

# COMMUNITY

## Hill, Walters vie for Senate seat

Incumbent and challenger offer voters distinct choice

By John Clarke Jr.  
Emerald Contributor

Democratic incumbent Larry Hill and Republican challenger Ralf Walters find themselves differing on just about every political issue in Oregon.

In their bid for Senate District 21, which encompasses southeast Eugene, the University area and all of Springfield, the two find themselves in sharp contrast with each other.

Hill, a one-term senator who previously spent four years in the House, said he focuses mainly on what he believes voters are most interested in: property tax and public school funding. But Walters, a strong proponent of Ballot Measures 8 and 10, said his "number one issue" is abortion — a clear example of the wide rift between the two candidates.

Measures 8 would prohibit abortions except in cases of rape, incest or to protect the life of the mother, and Measure 10 would mandate parental notification before an abortion could be performed on a minor.

Walters, a Springfield resident new to state politics, said that he wants to be viewed as a "pro-family, respect-for-life candidate."

"It's hypocritical to stand behind issues on the environment like the spotted owl, drift-net fishing, saving the whales, or the diminishing forests of Oregon and not see that abortion is a form of murder, and that the unborn child is just as important as any other environmental issue," Walters said. "We need to respect life on all levels."

"Abortion is not only bad for women, but it also drains valuable tax dollars that go to social service," Walters said. Oregon's tax dollars could be put to a more useful cause, he said, listing funding for research to create more effective forms of birth control as an alternative.

"The solution does not only lie in the argument between the right-to-life and pro-lifer," he said. "That just avoids the real problem. We do not need this argument. We need a solution, and I believe the root of the problem is birth control."

But Hill is quick to disagree. "I'm for the woman's rights," he said, adding that he is opposed to the two abortion-limiting measures on the Nov. 6 ballot.

"I'm 100 percent pro-choice — women should

### BIOGRAPHY

#### Ralf Walters

Candidacy: State Senate  
District 21

Party: Republican

Age: 42

Home: Springfield

Occupation: music and performance rights licensing representative; co-hosts weekly family finance radio show broadcast locally

Background: B.S. from Southern Illinois University in journalism and American history; licensed securities and commodities broker



#### Larry Hill

Candidacy: State Senate  
District 21

Party: Democrat

Age: 40

Home: Springfield

Occupation: owner of Springfield-area door and small wood-products construction company

Background: state senator since 1986; state representative, 1982-86



decide about their reproductivity, not the government," Hill said.

He said if abortion is prohibited, the law would infringe upon the rights of women, and that drastic repercussions would follow.

"If you ban abortion," Hill said, "you drive it underground, which is unsafe. We know that from history."

Hill and Walters are also at odds when it comes to property tax limits and Ballot Measure 5, which would limit property taxes for public schools and government functions to \$25 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning in 1991 and calls for lower limits thereafter.

Walters said he is in favor of it, while Hill is opposed to it. "I'm for Measure 5 because of the fact that we (Oregon) are known as 'tax hell,'"

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