

Attorney general race heads into home stretch

■ Republican Kevin Mannix and Libertarian Thomas Cox are looking to unseat incumbent Hardy Meyers

By Andrew Adams
Oregon Daily Emerald

Of the three candidates facing off in the race for attorney general, one says he'll be tough on crime, the current office holder contends he'll improve society in general and the third just hopes he'll get enough votes to be noticed.

In the race, incumbent Democrat Hardy Meyers is facing a challenge from Republican Kevin Mannix and Libertarian Thomas Cox.

Cox, a database engineer from

Salem, is frank about his slim chances of winning the race, saying that all he hopes to do is garner more votes than the margin of difference between Mannix and Meyers. Doing so, he said, would amount to recognition to his small party.

"I hope the loser is going to look at my votes and say, 'Oh man, why did I leave those votes on the table? Why didn't I go after them?'" he said.

As a Libertarian attorney general, Cox said he would work to ensure that government is as non-intrusive into people's lives as possible.

"I've got a slightly different vision on what government and the attorney general should do," he said. "I'll be accountable to voters with an eye toward protecting people from government encroachment."

He doesn't view his lack of government or legal experience as a drawback because he says it lets him view the office in a new light.

"Lawyers try to be helpful, and if your vision as attorney general is

that you work for the government, then you're going to help them and not people," he said.

Cox received a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago in 1986, and worked in public relations and management consulting prior to becoming a database engineer.

Drawing on his experience in state government and law, Republican contender Mannix said his chief goal as attorney general would be to protect Oregonians from violent crime and fraudulent companies. He said during his service in the state legislature, he drafted several crime bills, including the mandatory sentencing act Measure 11, as well as an anti-stalking law.

"Nobody in elected office can claim to be more effective in fighting crime than I have," he said.

Mannix received both a bachelor's and a law degree from the University of Virginia. He has served as an administrative law judge, an assistant attorney general in both Guam and Oregon, a circuit court judge and a state senator and repre-

sentative. He said his law experience is one of his best attributes, but also said he has not lost touch with the average voter.

"I'm going to go after property crime like I went after violent crime," he said. "The nitty-gritty is the guy who takes his car to the shop and the mechanic says it will be \$700, then he does the work and says it will be \$900 and holds the car. In a \$200 consumer rip-off, I'll step in immediately."

"I expanded the law to include any sexual relationship, regardless of gender or orientation," he said.

Meyers, the incumbent, has said he will be tough on crime, and added that his office would protect society in general and not just prosecute crimes.

"I think of the [attorney general's] office very much in terms of the security and safety of individuals, but also in the social health," he said.

Prior to being elected attorney general, Meyers served as a state representative and speaker of the house, held a chair on the Oregon Criminal Justice Council and

served on the Oregon Law Commission. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi and his law degree from the University of Oregon.

As attorney general, Meyers said he has worked hard to ensure that the state has received the most objective and unbiased law counsel, and acted within proper accordance of the law.

He noted his work to assist victims of domestic violence, establish an automated telephone notification system to update crime victims on the trials of suspects in their cases, and the movement of the state's anti-trust litigation against the proposal of the planned merger between British Petroleum-Amoco and ARCO.

The main goal of his office's work, Meyers said, is to ensure that Oregonians' basic rights are protected.

"We pursue the end of law as really the foundation of the ability of people to live free," he said.



publican Kevin Mannix and Libertarian Thomas Cox.

Cox, a database engineer from

Grad school becoming a reality

■ The McNair Program gives support to students wanting to continue their education

By Brooke Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

University students who don't want their education to end with a bachelor's degree can get a head start with their graduate school applications through the McNair Program.

The program, part of the Academic Learning Services' TRIO Program, helps qualifying undergraduates prepare for graduate school by offering specialized classes, workshops and paid summer internships. A general information session will be held Thursday.

The program currently has 13 participants, but there are more openings available.

"Because of the program, I feel much more confident about the whole graduate school application process," said Deana Dart, a senior anthropology major and McNair student.

Dart said she particularly appreciates that the program offers student assistance in writing graduate school personal statements and gives students vouchers for the Graduate Record Examination.

"It's nice because I only have to go to one place," she said.

The McNair Program, a nation-

wide organization, is designed for low-income, first generation college students or students from groups under-represented in graduate schools.

This is the second year the University is offering the McNair program through the University's broad TRIO Program, which was launched on a national level in the mid-1960s. Congress created the McNair Program in 1986 in honor of Ronald E. McNair, one of the astronauts killed in the Challenger explosion of 1986. McNair came from a low-income background, but he pursued a higher education, earned his Ph.D. and was accepted into the NASA program.

Today there are 155 McNair Programs nationwide, said Gail Unruh, McNair coordinator. Unlike some branches of the program, the University's chapter does not limit areas of study in which students can participate.

Unruh said he is confident of the program's ability to prepare students for graduate school.

"Even though it's technically an undergraduate program, universities across the country have recognized the value of McNair," he said.

John Lopez, an architecture and international studies major and a McNair student, agrees that the program is valuable. He said he thinks it gives him the ability to

McNair Program

What: General information session

Who should attend: Students interested in joining the McNair program

When: Thursday, Oct 12 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Where: 125 Grayson Hall

compete at a university level.

"First generation college students are not as well off as second and third generations, but the program gives me the foundation to pursue my Ph.D.," Lopez said

The University's McNair Program also offers students a paid summer internship in which they work with faculty and McNair staff to produce written and oral research.

"I think what attracts students most to the program is the opportunity to do the research and get paid for it," Unruh said.

Susan Lesyk, project director of the McNair Program, thinks students who participate in the program increase their chances of being accepted to their first choice graduate school because of the experience they gain.

"It opens up doors for students," she said. "They enter graduate school understanding the culture of a research university."

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10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

WHERE:

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