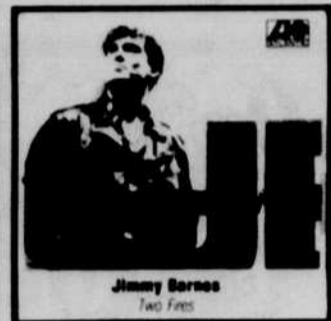


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Big divide marks District 40 race Walsh hopes to unseat majority leader

By Joe Kidd
Emerald Politics Editor

Paula Walsh, in her first political race against state House Majority Leader Carl Hosticka, typed and copied her own campaign flyers at home.

And while Hosticka is spending \$6,000 to \$7,000 on campaigning and giving financial leftovers to other Democratic candidates, Walsh, a Republican, is giving out stacks of paper door-knob hangers that she cut out in her garage with a bandsaw.

Such are the minor differences in the race for the House seat in South Eugene's District 40. The candidates' political views create an even greater divide.



Walsh, a Republican precinct committeewoman who presents herself as "a homeowner and taxpayer who knows that property taxes are too high," has taken on the role of underdog. She is hoping to use it to her advantage in an attempt to unseat the four-term Democratic incumbent.

And even though the two take differing positions on such high-profile issues as property taxes, abortion and higher education funding, Hosticka sees Walsh's inexperience as the biggest advantage for him. "My breadth of experience and range of contact is the main difference (between us)," he said.

Indeed, both their political resumes and their political leanings offer voters a wide array of choices.

Property tax-limiting Ballot Measure 5 is a perfect example. Walsh says she wholeheartedly supports the initiative, while Hosticka views it as a weapon of destruction.

"The reason I'm going to vote for it is because I'm tired of (the Legislature) ignoring the issue," Walsh said. "It's not even a good issue or a bad issue. It's a mad issue, because voters are angry, and they are saying to the Legislature, 'Do something. You've had all this time.'"

Hosticka, on the other hand, calls it a "scorched-earth approach" to solving the state's high property tax problems. "The idea (behind Measure 5) is that you flatten everything in sight and hope the future will fix it."

Walsh said the property tax issue is the main reason she decided to run against Hosticka. "I bought a home in 1984. Property taxes on it have doubled since then," she said. If Measure 5 is passed, Walsh believes reduced government

BIOGRAPHY

Paula Walsh

Candidacy: State representative, District 40

Party: Republican

Age: 66

Home: Eugene

Occupation: Business consultant

Background: Republican precinct committeewoman; former radio station manager; former owner of Secretary Pro Tem and Newcomers Service of Lane County

Carl Hosticka

Candidacy: State representative, District 40

Party: Democrat

Age: 46

Home: Eugene

Occupation: Associate professor of public affairs and associate vice president for statewide educational services at the University

Background: State representative 1983-present; House Majority Leader 1990-present



spending and other types of taxes could offset the millions of dollars that would be lost to the initiative.

"I am for more income tax on higher incomes and corporations," she said. "And I'm for taking another look at (eliminating) income tax breaks."

While Hosticka agrees that some way must be found for reducing property taxes, he believes the impact of Measure 5 would be difficult to solve.

The abortion issue is also a dividing line between the candidates. While both Walsh and Hosticka oppose abortion-limiting Measure 8, Walsh said she is supportive of Measure 10, which would require parental notification before a minor could receive an abortion.

"The key word there is 'child,'" she said. "I will vote yes on Measure 10. I'm middle of the road there."

Hosticka, however, said his position is "iron clad" on both measures. He views this issue the same way most of his constituents do, he said. "District 40 is overwhelmingly in favor of women's rights to choose."

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B&L Sensitive Eyes Saline	12 oz.	1.99	2.99	2.99	2.09	2.19
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Boston Gas Perm Cleaning Solut.	1 oz.	4.00	6.39	7.03	5.13	6.67
Boston Conditioning Solution	4 oz.	4.75	6.39	7.37	6.19	6.67
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