



PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

THE RACE IS ON!

Who will be Oregon's next governor?

by Jim Radosta



Although it has generated little interest among most voters, this year's gubernatorial race promises to be an exciting one.

With John Kitzhaber leaving Salem after eight years—and Republicans itching to reclaim the throne for the first time since 1986—six strong candidates have emerged from the pack. On the Democratic side are former Oregon State Treasurer Jim Hill, former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Ted Kulongoski and former Multnomah County Chairwoman Bev Stein; the leading GOP candidates are former state legislator Kevin Mannix, Oregon Labor Commissioner Jack Roberts and former Portland Public Schools board member Ron Saxton.

Just Out invited all six of them to share their views by filling out a short questionnaire about important issues that matter to the sexual minorities community. Only two of them responded; the others wouldn't even grant us an five-minute interview.

THE QUESTIONS

1. What have you done to further civil rights for the sexual minorities community?
2. What will you do as governor in the ongoing quest for equality?
3. Would you sign legislation permitting Vermont-style civil unions for same-sex couples that would provide comparable rights, protections, benefits and responsibilities afforded to different-sex couples by Oregon's marriage laws? Why?
4. Only 12 states have laws outlawing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation on the job, in housing and in public accommodations. Oregon is not one of them. Would you sign legislation that would remedy this situation? Why?
5. In the 2001 legislative session a Safe Schools Bill was floated to add sexual orientation and perceived sexual orientation to a list that includes age, disability, national origin, race, marital status, religion and sex. This bill never was put to a vote. If it had passed, would you have signed it? Why?

DEMOCRATS

JIM HILL

After promising to respond to the questionnaire, his campaign manager stopped returning our telephone calls.



TED KULONGOSKI



1. As attorney general, I filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Evans vs. Romer*, which asserted Colorado's anti-gay ordinance was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court found the statute unconstitutional. I wrote in my brief: "Amendment II does not mince words. It expressly makes 'discrimination' a part of the state constitution...it elevates discrimination based on sexual orientation to the status of positive constitutional right, on a par with free expression and other liberties secured by the Oregon Bill of Rights...it is a blanket endorsement of discrimination. It stands as a novel endorsement of wholesale discrimination against a single group" (*Oregonian*, June 25, 1995).

I opposed 1994's Measure 13, which would prohibit state or local governments from extending anti-discrimination protections to gays and lesbians and would ban things "thought to promote" homosexuality such as diversity workshops (*Oregonian*, Oct. 10, 1994).

I voted to support 1981's House Bill 3097, which would allow courts to order legal change of sex in the same manner as that provided for change of name; allow courts to order legal change of sex and change of name at the same time; and require the state registrar to amend birth certificates of people born in this state to show change of sex and, if applicable, change of name.

2. Protecting the rights of all Oregonians goes to the heart of who I am and what I believe. I will oppose any effort to limit people's rights based on their sexual orientation.

3. I would sign legislation permitting same-sex unions if the Legislature has considered and resolved all the issues involved in statutory change. My policy has always been that all citizens be treated with fairness and respect by government and by their fellow citizens.

4. I said as early as 1980, "No woman or man gives up their civil rights based on sexual orientation." That still applies, and I would be proud to sign legislation that bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in jobs, in housing and in public accommodation.

5. Yes, I would have signed it because of the key phrase "No person in Oregon shall be subjected to discrimination in any" branch of education. That statement reflects my values whether that person is of a racial, religious or sexual minority.



BEV STEIN

1. I have been a supporter of GLBT civil rights for more than 30 years. I sponsored and passed the bill that added the term "sexual orientation" to the Oregon Hate Crimes Law in 1989. This was

the first time "sexual orientation" had ever been added to Oregon statutes. As Multnomah County chair I led the effort to create a domestic partner registry.

2. I will actively pursue equality for all Oregonians.
3. Yes. Because it is the right thing to do.
4. Yes. Because it is the right thing to do.
5. Yes. Because it is the right thing to do.

REPUBLICANS

KEVIN MANNIX

Campaign manager Amy Casterline rejected repeated requests for an interview, informing *Just Out*: "We had received your questionnaire...and have determined that your organization and Kevin are on a different wavelength. There is nothing to say."



JACK ROBERTS



His campaign does not respond to any questionnaires and ignored repeated requests for an interview.

RON SAXTON

His campaign was too busy to respond to the questionnaire and was unable to schedule an interview. ☐

