

State treasurer candidates enhance the ballot

■ Five very different office hopefuls share their varied goals for Oregon's fiscal future

By **Lindsay Buchele**
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon State Treasurer Jim Hill has served his two terms in the office, the maximum allowed by Oregon's term limit requirement, and voters must now choose a new state treasurer.

The state treasurer serves as the central bank manager for the state, manages the state's pension fund, issues all state debt and manages Oregon's state-owned land along with the governor and the secretary of state. Five very different candidates each feel they would serve the position best.

Democrat Randall Edwards wants to increase funding for education. Republican Jon Kvistad wants to launch a home buyer bond program and a family farm retention program. Libertarian Mitchell T. Shults wants to end all taxes on investment income and open land sales to the common public. Constitution Party member Carlos F. Lucero wants to be the Hispanic voice in the government and provide better funding for schools. Reform Party Candidate Leonard Zack wants to end special-interest control of government funds.

A voice for education funding

Edwards, currently a state representative from Portland, recently launched the College Savings Plan, which allows parents to create tax-

free savings accounts for their children's college education.

"Education is my passion. I grew up in a family of educators and know the challenge of funding schools," Edwards said.

Edwards, who spent four years working as a senior advisor for the Oregon State Treasury, said his governmental experience gives him an edge in the race.

"In the legislature, I'm seen as the loudest voice for funding our schools," Edwards said. "The legislature has also been a good place to learn about working with finances and elections. I've had a record of working in a partisan environment."

His work in the state treasury office, and owning his own management and marketing consulting business, make him the most qualified for the post, Edwards said.

"I know a great deal about the office," Edwards said. "Having worked there, I've gained the respect and trust of the staff. Based on my financial background, I have the ability to immediately accomplish what needs to be done."

Rich in financial experience

Kvistad also says he's rich in experience. Owning and operating his own data and direct mail business for the past 16 years has given him his own financial experience, Kvistad said.

He's also served on the Portland Metro Government since 1992, and has been elected three times to the office of presiding officer, the organization's head policy maker, helping create policies for land

use, transportation and recycling for the 750,000 people who live in the Beaverton, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville area Kvistad said.

"I am the only candidate that has direct municipal experience," Kvistad said. "I helped push the \$140 million Green Spaces Bond Measure, which purchased over 6,000 acres to turn into state parks and disperse to local governments for their use."

Kvistad said he would look out for Oregon's environment while overseeing state-owned lands. He mentioned his activism in the Salmon Recovery Act, which preserves and protects the habitat of Oregon's salmon population.

The experience Kvistad has had in Portland government has helped him bring a non-partisan view to the office, he said.

"I am the only Republican in the [Portland Metro Government], and yet I've been elected three times by my peers," Kvistad said. "I feel the office of treasurer should be non-partisan and not support any specific political group."

Doing a better, faster job

Like Kvistad, Shults feels he would be the best steward of Oregon's state-owned lands. He said he would open all state lands sales — except parks and beaches — to the general public.

"Currently, environmental groups and the common man can't buy public lands," Shults said. "I want to change this. By selling to anyone, the revenue made off of the sales can be put into the common school fund [which funds

state schools] and forever benefit the school system."

Shults has no political experience, but he said his last 20 years at Intel as director of business development for the fabric components division give him the necessary financial experience.

"My résumé far exceeds the other candidates," Shults said. "Not only do I have financial experience, I also worked on the staff of the House Committee on the Oversight of the Interior, which helped force the resignation of Jim Watt."

Shults thinks the treasury is run well, though he feels he could do the job better.

"It took Hill more than a year to implement the College Savings Plan," Shults said. "I could have done it faster."

Shults said he would implement several plans, including ending all taxation on investment income, beginning an investment in a retirement plan and allowing Oregonians to opt out of receiving federally-funded social security and instead receive state-funded social security.

Stop the 'revolving door'

Lucero has never held office either, but hopes to be the voice for Hispanic people living in the Oregon. Lucero said he would bring financial experience to the office of treasurer. He came to the U.S. in 1970 and began working in the software industry and currently owns his own software contracting business.

Lucero said that if elected, his goal would be to create a more

clean, efficient, and accountable state government. He said he would also increase education funding and eliminate the number of juvenile criminals.

"I want to make Oregon No. 1 in education," Lucero said. "There are too many youths being punished and getting caught up in the 'revolving door' effect, meaning they go in when they are young and emerge as hardened criminals who end up in and out of prison for the rest of their lives."

Lucero feels this "revolving door" process can be stopped if education improves and the number of student drop-outs decreases.

Focus on environment

Zack said he also hopes to improve education, but in a way that develops the full mental potential of each student.

He said he would focus on protecting the environment through the development of renewable, safe, non-polluting energy sources. Zack said he also wishes to invest in preventive healthcare rather than the current disease-care plan. Such preventative healthcare, he said, would include meditation.

But Zack said his main focus as treasurer would be to invest in industry that is profitable and sustainable.

"Our future needs to be secure for our children, and the only way to guarantee that is to invest in sustainable agriculture and have surpluses given to our schools."

Executive's plate is full as registration deadline passes

■ ASUO transitions into the second of three phases of its campaign to increase student voter registration

By **Emily Gust**
Oregon Daily Emerald

With a successful voter registration drive ending Tuesday, the ASUO Executive is faced with the daunting question — what now?

As the deadline for first-time voters to register passes, the Executive is transitioning into the second of a three-part effort to increase voter participation, said Brian Tanner, ASUO state affairs coordinator. The effort includes registering voters, educating them on the issues — specifically those impacting higher education — and encouraging them to use their right to vote.

But that's not the only thing on

the ASUO's plate these days.

ASUO members are mounting a campaign against a response fee ordinance that is scheduled for a Nov. 13 vote before the Eugene City Council. The fee ordinance would require renters to pay the cost of repeated police response to disorderly parties.

Last week, members of the ASUO presented their own version of the ordinance, originally drafted

by the Eugene Police Department, to the Council. Their version calls for more lenient regulations, as well as placing fine-issuing responsibility into the city court system's hands, rather than those of the city manager.

The ASUO is also gearing up for Oct. 24, when "Weaving New Beginnings" — the annual reception for students and faculty of color — takes place. It is an important event, ASUO President Jay Breslow said, because it will be the launching pad in the University's and the ASUO's struggle to retain students and faculty of color.

“We're doing good things, and we are going to keep doing them.”

Jay Breslow
ASUO President

But even when the elections have come and gone, the special response fee has been voted on, and the reception has kicked off the campaign for campus diversity, there is no letup in sight for the ASUO Executive office. Its busy agenda is only going to get busier, Breslow said.

"We're doing good things," Breslow said. "And we're going to keep doing them."

With Halloween approaching, Breslow said the ASUO intends to reach out and discourage out-of-control holiday parties and help students become involved with their community.

Of the many issues Breslow said the ASUO wants to tackle, encouraging campus democracy has re-emerged as a priority.

ASUO University Affairs Co-ordinator Chad Sullivan said he would like to form a coalition of students to promote democracy and encourage students to become more active on campus.

His goal, Sullivan said, is "to make this campus one where people know they have a voice, and actually do have one."

The ASUO Survival Center first brought up complaints that campus democracy is nonexistent last year during the protests over the University joining the Worker Rights Consortium.

Sullivan is in the process of placing about 80 students on roughly 30 committees around campus, with goals ranging from environmental issues to academic requirements. With two students splitting the University affairs job this year, Sullivan said there is more of an opportunity to establish a system of student selection. He said he hopes to have a system in place by the end of the year.

Turn to ASUO, page 5

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