

Measure on initiative process failing

BALLOT: Reform that would force signature gatherers into rural areas losing at press time

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Reporter

Oregon voters were narrowly defeating Ballot Measure 24 as of press time Tuesday, although the outcome won't be decided until about 50,000 absentee ballots are counted.

The measure, which was losing 124,088 to 108,523 statewide at press time, would require initiative petitioners to collect an equal number of signatures from the five congressional districts of Oregon.

Proponents of this measure argued that it would force petitioners to seek signatures outside the major metropolitan

areas and give rural Oregon a greater voice in politics.

"I think it really gains a voice for all of Oregon," said Jim Welsh, a state representative who was on the explanatory committee for the measure. "I think it's very positive. We've got something else other than Portland, Oregon."

However, opponents argued that only big businesses and corporations would have the necessary money to send signature gatherers into rural areas.

"Only big money people are going to be able to do that," said Joan Fariel, a resident of Eugene. "They can pay, they have lots of money. But it's bad for the little guy, the common person."

Furthermore, this measure would allow any one of the congressional districts to veto an initiative that did not affect that

district. For instance, Portland could refuse to pass a hunting law that might be important to southern and eastern districts, Fariel said.

Meanwhile, Ballot Measure 23 was winning approval, 166,001 votes to 67,550.

This measure would raise the minimum amount in controversy needed for a jury trial. Oregon currently requires \$200 in controversy to bring a trial to jury; the measure would raise this to \$750.

Ballot Measure 25 also seemed likely to pass, with 125,561 votes in favor and 106,300 against statewide.

Under this measure, a three-fifths majority in the Legislature would be needed to pass any "revenue-raising bills."

U.S. Senate: Some predict a close race

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company.

He hopes Smith "will run a better campaign against me in the general election than the Republicans ran against me in the primary," he said.

Smith told a cheering crowd he wants both sides to concentrate on running a clean campaign that focuses on the issues.

"I want us to get beyond this assassination of character. That has to end," he said.

Local political leaders predicted a close race between the two millionaires.

"The margin of victory for Bruggere shows that he has the strongest chance to defeat Gordon Smith," said Rep. Tony Corcoran, the Democratic incumbent in District 44.

But Rep. Jim Welsh, a Republican in District 43, said Gordon Smith has broad-based appeal.

"Bruggere is still viewed as a man from Portland while Smith reaches all 33 counties," he said.

Jeff Lewis, who garnered 4 percent of the GOP vote, said the Republican Party needs to move in a more socially liberal direction if it doesn't want to become marginalized.

"I will not vote for Smith," he said.

Other Democratic candidates in the race were Lane County Commissioner Jerry Rust with 9 percent, Bill Dwyer with 9 percent and Anna Nevenich with 5 percent.

On the Republican side, Kirby Brumfield had 5 percent of the vote and Robert J. Fenton had 3 percent.

Runoff: Laue, six others don't make mayoral cut

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a decision in November because there is a clear distinction between him and Weaver. It is a matter of who will be willing to listen to all of the voices on the Eugene City Council, he said.

"I think I understand what the citizens want," Torrey said.

If elected mayor, he said the first thing on his agenda would be to sit down individually with City Council members and discuss what each wants to accomplish over the next two years.

Weaver was not available for comment Tuesday evening as results came in.

Mike O'Leary of the College Democrats said Weaver will do well because of support from defeated liberal candidates Tim Laue, James "Izzy" Whetstone and Ron "Misha" Seymour.

"This is still a liberal town," said O'Leary. "Weaver says leaders should lead. He's not a poll watcher, he's a leader."

Mayor Ruth Bascom said she felt very strongly that Weaver wouldn't make a good mayor.

"He's a former congressman with no experience or background in city government," Bascom said.

Torrey said he was looking for-

ward to the runoff with Weaver.

"I care about the issues. I want to hear what he has to say and I hope he wants to hear what I have to say. Let's lay the issues on the table and let the citizens decide who they want to elect as mayor," Torrey said.

For the remaining candidates: Tim Laue came in third with 10.9 percent of the votes; Neale Hyatt had 7 percent; Frank Soifer had 3.4 percent; James "Izzy" Whetstone had 2.1 percent; Ron "Misha" Seymour had 1.5 percent; Dave Sweet had 1 percent; and Mike Albers had 0.7 percent.

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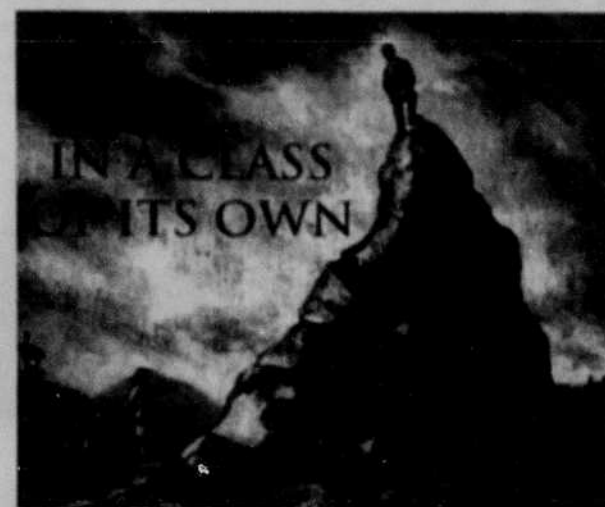
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