

Kitzhaber, Wyden declare wins in state races

By David Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

Sometimes voters prove political pundits wrong — not this year.

Gubernatorial and Senate underdogs in pre-election opinion polls remained underdogs in polling results Tuesday night.

But only 16 percent of the votes were counted Tuesday evening. According to the Lane County Board of Elections, 53 percent of registered voters are voting by absentee ballots that will not be counted until Friday.

Around the state Tuesday, candidates tried to end their campaigns with a final frenzy of campaigning before they attended pre- and post-election parties.

John Lim, Republican U.S. Senate candidate, drove through Portland Tuesday to do some last-minute campaigning.

"Hopefully I can capture a majority," he said. "I need a few more votes to win. That's what I'm telling people."

Ron Wyden started his day at 7 a.m. hold-

ing campaign signs on the Burnside Bridge in Portland before urging people to vote in downtown Portland.

Gov. John Kitzhaber spent his day calling afternoon radio talk shows encouraging people to vote.

"He was out all weekend and yesterday going to different high schools," said Greg Peden, Kitzhaber's press secretary.

Bill Sizemore, Kitzhaber's opponent, campaigned throughout the state, including Eugene, on Monday and did interviews with the media on Tuesday.

"Yesterday was our big day," said Kathy Eply, Sizemore's press secretary.

Even though Sizemore was predicted to lose the governor's race by a wide margin, Eply said Sizemore planned to hold a "victory party" later Tuesday evening.

Senate hopeful Lim planned to have his post-election party at the downtown Marriott in Portland. Kitzhaber and other Democrats chose the aptly named Governor

Hotel to host their post-election party.

Going into election day, Lim was pleased with the way the his U.S. Senate campaign had been run.

"Well, I feel good about this campaign," he said. "It was very positive. There was no mudslinging."

Sizemore was reported to be unhappy with the way the gubernatorial campaign had gone.

"Kitzhaber's campaign has run on the issues, so he has someone else do the mudslinging," Eply said.

She referred to the political action committee devoted to opposing Measure 59, a measure Sizemore placed on the ballot.

The 16 percent of the ballots counted Tuesday night — as opinion polls in The Oregonian predicted earlier this month — came out in favor of the incumbent Democrats.

Kitzhaber led with 67 percent of the vote, and Sizemore had 24 percent. Wyden led the U.S. Senate race by 60 percent in com-

parison to Lim's 30 percent.

In an concession speech, Sizemore said he was in a good mood.

"No, I don't feel down; I'm upbeat," he said. "I'm excited about the prospects for the future. I can put ballot measures on the ballot if I'm governor, and I can put measures on the ballot if I'm not."

In an interview with a group of TV stations, Kitzhaber said he was happy his campaign ran on the issues.

Wyden was more passionate than Kitzhaber.

"You've given me the chance to listen to you and to pledge to you," he said. "And tonight, I'm going to take your common sense solutions to the capitol."

Lim was unable to be contacted.

However, in an interview before the election results came out Tuesday night he said he looked forward to his post-election party.

"When we win, we will celebrate, and when we lose, we will celebrate," he said.

Politicians share good luck charms on election night

By Nicole Garton
Oregon Daily Emerald

For Peter DeFazio, it's a pearl. Mayor Jim Torrey had black and yellow jelly beans. And Vicki Walker's is a pair of bright yellow galoshes.

Good luck charms may not take the place of months of hard campaigning, but when the ballots start rolling in on election night at the Lane County Fairgrounds, every little bit helps.

Clusters of red, white and blue balloons bob above campaign signs and floral arrangements as politicians and their supporters help themselves to meat platters, potato chips and handfuls of popcorn. Confetti speckles some tables, and others display campaign stickers.

State representative candidate Vicki Walker's table sports a pair of waterproof yellow shoes.

"I'm not sure what they're for, but people have seen them before," says Holly Young, a senior at South Eugene High School and supporter of Walker. "I guess it's a symbolic Vicki thing."

Minutes later, the mystery is solved as Walker arrives, beaming at preliminary election results that indicate an impending victory.

"They're my trademark, my walking shoes," she explains.

Walker began door-knocking last January, when it was cold and wet — "you know, Oregon rain," she says — and she wanted a pair of shoes that would keep her feet dry.

Bright yellow was the obvious choice.

"I needed some shoes that would be bright enough so people would see me and I wouldn't get hit by a car. Besides, yellow just reflects the tenor of Oregon," she says.

Walker believes the shoes have literally helped her to win because of their association with the University. "When I wear them with my long, green coat, I get a lot of thumbs up and, 'Go Ducks,'" she recalls.

Torrey agrees that yellow is a great campaign color; after all, he was the first to use black and yellow together in his mayoral campaign two years ago, he says. He chose the colors because they were highly visible from a distance on lawn signs.

His campaign pride and joy was the huge bowl of black and yellow jelly beans he offered at his table on election night.

"If you visit my office, you can



Laura Goss/Emerald
State representative candidate Vicki Walker's yellow walking galoshes grace her table on election night.

still see black and yellow jelly beans there," he says — not the originals, of course. Those went so quickly he had to send people out for more halfway through the night. "I've probably spent close to \$100 on jelly beans."

Finding the yellow ones was tricky. He bought some at Gateway Mall, but they were popcorn-flavored.

"Those were the most ungodly

tasting things you can imagine," he recalls. "But then we replaced them with lemon, and it was okay."

Looking at a wall hung with various campaign signs, Torrey sees many candidates following the yellow path he blazed, many of them combining the color with blue or black.

"You don't see a lot of black and yellow jelly beans here, but you do see a lot of yellow signs," he notes.

Torrey and Walker may display their yellow trademarks for all to see, but some candidates prefer to keep their good luck charms hidden. Incumbent Congressional candidate Peter DeFazio, for example, has carried a pearl with him ever since a visit to Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

"I was told once by a blind fortune teller that I should keep a pearl with me, that it would be good luck," he says. He also wears a Chinese dragon medallion.

Regardless of whether they have good luck charms to comfort them, however, candidates munch and mingle on election night, some excited at promising preliminaries, some disappointed at probable defeats and others hopeful that the tides may change.

Torrey is impressed by the event's turnout.

"Since absentee votes have been so important in past elections, usually this is pretty low-key. The real decision comes on Friday. To have all these people here — it's exciting," he says.

To City Councilman Bobby Lee and to many of the candidates, the evening represents the culmination of months of light sleep and heavy campaigning. Win or lose, election night means an end to the campaign process — at least for now.

"Most politicians don't have a social life, so this one night of the year is our time to get together and have fun. People work as one big family for one time of the year," he explains.

"Some people have been campaigning for over a year. That takes an enormous amount of time and energy, and to have that come to an end, whether you win or lose, it's a celebration."

Torrey isn't surprised. "People run hard here, but when the campaign is over, they all work together," he says.

And on this night, the candidates can sit back, relax a little and let their good luck charms take over.

City and state measures yield close results; 20-06 within 1 percent

By Felicity Ayles and David Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

Some of the most complex issues voters poured over on Election Day produced the most dramatic results.

Both city and state measures had close results Tuesday.

Proponents for City of Eugene measure 20-02 said they were "cautiously optimistic" early Tuesday evening. The measure would provide funds for a new Eugene Public Library and was passing with 72 percent of the vote late Tuesday evening.

"We've never been this far ahead," said Bill Sullivan, co-chair of Library NOW, the organization in favor of the measure. "It's looking extremely optimistic."

Sullivan also noted that if the measure passes, it could be bene-

ficial to University students.

"This library could be a tremendous asset to students," he said. "At times, there are more books checked out by students at the Eugene library than the Knight library."

At the public library, all books are available for check-out and there are many books that cannot be found at the Knight library, he said.

Sullivan said he hoped students would vote on the measure because it has failed twice before by only a small margin.

"We would have had a library four years ago if the students had voted," he said. "Just the under vote in that one precinct would have done it."

City of Eugene measure 20-03 would provide funds to purchase more parklands. This measure

also ran unopposed, and proponents said they were "optimistic but guarded" about its success.

The main opposition to the measure was that people didn't want to spend the money, said Steve Johnson, spokesman for Parks for All of Us, an organization that supports the measure.

Johnson said if the measure passes, University students could benefit.

"A lot of students use the Amazon Pool and the Rdgeline Trail," he said.

But, he said, students don't tend to vote very heavily. However, measure 20-03 was passing with 75 percent of the vote late Tuesday night.

Among the state ballot measures the most politically heated was measure 59. Proponents of the measure sued opponents over

an ad campaign a judge deemed had false information.

Results as of midnight Tuesday

Other local measures included Measure 20-04, the measure that would place an American flag on the top of Skinner Butte. Measure 20-04 was failing with 46 percent of the vote.

Local measure 20-99, which implements a citizen's review board of police actions, was passing with 58 percent of the vote.

Twin measures 20-05 and 20-06, dealing with improvements to the Lane County justice system were very close. Measure 20-05 was passing with 52 percent of the vote, and measure 20-06 was failing with 49.9 percent of the vote.

State measure 54 was passing with 59 percent of the vote.

Measure 55, which would per-

mit parents to set up a prepaid tuition fund, was passing with 52 percent of the vote.

Measure 57, which would make possession of less than one ounce of marijuana a class C misdemeanor, was failing with only 27 percent of the vote.

Measure 59, which would prohibit the use of public money for political campaigns, was failing with only 41 percent of the vote.

Measure 64, the measure restricting clear cutting, was failing with 25 percent of the vote.

Measure 66, which would divert 15 percent of lottery funding to environmental projects, was passing with 70 percent of the vote.

Measure 67, which legalizes marijuana within limits for medical use, was passing with 66 percent of the vote.