

THE CANDIDATES

SENATE RACE '95



NORMA PAULUS
REPUBLICAN

She is currently in her second term as state superintendent of public instruction and served three terms as a state legislator and two as secretary of state.



JACK ROBERTS
REPUBLICAN

He is currently serving as the Oregon labor commissioner. He worked five years as a Lane County commissioner.



GORDON SMITH
REPUBLICAN

He is in his third year as an Oregon senator and was elected Senate president.



PETER DeFAZIO
DEMOCRAT

He is in his fifth year as a U.S. representative and was a Lane County commissioner in 1982.



RON WYDEN
DEMOCRAT

He is currently the U.S. representative in Oregon's third congressional district. He has held that office since 1981.

Candidates vying for the vacated seat of former Sen. Bob Packwood give their opinions on issues concerning students, Oregon and the federal government. The ballots were mailed Wednesday and are due at election offices by Dec. 5.



ON THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING CONGRESS

PAULUS: Supports downsizing the federal government to return more control and responsibility back over to the state in all areas.

ROBERTS: Supports balancing the budget but not cutting taxes and reforming social security.

SMITH: Supports budget reconciliation, the Balanced Budget Amendment, passing term limits and tax reduction.

DeFAZIO: Supports a balanced federal budget that does not punish working Americans, students and seniors.

WYDEN: Supports health-care reform, ensuring economic opportunities for the future, decreasing violent crime and rebuilding faith in public institutions.



ON HELPING PAY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

PAULUS: Believes the education of our citizens is the best defense for America.

ROBERTS: Does not favor an end to the direct loan program. Keep the states from raising tuition in order to maintain affordable education.

SMITH: Fought to get \$30 million more than Gov. John Kitzhaber allocated for Oregon education. He supported the use of lottery money for education.

DeFAZIO: First priority is to fight cuts in federal support for higher education. He uses the money from congressional pay raises to fund eight scholarships at Southwest Oregon community colleges and one scholarship at the University.

WYDEN: Believes education funding should be one of our country's first priorities. Supported legislation for the Direct Student Lending program.



ON THE 'CONTRACT WITH AMERICA'

PAULUS: Supports the constitutional amendment for a balanced-budget, line-item veto and term limits.

ROBERTS: Gives it an "A" for effort, but says it doesn't have all the answers. He does not agree with tax cuts but believes welfare reform has good elements.

SMITH: Says there are many laudable aspects to the "Contract with America." He likes some parts of it such as the balanced budget and term limits.

DeFAZIO: Opposes the provisions of the Contract. He says it is a hidden and far-reaching assault on our environmental laws and health-and-safety regulations. Its anti-crime provisions hide a multitude of attacks on basic civil liberties.

WYDEN: Voted against the Contract, opting to vote for the Wise Amendment, which would safeguard Social Security. He does not want to see Medicare, Medicaid, social security or higher education cut.



ON THE FEDERAL DEFICIT

PAULUS: Supports passing the Balanced Budget Amendment, slow growth of Medicare, Medicaid and the welfare system. She would re-evaluate farm and tobacco subsidies.

ROBERTS: Supports the balanced budget proposal but he is not enthusiastic about a constitutional amendment.

SMITH: Supports passing the Balanced Budget Amendment and downsizing government by slowing the rate of growth. He says there are no sacred cows such as social security and defense weapons. He wants to provide tax cuts to working people to increase the rate of growth in economy.

DeFAZIO: Supports a balanced budget amendment as the only tool to force Congress and the president to prioritize federal spending and tax decisions.

WYDEN: Supports balancing the budget, but not of the Balanced Budget Amendment.



ON ABORTION

PAULUS: Has always supported a woman's right to choose and will continue to do so.

ROBERTS: Does not think abortion should be illegal, and believes we need to concentrate on education to prevent the need for it.

SMITH: As the father of three adopted children, he chooses to come down on the side of life. As a legislator he tries to build bridges to reduce need for abortions.

DeFAZIO: Strongly supports a woman's right to choose and opposes government intrusion of any kind.

WYDEN: Supports women's right to control their reproductive health.



ON GAY RIGHTS

PAULUS: Supports the rights of the homosexual community to be protected against the loss of jobs and accommodation.

ROBERTS: Does not favor extending civil rights to include sexual orientation. He says there have been very few complaints, and he does not think there is a need. He is opposed to the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

SMITH: Opposes special rights and discrimination. He believes the OCA measures are unconstitutional, but he is supported by the group.

DeFAZIO: Strongly supports gay and lesbian civil rights. He has been a consistent cosponsor of the Civil Rights Amendment Act prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. He is opposed to the OCA.

WYDEN: Supports equal protection under the law. Opposed Ballot Measures 9 and 13 and opposes the OCA.



ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

PAULUS: Says it should be reexamined like anything else that has been in effect for 20 years.

ROBERTS: Says everything that is done should be evaluated including affirmative action. He supports the laws in the original forms that do not include quotas.

SMITH: Says affirmative action policies should be re-evaluated because they are enforced through racial quotas. He quotes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., saying people should be judged on the "content of their character and not the color of their skin."

DeFAZIO: Supports affirmative action. He says if the president reviews the federal affirmative action policies and proposes changes, he will evaluate them on the degree to which they further the goals of affirmative action.

WYDEN: Does not believe in quotas and believes the government should focus on areas where discrimination is evident.



ON THE OREGON ECONOMY

PAULUS: Says we need to continue to diversify the economy. She says our school improvement effort is important because if we have a skilled literate work force, we will be able to attract and retain businesses that pay high wages.

ROBERTS: Says Oregon needs good-paying jobs. He says during the last several years, a lot of good jobs have been lost, and the per-capita income in the state lags behind the national average.

SMITH: Says Oregonians need to reduce the burden on taxation on citizens and resist adding burdens to small businesses. He supports bringing businesses to Oregon communities to stimulate growth.

DeFAZIO: Has already implemented programs such as banning the export of raw logs from state and federal lands. He has also brought federal investments in infrastructure and education into Oregon.

WYDEN: Supports programs to move goods in and out of Oregon and reforming legislation for the FDA. Supported trade through NAFTA and GATT.



ON CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS

PAULUS: Supports an Oregon law that would limit an elected official to two terms of service.

ROBERTS: Supports term limits across the board that apply to everyone.

SMITH: Supports a two-term limit for congressional leaders if it is applied to all states.

DeFAZIO: Supports term limits. He has pledged to abide by term limits passed by Oregon voters for state offices.

WYDEN: Believes elections are the best term limits.

—Compiled by Marcelene Edwards
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