

The right to vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — About three-quarters of Americans believe their vote "makes a difference," according to an Associated Press poll.

But the younger they are, the less likely they are to think so.

In the poll, conducted Oct. 28 through Nov. 2 among 1,006 adults, 76 percent said their individual vote makes a difference and 22 percent said it does not make a difference. The others volunteered they will not vote on Tuesday, said they did not know or declined to give an answer.

There was little difference between men and women. But age seemed to make a difference. Among respondents between age 18 and 34, 70 percent said their vote would make a difference; among those 55 or older, 82 percent.

The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

TURNOUT

The percentage of voting age population that has voted in midterm elections since 1950. Participation averages about 15 percent higher in presidential election years.

1990	— 36.5 percent
1986	— 36.3 percent
1982	— 40.5 percent
1978	— 37.3 percent
1974	— 38.3 percent
1970	— 46.8 percent
1966	— 48.4 percent
1962	— 47.5 percent
1958	— 44.5 percent
1954	— 43.1 percent
1950	— 42.6 percent

Source: Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, which provided these

Candidates ready for final show down

Kitzhaber wants to tackle problems

Kaly Soto

Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon is in turmoil, suffering from one budgetary crisis after another.

The state faces a great divide among its citizens on moral issues, experiences growing pains and struggles with violence that was once unheard of within its borders.

Democratic John Kitzhaber is ready to tackle these problems as the next governor. Even before Gov. Barbara

ANALYSIS

Roberts decided not to run for re-election Kitzhaber wanted the job.

He announced his bid for governor on Oct. 16, 1993, on the University campus.

"I entered the race for governor out of personal concern over the direction Oregon is headed," Kitzhaber told students.

Kitzhaber, who graduated from South Eugene High School in 1965, and makes his home in Eugene. He has demonstrated his concern for Oregon through a distinguished political career in the state legislature. His legislative career culminated with him being chosen president of the Oregon Senate in 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1991.

Kitzhaber's campaign has been defined in large part by his accomplishments as a member of the legislature. He drafted the Oregon Health Plan, which has made him a well-known politician throughout the state.

For the past four years, he has been working to implement the health plan. Kitzhaber appeared on television shows including *60 Minutes*, promoting what some called "the rationing of health care."

Kitzhaber organized a group of citizens to come up with prioritized medical procedures that the state would cover. Opponents of the health care plan said the plan is too expensive and would leave too many people out.

Kitzhaber said he is extremely concerned with the state of education in Oregon. In a recent meeting with the *Emerald's* editorial board, Kitzhaber said education was his main concern during this election.

Kitzhaber said he opposed Measure 15, because it would have devastating effects on Oregon's higher education system. He also said education was the key to helping Oregon's troubled youth. He said he would like to see the business community get more involved with education funding.

Kitzhaber said he would make a commitment to rededicating lottery funds to education.

The Democratic candidate said his budget calls for a 4 percent tuition increase.

Kitzhaber has been accused in the media and by Republican opponent Denny Smith of favoring a sales tax. According to *The Oregonian*, Kitzhaber told its editorial board that he was a proponent of a sales tax.

However, he said "I did not say at The Oregonian that I favored a sales tax. I said Oregonians should reconsider a sales tax as some part of tax reform."

American party candidate proposes cheaper college tuition

Ben Moebius

Oregon Daily Emerald

American party gubernatorial candidate Ed Hickam has set aside personal promotion in this year's campaign to push something he feels is more important—a plan.

"Whether I get elected or not is really secondary," said Hickam, owner of Ed's Mufflers Unlimited of Gresham. "My primary concern is that these common sense proposals my staff and I have created get implemented."

Hickam's proposals are carefully laid out in his 1995-97 Budget Message and Proposal with eight basic areas covered.

The first proposal calls for citizens to be assembled to analyze all levels of government service by conducting efficiency audits.

The second proposal suggests that application of skills learned in school be integrated into community resource centers for extra-curricular activity.

HOW THEY STAND



KITZHABER

EDUCATION

He said he will hold down higher education tuition increases to four percent. Kitzhaber proposes another \$290 million for public education so that each school district will have the same per-pupil spending as last year.

CRIME

He opposes Measure 11, which would impose mandatory minimum sentences for some violent crimes, because of its fiscal impact. He supports the transferring of some juvenile offenders to adult courts but believes that should be done by the state legislature. Kitzhaber's budget would fund 516 unused and new prison beds throughout the state. He also wants to add 200 juvenile beds.

SOCIAL ISSUES

He advocates abortion-rights but believes abortion should only be used as a last resort. He supports gay rights laws and plans to vote against Measure 16, the assisted suicide initiative. Kitzhaber opposes Measure 19, which would take away free speech protection on hard-core pornography.



SMITH

EDUCATION

He said he hopes to avoid another higher education tuition increase. Although he previously supported a voucher system that would use taxpayer money to send children to private schools, he has been supportive of public education during this election and has proposed an extra \$290 million for public schools.

CRIME

He said the state is short 1,000 prison beds. He supports Measure 11 and proposes to begin building 864 new prison beds in Ontario. He wants another 100 juvenile beds.

SOCIAL ISSUES

He voted to make almost all abortion illegal when he was on the U.S. House of Representatives. He opposes Measure 13, the anti-gay-rights initiative and is opposed to Measure 16. Smith supports Measure 19.

Republican Smith holds his ground

Joe Harwood

Oregon Daily Emerald

Denny Smith epitomizes the traditional conservative politician. But unlike many of his peers on the right side of the political spectrum, Smith has a background reflecting a man who defines himself by living the life he preaches.

During a 10-year stint in Congress, Smith consistently voted against government spending in every category except defense, and even then voted against several

ANALYSIS

military programs he deemed wasteful — giving him a reputation as a man who wasn't a team player, but an individual willing to go the distance for smaller, less intrusive government. Smith was the first congressman to call for an across-the-board government spending freeze, a tenuous position during the deficit-embracing Reagan years.

And despite his own position in Congress, Smith was one of the earliest supporters of term limits for federal office holders.

It is this voting record that has Smith in trouble with some Oregonians. His opponent, John Kitzhaber chastised Smith for his no votes on education programs while in Congress, some of which would have directly benefited Oregon. Not apologizing nor backing down, Smith defends his voting record by arguing that the omnibus spending packages contained heavy doses of pork-barrel pet projects that outweighed the educational elements of the bills.

Some speculate that Smith's take-no-prisoners style of politicking results from a background of military and public service throughout his life.

After graduating from Willamette University with a bachelor's degree in political science, he joined the Oregon Air National Guard in 1960. In 1965, Smith volunteered to serve with the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam, where he flew 180 combat missions and received the Air Medal for combat service. Following his combat tour, Smith worked as a pilot for Pan American Airlines for nine years.

He is currently chairman of the board for a Eagle Newspapers, a family-owned string of 20 newspapers and printing plants throughout the Northwest.

Smith said through a spokesman that he strenuously opposes Measure 15, which has the potential to devastate higher education in the state. Smith would like to freeze all state budgets at current levels with the exception of K-12 and corrections.

Smith plans to release the state system of higher education from certain state hiring and purchasing guidelines that are expensive, time consuming and too often a cash cow for special interest lobbies. He would also eliminate a current state guideline that forces the state system to pay a portion of state projects not directly related to higher education, said Smith spokesman Charles Deister.



HICKAM

Hickam said community-based education would offer an alternative to drugs, gangs and crime.

Hickam also proposes to reduce college tuition by 20 percent by replacing the public employees retirement plan with a private-industry plan called the 401(K). The new plan would require employees to pay into their retirement plans

with the state matching payments at 5 percent. Nearly all of the state cigarette tax would be diverted to pay for the estimated \$200 million cost of the Oregon Health Care plan in another proposal.

Hickam also proposed ways to restore tax relief for elderly and low-income renters, promote Oregon business and reduce the costs of our public safety and criminal justice systems.

Hickam is confident that his ideas will work.

"Everything in my budget plan will be implemented within four years," he said. "Many people worked hard to put these ideas together. Citizens came to help. Public employees came to help. And politicians, both Republican and Democrat, helped."

Hickam said his strength lies in his business-minded approach to running government. The 48-year-old Gresham resident compares himself to Ross, the Texas billionaire. Perot's 1992 presidential campaign was so strong in Oregon that the American Party received major party status.

"People are waking up to what's happening in government," Hickam said. "There is incredible waste and the Republicans and Democrats are not getting anything changed."

According to campaign finance records Hickam has received \$108,363 in contributions for his campaign. No contributions over \$500 were accepted, in accordance with American Party rules. Hickam said he has also spent more than \$200,000 of his own money on his campaign.