

Springfield mayor running unopposed for House

Bill Morrisette said he will promote arbitration for teacher negotiations and fight tuition raises

By Jesse Sowa
Community Reporter

Springfield Mayor Bill Morrisette is ready to move on to another phase of government and address issues for a larger group of Oregon residents.

Morrisette, a democrat, will run unopposed for the District 42 seat in the state House of Representatives in the upcoming election.

Morrisette, 66, has served as the mayor of Springfield since 1989. He was re-elected in 1992 and 1996 with 74 percent and 72 percent of the votes, respectively. Morrisette also served as a Springfield City Council member from 1988 to 1989.

A Springfield resident since 1961, Morrisette said he believes he is a good candidate because he can see both sides of an issue and help those with opposing viewpoints come to an agreement.

"I do see myself as someone in the middle," he said. "I'm willing to work with people on the edges."

One example was the debate several years ago over a state bal-

lot measure, created by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, that would have prevented a person from making his or her sexual orientation a "discriminated class," such as race, sex or religion, Morrisette said.

The measure was favored by a slim margin in the Springfield area. That prompted the OCA to focus on adding the initiative to the city's charter, which then stated that it is illegal to discriminate based on a person's demographics.

Through several town meetings, Morrisette was able to bring the two sides together to peacefully discuss the issue.

The U.S. Supreme Court later declared the measure unconstitutional.

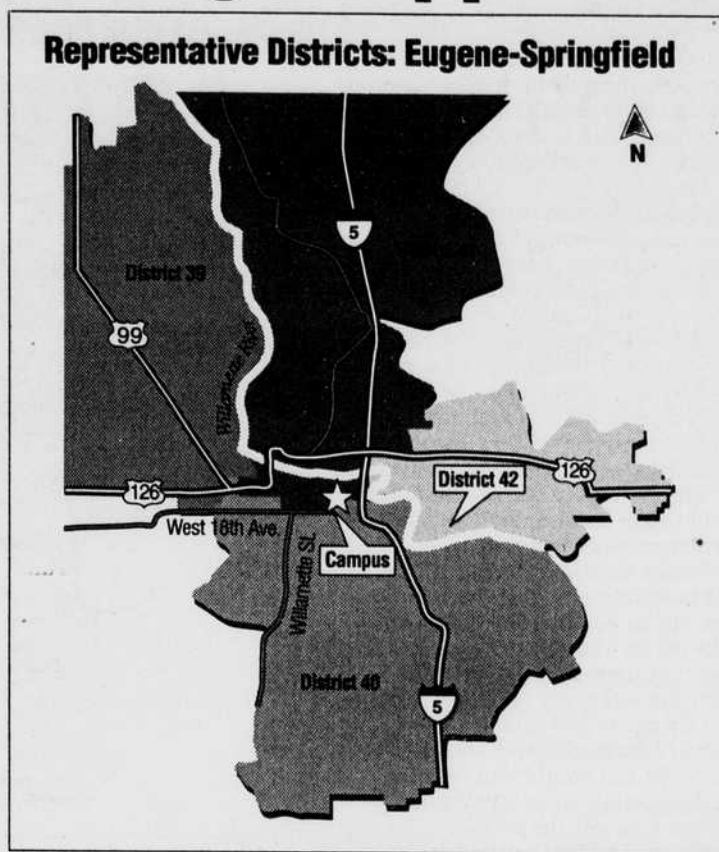
Morrisette was the first Springfield mayor in 115 years to be elected to three terms in office.

"I guess that means I've been able to do a credible job," he said.

Because he is running unopposed, Morrisette has been able to get a head start in dealing with issues he hopes to address in the Legislature.

Morrisette has several ideas for improved legislation, and he hopes to "hit the ground running" when he does get his chance.

Two issues he plans to introduce are the way liquor licenses are issued and arbitration for teacher negotiations. Morrisette said he will also fight against possible tuition raises in higher



PAMELA SIRIANNI/Emerald

issue of which city — Eugene or Springfield — should incorporate the Glenwood area. A survey of local residents found that Springfield is the more favorable choice, he said.

The issue will now be handled and resolved by the Eugene City Council and other Lane County officials.

Springfield has enjoyed a fair amount of growth since Morrisette has been mayor, and he said he believes it's a result of the way the two communities deal with new businesses.

"Springfield has a reputation for being more business-friendly than Eugene has been," he said.

Morrisette and his wife, Janice, were married in 1951; they have eight adult children and 12 grandchildren.

Morrisette was a social studies teacher at Springfield High School from 1962 to 1990. He was also a sales representative at Rich & Rhine Inc. and Borden Co. from 1953 to 1962.

Morrisette received Lane County's Elected Official of the Year Award in 1992 and the first annual Oregon Mayor of the Year Award in 1994. He was also recognized as the Eugene City Club's "Turtle of the Year" in 1995 for "willingness to stick one's neck out on important issues."

Morrisette was the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 1997.

education.

Morrisette said arbitration will allow for a reasonable agreement and prevent strikes, much like the system currently in place for local fire and police officials.

He said he is also concerned about adult and family services available to those in need. He

said he feels early interaction with troubled youth is the way to go.

"I believe very strongly in prevention and intervention issues, rather than putting money into prisons," he said.

One of Morrisette's most recent projects has been sorting out the



EMU News

Check out the EMU WEB PAGE for the latest EMU/ASUO event and renovation information <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~emumain/>

Shasta Workshop 1998!!!

Don't miss the 1998 Shasta Workshop! The guest speaker is

Sgt. Richard Woolf of Shasta County.

WHERE: 150 Columbia

WHEN: Monday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

WHO: All Freshman, Chapter Presidents, first time Shasta goers, and all boat captains must attend. All others are welcome!

WHY: To Assure a safe and fun Shasta this year!

THE LONE-ly POT SALE
April 30 10am-4pm

Craft Center
lower level EMU/346-4361
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~craftctr/>

Coming this week:

PRIDE WEEK

Hunger Banquet

Black Arts Festival

ASUO Spring Street Fair

ASUO Program's Fair

Cinco De Mayo
Foreign Language Day

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

EMU Maintenance has an immediate opening for a laborer position. The successful candidate will be able to work 40 hours per week M-F 8:00 - 5:00, will have the skills or interest in learning the skills necessary to perform general laborer tasks such as painting, cleaning, polishing, and many other tasks. Interested persons should call EMU Administration at 346-3705, or come by M101 in the EMU and pick up an application. This is a summer position.

EMU Administration is now taking applications for summer receptionist positions. Successful candidates do not need to have workstudy during the summer, but will have either workstudy or worktech for the coming academic year, and will be interested in continuing employment. General office skills needed; filing, word processing, ordering supplies, answering multi-line phone system and greeting customers. Emphasis is put on customer service. Applications also being taken for EMU Board Office Manager for Fall Term. Must be workstudy. If interested please call Donna Winitzky at 346-6064.

New EMU Food Service - We are now in the process of hiring for several newly created student supervisory positions in our new Bakery, Coffeehouse, Convenience Store, and in our existing satellite locations. Must be able to begin work on July 20th and continue through the summer and fall terms. Looking for food, retail, or customer service experience. Workstudy a plus! Positions pay \$7.25 per hour. Please come to skylight Dining in the EMU to pick up an application between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00p.m. Application deadline is May 15th. In addition to student supervisor applications, we are also accepting general employment applications for summer and fall.

Student Night Manager - The EMU is accepting applications for Student Night Managers for the 98-99 academic year. Duties include building supervision, security and various aspects of daily operation. Student Night Managers work evenings and weekends. If interested, please pick up a position description and application in room M101 of the EMU. Application deadline is May 15th.

The EMU Ticket Office

your entertainment connection!

We are a ticket outlet for the Hult Center, Fastix, Wow Hall, University Theater, LCC Theater, U of O men's basketball, and other area venues.

Come see us or charge by phone
346-4363

Up coming events!

Hunger Banquet 4/28 EMU Ballroom	Zony Mash 5/2 WOW Hall
The Tempest 5/1 - 9 LCC Theater	Victor Borge 5/2 Hult Center
The Statler Bros 5/1 Hult Center	Ore. Mozart Players 5/2 Hult Center; 5/3 Beall Hall

Ticket Office Hours:

9:30a.m.-7:30p.m. Mon-Fri, 10a.m.-4p.m.
Saturday, 12p.m.-4p.m. Sunday

This Friday is the Grand Opening of the Canoe House!!

Come enjoy the sun and the Millrace!

Canoes/Kayaks rent for \$5/hour

May 1 & 2 Only: Rent for 1 hour and receive a coupon for 1 FREE hour.

(Good on the following visit)

Hours: Fridays 1-7 p.m. Sunday & Saturday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The Canoe House is located on Franklin Blvd., across from Onyx Bridge.