

GOVERNOR

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going to nominate ahead of time and then make a decision," he said.

Hibbitts said the negative nature of the Smith-Berkman race and the fact that neither is well known statewide are contributors to the large number of undecideds at this late stage.

State GOP Chairman Randy Miller, in an interview, conceded that some Republicans are having a hard time working up enthusiasm for either of the two major contenders.

"To some degree, there are some people who would have liked to have had additional options in candidates," Miller said. "But I believe the large percentage of the undecided are having difficulty discerning the differences between the two principal candidates."

"Both are against new taxes, they are going to fight for new businesses and jobs, and they are both very strong on crime issues," the Republican chairman said.

On the Democratic side, former Senate President John Kitzhaber faces one token opponent for the party's gubernatorial nomination. Polls have Kitzhaber leading either of the two GOP contenders he is likely to face in November.

GOP's Smith, Berkman head-to-head in race

(AP) — A new poll shows Republican gubernatorial candidates Denny Smith and Craig Berkman virtually head-to-head just days before the primary.

At the same time, the poll suggests neither Smith nor Berkman would start strong against the probable Democratic candidate, John Kitzhaber.

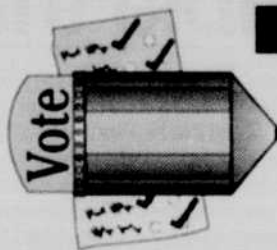
The poll of 815 Oregon voters was conducted May 7-12 by Political Media Research of Columbia, Md., for several Oregon news outlets.

Among the 454 Republicans who said they were likely to vote in Tuesday's primary, Smith was favored by 40 percent of the respondents, while 35 percent favored Berkman. The poll's margin of error was 5 percentage points.

The remaining 25 percent of the Republicans, who said they were likely to vote in Tuesday's primary, were undecided.

Del Ali, vice president of Political Media Research, said it's anyone's race. The race probably will be decided by which candidate puts on a heavier media blitz and by the turnout.

He said a light turnout probably would help Smith, who is better known than Berkman.



MAY PRIMARY

Governor

BACKGROUND



JOHN KITZHABER

Democrat

OCCUPATION: Emergency physician
EDUCATION: B.A. Dartmouth College, M.D. University of Oregon Medical School 1973
EXPERIENCE: state representative 1979, state senator 1981, Senate president 1985-93



PAUL WELLS

Democrat

OCCUPATION: Housewife
EDUCATION: BSSEE Purdue University 1984
EXPERIENCE: Electrical engineer, Marine Corps 1978-79
No government experience



CRAIG BERKMAN

Republican

OCCUPATION: President of Craig Berkman and Assoc., developer of high technology and health care companies
EDUCATION: P.S., Wheaton College, Master's in Public Administration, Cal-Berkeley, Juris Doctor, Northwestern



JACK FEDER

Republican

OCCUPATION: Businessman, author, jet fighter pilot in Air Force
EDUCATION: Public Administration degree from USC, secondary teaching credential
EXPERIENCE: Congressional nominee 1964, city manager



JOHN E. JEWKES

Republican

OCCUPATION: Warehouse worker for Oregon Health Science University, AM PM Mini Mart
EXPERIENCE: No government experience



BRADFORD NUDD

Republican

OCCUPATION: Former owner of a Washington-based timber company, writes poetry
EXPERIENCE: Has unsuccessfully run for six county and city offices



DENNY SMITH

Republican

OCCUPATION: Chairman of Eagle Newspapers, former airline pilot, Vietnam combat fighter pilot
EDUCATION: B.A. Willamette University 1961
EXPERIENCE: U.S. congressman for 10 years, founder and chairman of Oregonians Against Crime

EDUCATION

Favors innovative reform of public schools, wants businesses to provide workplace-based learning. Emphasizes accountability for educational outcomes and fiscal management.

Is running as a Democrat to make statement about inequalities faced by independents running for state office. Made no statement about education.

Wants to create a single tuition plan for students attending public universities, regardless of residency status. Says tuition should be based on students' abilities to pay.

Wants to provide separate schools for disruptive students and halt automatic transfer of students to the next grade. Wants to pay 50 percent of public school cost to parents sending children to private schools.

Proposes that counties with windfalls in property taxes use money to fund local schools.

Says trade schools should be integrated into high school curriculum. Advocates student involvement in helping solve water resource problem.

Advocates using timber revenues to increase school funding without raising taxes.

ECONOMY

Says lawmakers' preference for public safety and human resources over education and transportation has ruined Oregon's economic foundation.

Made no statement about Oregon's economy.

Highly supportive of timber and agriculture industries. Wants to start a program to give money to small businesses.

Advocates using state gambling money to help displaced forest workers develop wood by-product manufacturing skills.

Believes education must be first priority to attract business to the state.

Suggests irrigating the desert to provide agriculture jobs during all four seasons.

Promotes balance between economy and environment. Promises to keep taxes low and was an active opponent of the sales tax.

QUOTABLE

"The secret to working in Oregon politics is to give everyone some ownership in the process and in the product."

"John Kitzhaber is a candidate for governor. I am not."

"I am the most qualified candidate. I am a successful businessman — this didn't happen by accident. As a businessman, I evaluate ideas and select the most effective ones to implement."

No quote from Feder, but *Willamette Week* claims he is a bakery owner who is allergic to flour.

"I will not do business as usual. There will be no favors. I will make all my decisions based on the merits of the case at hand."

"On the line, something's jerking, not to worry — got our Mo-Jo working," from Nudd's submitted poetry.

"I believe it's the duty of all candidates seeking Oregon's highest office to be open with the public."

*Donald Goff, Republican gubernatorial candidate, did not submit information.

COMPILED BY MEG DEDOLPH AND REBECCA MERRITT/GRAPHIC BY JEFF PASLAY/Emerald

COUNTY

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commissioner than the county commissioners," Morrisette said.

Morrisette supports the real estate transfer tax, a proposed new tax that will also be voted on Tuesday. The tax would be imposed on all sales and transfers of property in the county. If it does not pass, the county will have to cut law enforcement and public health and human services.

"If it doesn't pass, there'll be about a 2.5 million loss this year, with a loss of 48 positions," Morrisette said. "Next year there will be an additional loss, with an additional 35-40 positions."

Morrisette called the real estate transfer tax a "fair, spread-out" tax because according to last year's records, only about 10 percent of Lane County residents will pay the tax each year, and every year it will be a different 10 percent.

"There are a lot of advantages," Morrisette said. "Either the buyer or seller or both can pay it. Most importantly, if it doesn't pass, it will devastate the county."

Morrisette said that because so much of Lane County's money has come from timber revenue, the people in Lane County don't understand that this source of revenue is declining and that the money now needs to come from somewhere else. Lane County residents pay about 5 to 6 percent of the county's budget — a percentage that Morrisette said is the smallest in the state.

"People haven't had to pay to support the county government in the past," he said. "The services are there, but people don't know where it all comes from."

Cornacchia also supports the real estate transfer tax to maintain county services. As commissioner for seven years and a lifetime resident of Lane County, Cornacchia feels he has a strong understanding of the timber issue here.

Cornacchia was appointed by the governor to the Regional Economic Revitalization Team, which determines how much compensation Oregon and other Northwest states receive as a result of the Clinton initiative due to the reduction of logging on federal lands.

"I am Oregon's representative in the distribution of these funds," he said.

Cornacchia was also elected by the other county commissioners to be the spokesperson in front of Congress about the timber situation here.

After campaigning for seven months, Cornacchia said he's ready for the election. "I've been doing it since November, and now my wife and our two kids and I are just waiting for our lives to go back to normal. I don't like campaigning. I'd rather be out talking about the board instead of Steve Cornacchia and how great he is. That not who I am — that's not my role in this."

OZONE

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However, the measure's opponents, including Citizens Against Redundant Legislature, say the proposed citizen advisory committee will require city support which could become expensive.

Citizens Against Redundant Legislature,

a political action committee which opposes the measure, are concerned that the measure will unduly burden the municipal court system and hurt small businesses, which might not be able to discard the products in violation without losing money.

Opponents also say the measure is too duplicative of the Clean Air Act, Environmental Protection Agency regulations and international treaty.

Other opponents to the measure include the Home Builders Association of Lane County, which does not agree with the measure's provisions banning rigid foam insulation, used in construction, and the local chapter of the Refrigeration Service Engineer Society, which says substitutes for CFCs used in refrigeration are too expensive and sometimes cannot be easily substituted.