

Oregon: governor candidate withdraws, supports Democrat

By Andrew Selsky
The Associated Press

The race for Oregon governor took an unexpected turn Tuesday when the candidate of the state's third-largest party withdrew and threw his support behind Democratic Gov. Kate Brown.

Patrick Starnes of the Independent Party said he backs Brown because she supports campaign finance reform. Starnes had made reform his centerpiece. Brown, who's facing Republican candidate Knute Buehler, said she was "totally honored and very tickled" by Starnes' endorsement.

"I'm particularly grateful for Mr. Starnes for endorsing me," Brown said in a joint telephone interview with Starnes. "I think that will certainly be a final push over the finish line."

The current race has generated historic levels of contributions. Nike co-founder Phil Knight has donated \$2.5 million to Buehler and \$1 million to the Republican Governors Association, which is supporting Buehler.

The Kate Brown Committee has received almost \$10.3 million in cash contributions; the Knute for Governor Committee raised \$13.2 million, according

to the Secretary of State's office.

It's unclear what effect Starnes' endorsement of Brown will have. He noted that results of the primary election showed that most Independent Party voters are conservative, with large write-in votes for Buehler and two other Republican candidates who were seeking the GOP nomination.

"I don't know if that's going to change how they vote. But if they recognize that campaign finance reform is our first priority, then hopefully they'll be realistic about their vote and vote for Gov. Brown," Starnes said.

The Independent Party comprises 4.5 percent of eligible voters in Oregon, and 28,000 of the 125,400 have already cast ballots. In Oregon, ballots are mailed in or left at drop-off sites.

Buehler campaign spokeswoman Monica Wroblewski dismissed the endorsement. "One tax-and-spend liberal endorsing another tax-and-spend liberal should come as no surprise to anyone," she said.

Polls indicate a tight race between Brown and Buehler.

Explaining why he chose Brown, Starnes said: "Well, you know how close the race is, and with the multi-

million-dollar donations from one individual versus the collected donations from many working people, I felt like Gov. Brown was better at getting campaign finance reform across the finish line."

They both said an amendment to the Oregon Constitution would be required for Oregon to obtain campaign finance limits.

"We're both committed to amending the constitution so Oregon is no longer one of the four or five states in the country that have no restrictions on campaign finance," Brown said.

She said she expects a "groundswell of support" from Oregonians after this election, which broke campaign finance records.



PGG auctioning off Hermiston industrial property

By Jade McDowell
East Oregonian

Pendleton Grain Growers is putting 122 acres of industrial land up for auction outside Hermiston.

The flat property off Feedville Road sits adjacent to the Hinkle Rail Yard and near two interstates, which Realty Marketing/Northwest is describing as the perfect opportunity for an "intermodal distribution complex" shipping freight via rail, truck and even barge. An example plan provided in promotional materials shows a distribution center and office with a solar farm and rail spur.

"I think that's a real opportunity for the property," RMNW president and broker John Rosenthal said.

PGG has been auctioning off multiple properties across the county in the last two years after members voted to dissolve the financially struggling co-op. Rosenthal said RMNW has been working with the co-op to auction surplus properties and is has "worked pretty well."

The Hermiston property is divided into three sections that can be bid on individually or in bulk. There is an undeveloped 10-acre

lot off Hinkle Road; an undeveloped, Utah-shaped 105-acre parcel between Feedville Road and the rail yard; and a 7-acre parcel with warehouses, office and truck shop currently leased to Crop Production Services.

Rosenthal said that lease comes up for renewal in 2023 and is a revenue opportunity for potential new owners.

A brochure about the property notes that Walmart, FedEx, UPS, Lamb Weston and Amazon were all drawn to the area by low-cost freight, labor, land, power and water. Rosenthal said there has already been significant interest in the PGG property.

The property is just outside Hermiston city limits. Rosenthal said while it is not currently included in Hermiston's Enterprise Zone, city staff have said that it would be possible for the city council to vote to expand the tax incentive to include a project there.

PGG hopes to get at least \$3.29 million from the sale of the property. Bids will be accepted until Dec. 5. Bid packages, environmental reports and other information are available by calling 1-800-845-3524.



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