

November 4, 1986

General Election



Paulus and Goldschmidt

This year's gubernatorial race between Democrat Neil Goldschmidt and Republican Norma Paulus is of interest to our readership

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for many reasons, not the least because both candidates support gay rights. However, as Just Out's questionnaire makes apparent, we have a wide scope of concerns, and on these matters the candidates differ in approach.

We congratulate both candidates for their outstanding record on civil rights for minorities and thank them for their candor in their dealings with us. We hope our questionnaire and the candidates' answers help you with your decision.

Just Out endorses Democrat Neil Goldschmidt for governor.

1. Recently the US Supreme Court ruled that gay sexual activities were not protected by constitutional rights to privacy. Would you join the gay community in condemning this ruling?

Norma: Yes, I would join in protecting the constitutional rights to privacy of all individuals. My public record has demonstrated a long-standing support for your right to privacy.

Neil: Yes.

2. Will calls for increased jail space and money spent for law enforcement be priorities for your administration?

Norma: Yes, I have already presented a detailed plan for increasing prison space and support for criminal justice agencies.

Neil: Yes.

3. The American Civil Liberties Union plans to introduce an omnibus gay and lesbian rights bill into the 1987 state legislature. If elected, would your administration actively lobby for and sign a gay rights bill? Would you actively lobby for the bill within your party if you are not elected?

Norma: As a freshman state legislator in 1971 I carried the consenting adult revision on the House floor. In 1973 I supported and spoke out in favor of Oregon's only gay rights bill. I will continue in that vein within my administration and within my party.

Neil: Yes, yes.

4. Both gubernatorial candidates have promised to revitalize the Oregon economy and create new jobs. What kind of jobs do you foresee creating? Would you actively seek defense contracts to provide employment in Oregon? Would increased job opportunities necessarily negatively impact the environment?

Norma: A substantial amount of the money generated in this state comes from businesses employing 50 or less individuals. It is

essential to work with existing businesses to help them be profitable. While I would not actively seek defense contracts as a means to provide employment, I would support communities interested in recruiting such contracts. In the event that such projects would pose state-wide or safety concerns, I would intercede on behalf of the citizens of this state. Job opportunities need not affect our environment adversely.

Neil: We need to build on the base we have by encouraging the expansion of existing businesses and the formation of new ones. This will get us more jobs and greater economic development than chasing after foreign investment.

Defense contracts are not a high priority in my economic development strategy. Increased job opportunities need not negatively affect the environment.

5. In 1985, Washington State Governor Booth Gardner by executive order, granted all state employees protection in employment regardless of sexual orientation. Would you be prepared to grant gay state employees civil protections by executive order?

Norma: As state representative, I supported the first attempt to pass an Oregon Gay Rights bill on the floor of the house. Since then, I have appeared before legislative committees in support of the legislation. The issue of banning employment discrimination is one of legal or civil rights. I will continue to concentrate on legislation that provides state employees protection in employment regardless of sexual orientation. I am prepared to take measures that foster this outcome.

Neil: Yes

6. Would you work against placement of a nuclear dump at Hanford, Washington? Would your administration support further nuclear power facilities in Oregon?

Norma: I have repeatedly called for the closure of the nuclear dump at Hanford. My administration would not support further nuclear power facilities in Oregon for a number of reasons, including the hazards, the lack of need, etc.

Neil: Yes, No.

7. Under Governor Atiyeh, Oregon National Guardsmen trained in Honduras. As commander of the state National Guard, would you support Guard training in Central America? Would your administration support federal attempts to suppress the Sanctuary movement?

Norma: No, on both counts.

Neil: I support the Guard's need to train in a variety of climates and terrain, which can include maneuvers in friendly nations. I do not support injecting our Guard into hazardous or provocative situations and misusing "training" as an excuse to endanger our troops and threaten other countries. On the second question, I oppose the Reagan Administration's faulty distinctions between refugees from so-called "authoritarian" or "totalitarian" countries.

8. As briefly as possible, how do you differ from your opponent?

Norma: Goldschmidt's accomplishments are based on the money that he was able to spend to meet his goals, my accomplishments are based on the money I have saved the state of Oregon during my years as a representative and the state's auditor. Support for my candidacy should rise from my accomplishments in increasing efficiency in government, protecting individual rights, enhancing economic growth in Oregon, protecting the environment.

Neil: We have a choice this year: whether we vote to continue with more of the same from the past eight years, or whether we choose a change that will make a difference. Lesbians and gays should support me for the same reason that straights or anyone else should: we need to turn our economy around, and I am the only candidate with the experience in doing difficult things like that. Norma Paulus has spent a lot of time in state government and served well, but this year we need more than that.

Specifically on the question of civil rights for lesbians and gays, both of us have expressed our support to you. As Mayor, I took the additional step of publicly declaring Gay Pride Day. (My opponent criticized that proclamation.)

9. Do you think divestment of Oregon state funds in South Africa is a legitimate or meaningful protest by Oregon of South African apartheid policies? What actions, if any, do you favor?

Norma: Most of the state's investment funds are held by employee pensions. I strongly oppose apartheid, but I do not feel I can speak on behalf of state employees concerning the disposition of employee pension funds. These funds belong to the employees, not to the state. If we can draw an accurate survey of the feelings of the state employees, I will vigorously support and uphold their decision.

Neil: Yes. We must wash our hands. I would have signed the bill which passed the 1985 Legislature and was vetoed by Victor Atiyeh.

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