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ELECTION '92

Fauvre considered long-shot

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

A Democrat who has represented District 39 for six years and a Libertarian who's not easily discouraged are the two candidates vying for the district's seat in the Oregon State House of Representatives.

Incumbent Jim Edmundson, an attorney, is up against Bob Fauvre, who was also his opponent in 1990. Fauvre first entered the Oregon political fray in 1988 when he unsuccessfully challenged Democrat Grattan Kerans, the state senator from District 20.

Fauvre, chairman of Lane County's Libertarian Party, is considered a long-shot to unseat Edmundson, but he said his time spent campaigning is not wasted, no matter what the outcome.

"Libertarians have a great deal of difficulty getting their message out, so these campaigns serve as an educational tool," Fauvre said. "The message is getting out widely, but we're not getting credit for it."

Fauvre said he adheres to the Libertarian Party platform, whose main tenet is that individuals should have the right to live their lives as they want so long as they respect the rights of others.

That freedom includes access to non-illegal drugs and a responsibility to keep the environment clean, he said.

Although Edmundson and Fauvre agree that tax reform and a change in the health care system will be top priorities, they have different plans for approaching those problems.

Edmundson said voters still need to be presented with a tax reform plan. He said he also favors an increase in user fees, such as the cost of staying in state parks.

The importance of keeping the University viable through adequate funding is very important, Edmundson said.

"Tuition's up, and it's worth it," he said. "But at what point does it become too expensive and people are getting too little from U of O? It could get to the point where it's no longer a good deal. And the loss would be great in terms of jobs, also. People are so concerned about their property tax-

es, but what about when they lose their jobs?" Fauvre said he believes property taxes should not increase to make up for lost revenue, but that increasing the tax base would be the answer. That could be accomplished, he said, by allowing the responsible development of land that is now off-limits.

"I want to get more more out of property taxes by increasing the property tax base," Fauvre said. "If we allow responsible development on some land now being set aside, there be will less taxes paid per person, but more overall. The current system violates personal property rights."

Edmundson said he will continue to advocate for a state health care system that would build on what's been done in the House during the past two years.

Fauvre supports the Libertarian-backed plan that involves a "loan pool." In this system, individuals would contribute to a low-interest fund from which they could take loans for medical needs. The amount paid back would depend on each person's financial means.

The "loan pool" would be funded by private investments and a small percentage fee from health care providers.

Edmundson, who has been on the House Judiciary Committee for two terms, said another priority is changing the statewide court system to help the poor.

Edmundson points out that currently, judges hear cases of all kinds. He said he would like to see a system where judges hear only certain kinds of cases, such as employment or domestic disputes.

"If this change were to happen, judges would no longer see three-piece suits, but the issues," Edmundson said. "(People) would see a judge who better relates to their life."

Fauvre said he is often asked what he could do if he were the sole Libertarian in Congress. His response is that he would do what Libertarian presidential candidate Andre Marrou did as the sole Libertarian in the Alaskan Legislature.

"I would be the moral conscience of the House," Fauvre said. "I want to protect as much freedom as possible and help allow people to follow their own happiness."

'Libertarians have a great deal of difficulty getting their message out, so these campaigns serve as an educational tool.'

— Bob Fauvre,
District 39 candidate

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