

# ELECTIONS

## Incumbent state senators keep seats

By Cathy Peterson  
Emerald Reporter

Contrary to the recent spate of national "incumbent-bashing," Lane County voters sent three incumbent state senators back to their jobs Tuesday for another four years.

According to election returns late Tuesday night, incumbents Grattan Kerans, Larry Hill and Peg Jolin, all Democrats, defeated Republican challengers Peter Swan, Ralf Walters and Paul Holbo, respectively.

In the race for Senate District 20, which covers south Eugene, five-time state representative Kerans said Swan hurt his own campaign by making personal attacks on Kerans.

"People voted for me as a progressive voice in the legislation," Kerans said. The state senator said he will focus on the environment, senior citizens, consumers and students during his upcoming term.

Swan, a University law professor, said he was supported on campus, but that the party lines were "pretty well followed" when people voted in the predominantly Demo-

cratic district.

"We've got to learn to make progress and not be paralyzed by party divisions," Swan said.

In the District 21 election, one-term Sen. Hill said abortion was a major issue in his race with music industry representative Walters.

"Springfield and Eugene are pro-choice," Hill said. "They don't want government butting into their business."

He added that district voters, who live in southeast Eugene, the University area and all of Springfield, were voting for "experience and trust."

"I've done a lot of hard work in my district," he said. "My opponent didn't offer experience. Most voters felt they were in for a tough ride."

Walters, a Springfield resident new to state politics, said he was disappointed in voters' reluctance to "take a new direction."

"The answer to our government is not a bigger government," Walters said. On the issue of abortion, he said the rights of a fe-

tus are protected by the 14th Amendment, which forbids states to deny any person life, liberty or property rights.

In the District 22 race, University Provost Holbo said education funding will be an important issue for four-term House legislator Jolin.

"The main reason I ran was that students at the University have such difficulty getting into classes," he said. "Stable education funding has got to be the basis for our future."

Holbo characterized the district, which stretches south of Eugene from Oakridge to Reedsport, as primarily rural, making campaigning difficult.

"I think we got our message out as well as we could. I happen to think for the farmers and working people across the district, education is important," he said.

Jolin, who was not available for comment Tuesday night, said in October that she wouldn't specify a cure for the education funding. However, she did propose sales and income taxes to reduce property taxes.

## Edmunson, Hosticka retain state positions

By Christopher Blair  
Emerald Managing Editor

Democrats Jim Edmunson and Carl Hosticka easily held on to their seats in the state Legislature, and both expressed worry over the effect Ballot Measure 5 will have on education funding.

Late Tuesday night, Hosticka, representing District 40, was defeating Republican challenger Paula Walsh with 70 percent of the vote.

District 40 covers south Eugene.

Hosticka expressed concern over the apparent passage of the property tax measure, saying it will adversely affect students at the state's colleges and universities. He said he will

work in the Legislature to try and repair damage the measure will cause.

"You're going to see a freeze in services, and you'll see some selective cutting, hopefully in areas that can be restored," he said.

Hosticka spoke against the tuition increases that may be in the future for the state's college students.

"I don't think that access to higher education is facilitated by a rise in tuition," he said.

Walsh, Hosticka's GOP opponent, said she was proud of her "door-to-door" campaign and the 23 percent of the votes she earned.

"It was a really good campaign, and the response I got during the campaign was really

positive," she said.

Edmunson, representing District 39 (northwest Eugene), was defeating Libertarian candidate Bob Fauvre, winning 75 percent of the vote. Neither Edmunson nor Fauvre expressed much surprise over the final tally.

"It was a token campaign by the Libertarian candidate," Edmunson said. "He didn't run much of a campaign; I didn't run much of one either."

Edmunson said he did not differ much with Fauvre on issues, and that he worked mostly on Barbara Roberts' successful gubernatorial campaign and on ballot measures before the election.

Fauvre agreed his candidacy was mostly symbolic, but he

said the 11 percent of the vote he was getting encouraged him.

"Libertarians will continue the fight," he said. "The race was worth the effort. I don't think that any candidate should run unopposed."

Fauvre said the focus of his candidacy — and that of other Libertarians — was the "evils of taxes."


"Taxation is legalized theft," he said. "I got that concept out during the campaign."

Edmunson said he was "very, very disappointed" with the apparent passage of Measure 5, which would cut property tax rates, and in turn hurt funding for education in the state.

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