

Candidate runs due to 'high stakes' of race

By Gerrit Koeppling
Emerald Reporter

Cynthia Wooten said that originally she did not want to run for a seat on the Oregon House of Representatives.

But, she told a group of 13 University students Tuesday, the actions of republican incumbent Marie Bell and the effects of Ballot Measure 5 convinced her to enter the race.

Wooten, a well-known democrat who has served on the Eugene City Council for eight years, said "the stakes are very high, because what we are talking about is money and money for higher education."

She said she would wait for Gov. Barbara Roberts to take the lead on replacing the lost revenue. After that she said she should be active in solving the problem.

Wooten said she supports personal and corporate income tax in combination with increased taxation of commercial landowners.

Despite her advocacy of tax plans that would increase the tax burden on businesses, she said "there is a balance to be attained. We're not going to get the number and quality of jobs we want if we take a blindly anti-business stance."

"We need leadership from every strata in our society to solve the problem with dignity and to rebuild trust in government," she said.

Measure 5 is not the only issue Wooten is addressing in her



Cynthia Wooten

campaign platform.

Wooten places strong emphasis on her pro-choice stance on the abortion issue. She said she has received endorsements from the National Organization for Women and National Abortion Rights Action League.

Bell, on the other hand, is a staunch opponent of abortion rights. Wooten said Bell's abortion stance does not represent her constituency.

She also said that Bell is not an effective leader and is not sophisticated in her analysis of political issues.

"At best she doesn't understand how the political system works," Wooten said.

The discussion with Wooten was sponsored by the College Democrats.

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