

Democrats lead local house race

Local house candidates lead the race, but Republicans will still have the majority in the state legislature

By David Ryan
Oregon Daily Emerald

Election results Wednesday showed every state house district in Eugene was going to a Democrat. If that remains the case when all the absentee ballots are counted Friday, local house Democrats will enjoy total superiority in Eugene House districts.

But when they show up for legislative work in Salem, recent state election results show the Republicans will probably hold a majority in the capitol.

Local Democrats know this and feel they can work with Republicans while still maintain Democratic political agendas in the 1999 Legislative session, which begins in January.

Vicki Walker, a probable local state representative who was leading by more than 20 percentage points in the continuing election results Wednesday, said she has mixed feelings about the prospect of a Republican-dominated legislature.

"I'm concerned about that because I'm not sure Democrats are going to be in the majority," she said. "There's a lot of work we have to do. I hope we can cooperate with the Republicans and come to compromises on issues because if we don't work together, we'll get nothing done."

Walker said one of her priorities was to help higher education.

"I absolutely want a tuition freeze," she said. Walker said she has a child who is a student at the University and another who attends Lane Community College. Walker said it is important provide more need-based grants and funding to support child care.

State Representative Floyd Prozanski, who was leading by 60 percent in the polls above his nearest challenger Wednesday, was reserved about what he thought the makeup of the state house would be.

Prozanski focused on what he feels Democrats would try to accomplish in the next legislative ses-

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Vicki Walker
Democrat candidate

sion.

"I think it's going to allow for us to have consistency and allow for us to implement some policies," he said. "It also tells me that voters want to see our work carried through from the last session."

Prozanski said the first major Democratic goal would be to provide stable educational funding for the long term.

The second goal is to secure Oregon's land use laws in order to curb growth, while working on Oregon's tax system, he said.

"I also think we need to bring the tax system back into balance so it's equitable," he said.

Equitable, according to Prozanski, means making Oregon corporations pay their fair share. Prozanski said he wants to take away those tax breaks so individuals will shoulder less of the burden while making the tax system less friendly to people with higher incomes.

One potential way to do many of those things would be to broaden the reach of state taxes. Prozanski gave an example of people state taxes can't reach.

"Tourists aren't paying income or property taxes," he said. "They pay a room tax or a gas tax if we have one, but that's all."

A sales tax would make tourists contribute to the Oregon government.

"The sales tax would broaden who contributes to services in the state," Prozanski said.

Although a sales tax is a good example of a broader tax than income and property taxes, Prozanski said he is doubtful it could be passed in Oregon.

Prozanski said many of the major Democratic goals have been disturbed by 1990's Measure 5, which cut property taxes and reduced state income.

David Ryan covers the Eugene City Council, community groups and politics for the Emerald.



PROZANSKI

Student Senate hears requests, grievances

Senators agreed to change the policy concerning office hours and their their location

"It's inaccessible. It took me two weeks to find this office."

Ethan Knight
Student senator

By Kristina Rudinskas
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO Student Senate allocated \$353 to the Vietnamese Student Association to buy a new phone and Audix for its new office in EMU room 27.

"We need a phone to pretty much get out to the outside world," said Co-director Mike Nguyen.

Although VSA's new office is shared with the Black Women of Achievement, BWA has been inactive and has had internal problems. BWA is unable to use its funds for the purchase of the two group's shared phone.

Debate ensued over the location of the senators' office hours in places outside the actual senate office in EMU room 319.

An open discussion was fielded by Senate Ombudsman Jerome Grzybowski regarding the option for senators to spend their hours in other student group offices like the MCC, the School of Law and other student unions.

"It's silly to have them [office hours] there. It's inaccessible," said Senator Ethan Knight. "It took me two weeks to find this office."

Most senators agreed a new policy should be implemented and an amendment to the executive rule requiring office hours in the senate office will be forward-

ed to the rules committee for approval.

In committee reports, the academic committee met with University President Dave Frohnmayer to discuss placing all nine academic student senators on the University Senate, the Riverfront Research Park Proposal and the recent Halloween riots.

"We had a great time," said Senator Selena Brewington. "We're going to meet once a term."

The Senate's grievance table fielded several requests from students regarding sporting events, student access to tickets, more bike racks on campus and ATM use.

The ASUO Executive is looking for a student to take on the daunting task of Programs Finance Committee at-large seat. Currently the PFC committee consists of six female students and Senator Reid. Five of the members are in Greek life.

The senate stipend committee plans to write a recommendation to the PFC regarding consistency of ASUO stipends.

"There's a pretty wide range of stipends of what groups can get," Reid said.

EMU board approves mural project for MCC

The board also discussed last year's unusually high budget increase and next year's budget

By Peter Breden
Oregon Daily Emerald

The EMU board's house committee met Wednesday and voted unanimously to encourage a mural project for the ASUO Multicultural Center. A group representing the MCC said the proposed mural would occupy the wall across from the first floor ethnic student unions

"We do have the full support of all the unions that it would involve," said Ari Sternberg, co-chair of MCC board.

The mural proposal is in the early stages of a collaborative effort that aims to bring together the MCC and ethnic student unions.

"This is just the first step in a long process," said Huy Ong, MCC program advocate.

The group would need to consider the mural's physical dimensions first, said Debby Martin, program advisor from the EMU Cultural Forum.

"It would have to be remov-

able," Martin said. The mural could be stored as a part of the Cultural Forum's permanent art collection, she said.

The EMU board's budget committee met Wednesday to begin discussion of the EMU budget benchmark increase. Among the committee's concerns was last year's especially high budget increase.

"A big thing we want is to drive revenue — marketing the EMU, making it a place where people will want to come out of their way to."

Campbell Kidd
Budget Committee Chair

budget increase over this year's \$2.4 million budget. He said the increase would take into account increased pay for unionized EMU staff.

"The best possible scenario for us is if it's over budgeted, the money comes back to you," said Budget Committee Chair Campbell Kidd. "What happens if we don't leave enough room for growth?"

"We have a lot of work to do," Kidd said. "A big thing we want is to drive revenue — marketing the EMU, making it a place where people will want to come out of their way to."

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