

dropping attacks and slimming from both sides, the likes of which the state may never have seen before. As Merkley makes his way to Washington, at least one question looms: How will he help regain the respect of his constituents after such an ugly campaign?

Statewide Races

Secretary of State: Kate Brown (D) v. Rick Dancer (R)

Winner: Kate Brown

Surprise?: If his experience was as formidable as his biceps, maybe Dancer—a Eugene television journalist—would have stood a shot at winning.

The gays say: “I’m a really big fan—I like her politics,” says Thomas, who appeared with her partner in an early TV ad for Brown. The openly bisexual state senator’s win makes her one of the highest-ranking queer statewide elected officials in the entire country.

Attorney General: John Kroger (D) v. A Bunch of Third-Party Candidates

Winner: John Kroger

Surprise?: *Hardly.* After thumping state Rep. Greg Macpherson, D-Lake Oswego, in the primary, Kroger faced no serious opposition for the post.

The gays say: Kroger’s sweet on the gays, but tough on crime.

State Treasurer: Allen Alley (R) v. Ben Westlund (D)

Winner: Ben Westlund

Surprise?: Alley racked up more endorsements than Westlund, but got swallowed in Oregon’s blue sea change this cycle.

The gays say: Westlund’s had the sexual minority community’s back since 2005.

Portland Races

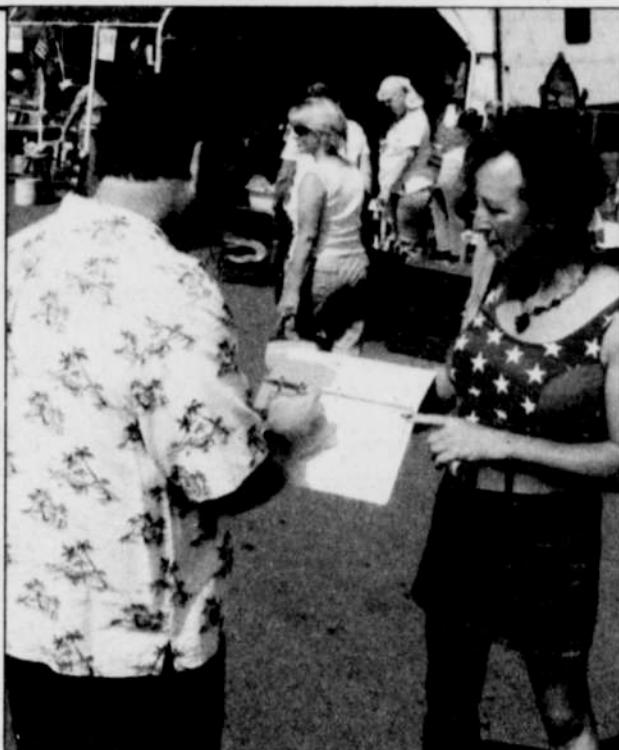
Portland City Commissioner, Seat 1: Amanda Fritz v. Charles Lewis

Winner: Amanda Fritz

Surprise?: Lewis sure could strum a guitar, but Fritz’s knowledge and experience were unmatched.

The gays say: “She can sing Monty Python but also engage in land use discussions,” says gay 28-year-old art advocate Brian T. Wilson. “She’s a down-to-earth, real person, and she’s smart. I’m excited—she could be Portland’s next mayor.”

Fritz ran a strong campaign on the promise of delivering basic city services to all 92 Portland neighborhoods, earning the respect and endorsement of openly gay Mayor-elect Sam Adams along the way.



Silverton Mayor-elect Stu Rasmussen may be the first openly trans-identified mayor in the United States.

Mayoral Races

Eugene: Kitty Piercy (D) v. Jim Torrey (I)

Winner: Kitty Piercy

Surprise?: It was a nail-biter of a race.

The gays say: Piercy says she’ll help defend Oregon’s domestic partnerships and nondiscrimination laws.

This unusually testy race pitted a popular former “Oregon Mayor of the Year,” Independent Jim Torrey, against an embattled Democratic incumbent, Kitty Piercy. Buoyed by union, labor and broad progressive support—including significant cash from Basic Rights Oregon’s political action committee—Piercy pulled off a razor-thin victory.

Silverton: Stu Rasmussen v. Ken Hector

Winner: Stu Rasmussen

Surprise?: Kicked out a popular incumbent with his two-inch heels. *Hiii-ya!!*

The gays say: An openly trans-identified mayor of small-town conservative Silverton? *Sweet.*

Rasmussen, a 60-year-old small-business owner born and raised in the rural Oregon town, is likely the first transgender person elected mayor of any U.S. city. After serving as Silverton’s mayor in the late ’80s and early ’90s when he dressed outwardly as a man, Rasmussen’s election as an outwardly dressing female with top-half sex reassignment surgery and a man’s name raised a few eyebrows in the town. Rasmussen was unfazed, plowing ahead with a campaign of fiscal conservatism and public safety.

“I’m perfectly happy being a guy with 36D tits,” Rasmussen says with flair. “I have more fun than a drunken cowboy with a brand new pickup. My biggest challenge,” he adds, “is keeping Silverton. Silverton.” **JO**

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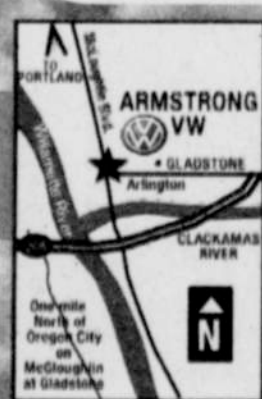
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