

EWEB seats up for grabs

Two seats on the Eugene Water and Electric Board are up for grabs in today's city election.

Running for Wards Four and Five are Jack Delay, a former

mer EWEB commissioner, Susie Smith, and incumbent Randall "Randy" Thwing.

Solin and Thwing have been the targets of a recent recall campaign because of their part in the firing of former EWEB general manager Jean Reeder. The recall will be on a special June ballot, and if successful, will end the current terms of Thwing and Solin before the natural expiration in December.

Applications are also being accepted until Friday for one other EWEB seat due to the death of board member Richard Freeman. The position will be appointed by the EWEB board rather than through an election. The board has 90 days from Freeman's death to fill the position.



Eugene city councilman, and incumbent Dennis Solin.

One at-large seat is being contested by Jack Craig, a former

Oil, gas exploration receives little support

PORTLAND (AP) — A federal proposal to allow offshore oil and gas exploration in the Pacific Northwest has few supporters outside the oil industry, according to testimony at a congressional subcommittee hearing.

The House Interior and Insular Affairs subcommittee on water, power and offshore energy resources was also told that state officials are joining environmental, fishing and tribal leaders in support of proposed bans on offshore drilling.

The subcommittee, which met Friday in Seattle, held its second Northwest hearing Saturday in Portland on two bills that would ban oil leases on the outer continental shelf.

One bill, the National Ocean Protection Act, would ban oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters outside the Gulf of Mexico and buy back leases off the Florida Keys and in Bristol Bay, Alaska. The other would ban drilling off Oregon and Washington.

President Bush and Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan support domestic oil exploration as a way to reverse the nation's increasing reliance on foreign sources.

Lujan had planned to offer Northwest oil leases for sale in 1992, but is now considering a delay until 1998 so that environmental studies can proceed first.

However, Rep. Denny Smith, R-Ore., said the Northwest Coast should be permanently off-limits to oil exploration.

"We don't think there's any upside potential to justify the downside risk," Smith said at the hearing in Portland.

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., sponsor of the bill to ban drilling off the Northwest Coast, said the Interior Department and oil companies are ignoring environmentally sound alternatives to oil development.

"The choice isn't between offshore drilling or more imported oil," he said. "Let's build really efficient cars."

Gail Achterman, natural resources adviser to Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, told the panel that a prohibition on drilling is merely one step toward proper management of ocean resources.

"Citizens all across the country are alarmed with the visible degradation of the oceans and marine life," she said.

Oregon is developing a comprehensive approach to ocean issues. A state task force has found that Oregon needs to protect resources such as fish before considering any oil development.

Lujan is reviewing a plan devised by a Northwest regional task force that would give the governors and Indian tribes veto rights over drilling proposals. Ed Cassidy, deputy director of the U.S. Minerals Management Service, an arm of the Interior Department, said the proposal could have far-reaching implications imperiling the nation's offshore oil leasing program.

"Oregon and Washington are in a very strong bargaining position," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., chairman of the subcommittee. "If their governors are opposed, I suspect we'll follow the status quo, which is a moratorium."

Sales tax among host of state ballot measures in elections

Among the issues voters will face in today's election are a set of state ballot measures, one of which asks voters if they would support a sales tax as a way to finance primary and secondary schools.

Five sections of Measure 5 are advisory votes that will be referred to the state Legislature.

Measure 5A asks voters whether they believe the current system of school financing should be changed.

Oregon schools get about 57 percent of their money from local property taxes. About 30 percent of school operating cost comes from the General Fund, which comes mainly from income taxes.

Measure 5B asks whether voters would support a personal income tax increase that would reduce school operating property taxes, while Measure 5C asks whether they would support an income tax increase that would eliminate the school property tax.

If voters approve Measure 5D, it would send the Legislature a statement of support of a 4 percent sales tax to reduce school operating property taxes. Measure 5D is an advisory vote for support of a 5 percent sales tax to eliminate the school property tax.

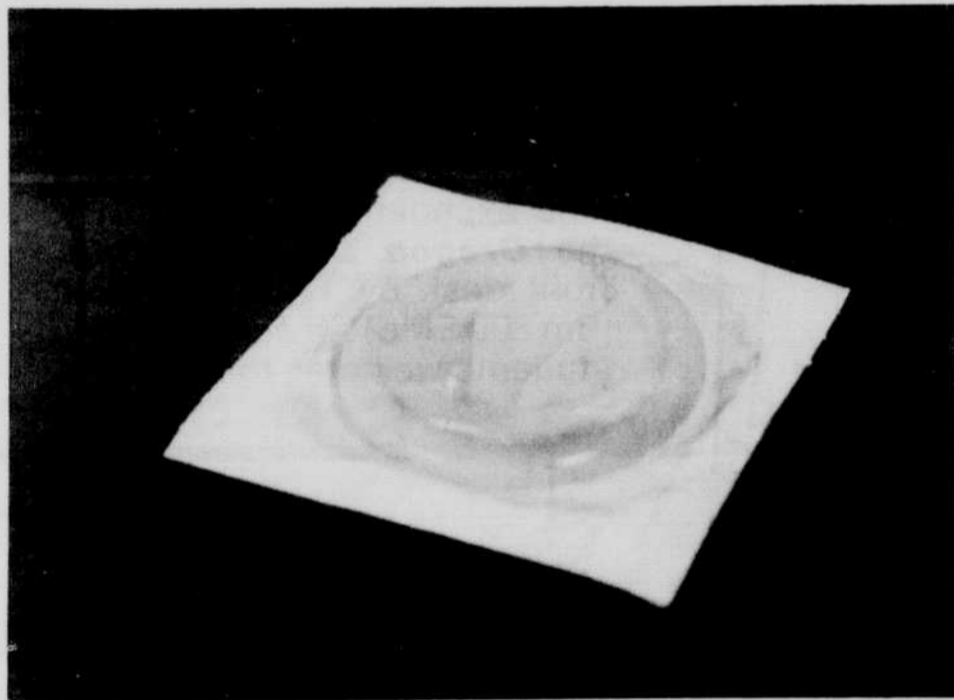
Three other state measures are on today's ballot.

If Measure 1 is passed, the state constitution would be amended to allow county voters to authorize motor vehicle tax revenues for mass transit facilities and vehicles.

Measure 2 asks whether the state constitution should authorize the use of pollution and waste control bond proceeds for related activities, in addition to using the proceeds to finance facilities.

Measure 3 asks whether the state Legislature should meet annually instead of biennially. The measure would limit the length of session to 135 days in odd-number years and 45 days in even-number years.

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