

# Candidates differ on views of country's future

## District 4 race not expected to be very close

By Rene DeCair  
Emerald Reporter

Incumbent Democrat Peter DeFazio and his Libertarian challenger, Tonie Nathan, have radically different philosophies and goals for the country's future if they are elected to the U.S. House seat in District 4.

Although they share some common ground on the issue of abortion, it is clear that they do not agree on much else in their race for District 4, which spans from north of Eugene to Brookings on the southern Oregon coast.

"We Libertarians say we're pro-choice on everything," Nathan said.

Although Nathan is opposed to legislation that would ban abortions or require parental notification before a minor could have an abortion, she said she does not support state-funded abortions. Taxpayers should not pay "for what other people believe is murder," she said.

Nathan said she looks to advancing technology to support her positions. With new technology, fetuses are able to be implanted in a "host" and preserved for other people who want children. Because of this she believes it is not economically wise to destroy fetuses. "The idea of destroying something that is marketable... is silly, if there's a market for it," she said.

DeFazio agrees with his challenger that abortion decisions should be made by the individual, whether they are minors or not.

"They're old enough and mature enough to make their own decisions," DeFazio said. "The issue for a lot of young people is that there is a breakdown in communication (in their families)."

Despite their similar views on abortion, the candidates differ on a broad spectrum of issues ranging from environmental concerns and higher education to child care.

Moreover, DeFazio and Nathan disagree about the government's role in funding education.

DeFazio said if re-elected he would work to prevent President George Bush's likely proposed cuts in grants and loans in order to preserve the current levels of government funding. DeFazio would like to go back to the levels of funding that were provided for students ten years ago, which is about 60 to 70 percent more than what is now available.

DeFazio said he would also like to abolish the current student loan system and would create a new program to provide funds for students. He calls for a system in which the government would loan money directly to students and not through a bank, he said. This would save both the government and students time and money by eliminating the interest rates charged by banks, he said.

But in the end, he believes his plan would "falter on the so-called 'education president' who doesn't want to improve the education of our youth," DeFazio said.

Nathan, on the other hand, said she would move to decrease funding for grants and loans, adding that she would go so far as voting to quit taxing citizens.

At least 40 percent of a person's income goes to government, where two-thirds of it is spent on administrative costs, she said. Nathan believes that money could go back to the people if federal programs were cut. Then people could send themselves to school with the money saved, she said.

Regarding the environment, Nathan said she would work to repeal the Endangered Species Act, claiming that it is outdated, and that she would work to get rid of the

## BIOGRAPHY

### Peter DeFazio

**Candidacy:** U.S. House District 4

**Party:** Democrat

**Age:** 43

**Home:** Springfield

**Occupation:** U.S. representative, 1986-present

**Background:** Lane County Commissioner, 1982; Aide to U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., 1977-82; M.S. from the University, 1977; B.A., Tufts University, 1969



### Tonie Nathan

**Candidacy:** U.S. House District 4

**Party:** Libertarian

**Age:** 57

**Home:** Eugene

**Occupation:** National director of media relations for the Libertarian Party

**Background:** Former radio broadcaster-producer, investigative reporter, columnist; independent candidate for U.S. House District 4, 1976; Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, 1980; B.A. from the University, 1971



Departments of Energy and Education, respectively, saying that the government should be responsible only for the health and safety of its citizens.

"Our government is in the business to protect people and not owls," she said.

However, DeFazio takes a much different approach to the role of government.

"We are under-funding recreation, wildlife and other values," he said.

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