

Election: Southwell wants to dispel myths about mail-in ballots

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conducting a survey of 1,200 voters after the election to learn how and when people voted and if mail-in balloting changes the results of candidate elections.

Oregon is the first state in the country to use mail-in voting for a candidate election. Mail-in voting has been used in the past only for non-candidate elections such as initiatives and bond issues.

Southwell said she also hopes the study will dispel the fear of voting fraud in these types of elections and other mail-in myths.

Southwell said another assumption about mail-in elections is that it has a Republican bias. "It is assumed that a lot of the people who have difficulty getting to the polling places are elderly and since they are elderly it is assumed they are more likely to be Republican," Southwell said. "But data shows that the rise in voter turnout of Democrats has been greater."

According to Southwell, the primary election in

1994, which used the traditional polling places, had a Democrat voter turnout of 40 percent, and 47 percent Republicans. The 1995 mail-in primary election showed an increase of 17 percent for Democrats and 12 percent for Republicans, which counters the assumption supported by opponents of mail-in elections that there is a Republican bias.

The advantages of mail-in voting, according to Southwell, is that people who previously could not make it to the polling places will have a chance to vote and that it costs significantly less money to run these types of elections.

"But some people argue that the sense of civic duty, the camaraderie of seeing your neighbors and friends at the polling place is gone with mail-in elections," Southwell said.

"There's a lot of speculation about voting by mail," Southwell said. "No one knows that much about it and my notion is people are making assumptions without any data."

Southwell will be conducting her survey from Jan. 30 to Feb. 6.

Candidate: Nanni critical of media

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charge account away — we haven't had a balanced budget in 25 years.

"My four-year-old was born into this world with debt; when I was born into this world we had a surplus," he said.

Trying to balance the budget is something that is very new to everybody, he said. And now we have a \$5 trillion debt, so we need to open up the discussion on how we're going to pay this off.

He said the shutdown of the federal workers is a result of not having any substantive discussion on how we should balance the budget.

Nanni would balance the budget by repealing the welfare state from the top down and repealing taxes from the bottom up.

"In other words, we should end all subsidies to businesses, which is an estimated cost of \$82 billion," Nanni said. "We have no obligation to subsidize the privileged few."

"This measure alone would balance the budget in three years and have the compound effect of reforming campaign financing because special inter-

est lobbies would have no incentive to finance candidates."

Like solving the budget crisis, other political issues follow the individual first concept of the Libertarian Party.

Nanni is pro-choice, yet he believes abortions should not be government funded.

"Government money should not be used for what others feel is immoral," he said. "Likewise the OCA doesn't have a right to force you to live a certain way — they are trying to legislate morality."

Also, Nanni believes the financial aid program is not working. He said the free monies given to students has caused the rise in tuition.

"If the colleges charged the amount of money the students have, the cost of tuition would decrease dramatically."

Nanni also shared his thoughts and feelings about the media's coverage of the Senate seat candidates.

"Apparently, the media is in bed with the candidates who spend the big money," said Nanni in a news release. "Although 22 percent of regis-

tered voters are not affiliated with the Republicans or Democrats, the news media fail to let them know there are other candidates available. I'd like to know why."

Nanni believes that if he received the amount of free publicity that the Republican and Democrat candidates get, he would win.

"If I had the same resources, money and exposure Wyden and Smith have, I would win this election," he said.

The ideas of the Libertarian Party are becoming popular, he said, and people are voicing distress about the Republicans and the Democrats, but the media isn't responding.

Nanni has received an invitation to appear with other minor party candidates on television station KTVL in Medford, which had formerly eliminated him from the Smith-Wyden debate Sunday, according to a news release. The taping will occur Tuesday, but will be broadcast the same night as the League of Women Voter's debate in Portland when Wyden and Smith are scheduled to appear with the minor party candidates.

Experience: Escape helps 'maximize learning'

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Oregon to a more specialized school; she credits ESCAPE and the unique opportunities it offers for her decision to remain at the University the full five years.

"Through the work I did, I found people I respected in the community treating me as an important resource, and clearly saw that I could make a difference," Hodges said.

When Hodges discovered this year that, two terms shy of a sociology degree, she would need to take some time off to cope with her recently diagnosed Lyme Disease, a reevaluation of her college experiences helped her to realize the impact that ESCAPE has had on her life.

Reflecting back on her time at the University of Oregon she said, "A sense of closure is important ... I feel a strong need to let people know how much my experiences with the ESCAPE program have affected me, and how much I am taking with me."

For Hodges, the value of ESCAPE reaches beyond the boundaries of mere practical experience gained from hands-on work in the field.

"It helped me discover my abilities," she said. "The people I worked with talked to me like they needed me ... Especially what I am doing now, I am working with my peers in the community and

they are coming to me for help."

Serving a valuable function in the community and relating to community members on an adult level can help students regain the sense of importance that is often lost in the transition from high-school to college — the proverbial "bigger pond" — Hodges said.

"Everybody learns in different ways," she said. She finds that for herself, the classroom setting is not the most effective way to learn. ESCAPE has played a key role in helping her supplement her education with experiences and information gained in the field, a method Hodges finds much more accessible.

"I have learned to take what I learned in my classes and apply them to the real world and my personal experiences, therefore maximizing my learning," she said.

Of her time on this campus, Hodges said, "Thank you to the University of Oregon for making it possible, [and] to the ESCAPE program for making it meaningful."

Students interested in volunteering for ESCAPE, or exploring the opportunities it offers, should come by the ESCAPE office to get more information or to sign up. It is located on the mezzanine level of the EMU, room M-11.



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