs.

Underlining her support for Oregon's public school system, Paulus stated her opposition to

offering tuition tax credits to parents enrolling their children in private schools.

"I believe that a system of providing tuition tax credits would weaken our public education system," she said.

The Paulus campaign boasts "a wide diversity of support," according to Landers. Landers explained that Paulus has received endorsements from the Oregon Women's Caucus; Oregonians Protecting Our Water, an environmental group that made Paulus its only Republican endorsement; and the National Rifle Association.

Paulus echoed Landers' remarks, adding, "Every business organization that endorses candidates has endorsed me."

"I feel very positive about the campaign," she concluded.




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AFTERNOON SEMINARS:
"Peace Corps in Jamaica"
Tues., Nov. 4
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
EMU, Room 108
"Peace Corps Opportunities World Wide"
Wed., Nov. 5
3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
EMU, Forum Room

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EVENING SEMINAR:
"An Evening In Nepal"
Mon., Nov. 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
EMU, Room 101

SCHEDULED INTERVIEWS:
Nov. 18-19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
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