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## ELECTION NEWS

# Prozanski plans for another House term

By Tricia Duryee  
Community Reporter

When the filing date deadline arrived, incumbent Rep. Floyd Prozanski found himself running uncontested in District 40 for the Oregon House of Representatives.

He said he contributed his success as a Democrat to demonstrating an open-door policy and taking an unbiased approach to all citizens' opinions regardless of their political orientation.

"I receive very high praise from a community that makes up a lot of different philosophies," he said.

Prozanski will run without opposition in both the May 15 primary and the general election this fall.

The 1999 legislative session will be the last term in which he will represent District 40.

Prozanski said although he hasn't been able to accomplish all he set out to do when he was first elected in 1994, he said he has kept his perspective and promises to the voters.

During his first campaign race, he said he considered himself a populist and would hold regular town meetings to accomplish this interaction with the people.

"I believe the term 'populist' means representing the people and their interests, even if it is contrary to business and the traditional elite," he said.

Prozanski said he kept in con-

### Representative Districts: Eugene-Springfield



PAMELA SIRIANNI/Emerald

tact with the people by attending public forums. "I've gone to a lot of the neighborhood meetings in order for their perspectives to be

heard," he said.

Last month state Sen. Susan Castillo and Prozanski held a town meeting together regarding the im-

pact of methamphetamines on Eugene.

During his time in the Legislature, Prozanski has used his background in law to serve on the House Judiciary Committee and hopes to continue in that position next year.

"I want to take a realistic approach to government and to serve people as a whole in the judiciary," Prozanski said. "I want to look for long-term solutions."

He said more money should be put into preventative measures and that the government should stop its "knee-jerk" approach to crime.

"For every dollar that is spent on education or prevention, \$7 to \$15 are put into the criminal justice system," he said.

Before leaving the Legislature, Prozanski said he wants to help protect it.

"I want to make certain the institution is preserved," he said.

He said numerous factors have led to a less independent body, including the implementation of term limits and the initiative process.

"I believe in the Oregon initiative process," he said. However, he said the process shouldn't allow people to bypass the Legislature. He said people are paid to gather signatures and that the campaigns are targeted to pull the "heart strings" of the voters.

# Seat 41 candidates seek education reform

By Michael Burnham  
Community Editor

In the race for Oregon House of Representatives seat 41, education is king for candidates Norm Fox and Vicki Walker.

Republican candidate Norm Fox, a public and private educator for more than 30 years, is hoping to convert his career experience into public policy. Fox's campaign is highlighted by a proposed bill, dubbed the Oregon Children's Charter, which he said would be used to "intelligently fund" K-12 and higher education.

According to Fox, the purpose of the bill would be not only to improve K-12 education, but also to change post-secondary education and property taxes.

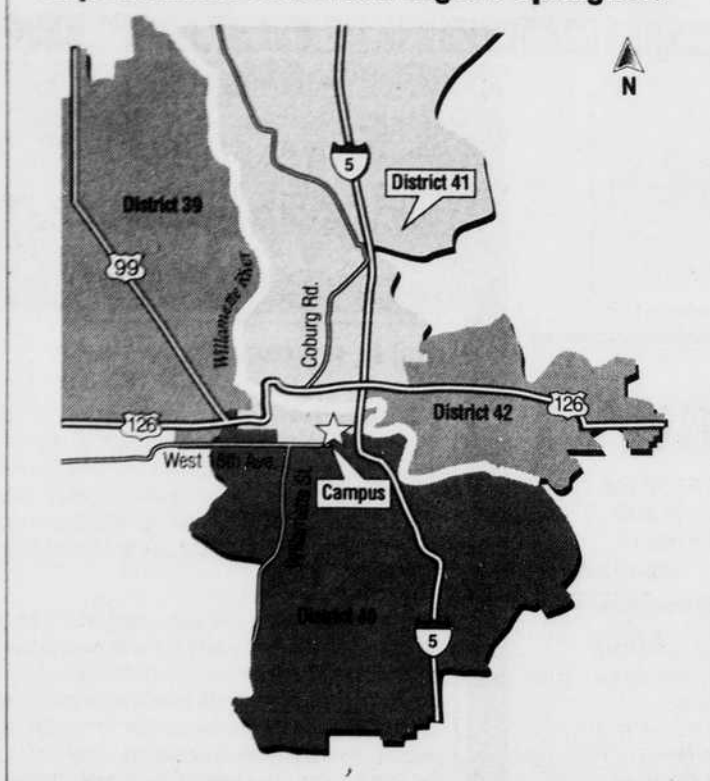
"With the Oregon Children's Charter, we don't have to raise taxes or take away money from other institutions," he said.

He said through the charter he will propose a funding source with no new taxes for the existing system.

The current draft of the charter would provide tax credits to parents who choose to put their K-12-aged children in alternative schooling. The tax credit would total half the amount of state funds currently being spent to educate the child in public schools. Fox said the state's annual per-student expenditure is about \$7,200.

A quarter of the money freed up through the removal of children from public education would remain in the system to provide bet-

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PAMELA SIRIANNI/Emerald

ter services for students.

Fox also said about 7 percent of an additional quarter of the \$7,200 would be used to supplement income for the "neediest school districts."

However, Fox's charter would not only be limited to K-12 expenditures.

He said another 14 percent of the \$7,200 would be used to restore lost revenue for higher education and to provide property tax relief for fixed income seniors. His proposed bill also calls for any money left over from the tax credit to be deposited in a savings account for a college scholarship for

the child.

In a different direction to Fox's charter, Democrat Vicki Walker is working to improve K-12 and post-secondary education through funding changes and increased student power.

Walker, who orchestrated Wooten's campaign victory for House seat 41 in 1992, said she is running for the seat because the time is right.

The former chair of the Lane County Democratic Party began the campaign season going door-to-door to more than 1,200 district households to make sure she represents constituents' views.

"It's helped me focus my message and get the people engaged," she said. "I've been rolling ever since."

Although the self-described political moderate claimed she does not have a set agenda of initiatives going into office, she said she is directing her energy to issues such as education and better family-wage jobs.

"The Legislature has dropped the ball on higher education funding," she said. Walker added that the new system of performance-based funding for the state's higher education institutions is a step in the right direction. She also said she is a proponent of keeping college students eligible for the Oregon Health Plan as well as keeping the spending power of student incidental fees in the hands of students.

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