

Features

November elections feature five exciting contests

U.S. Representative

Representative Kurt Schrader, Democrat



Resume: Schrader is currently finishing up his first term as Congressman for Oregon's 5th district. He chairs the House's Finance and Lending Subcommittee and is a member of three other committees. Prior to his political career, Schrader owned and operated a veterinary clinic in Oregon City that he built from scratch. In 1997, he became an Oregon State Representative, and was sworn into the Oregon State Senate in 2003.

Statement: "Education is a critical component to making sure the United States is competitive in an increasingly global economy. That starts with the work we have done supporting Head Start and pre-kindergarten programs and Federal support I helped bring to Oregon to keep K-12 schools open during these tough economic times. And finally, I've fought hard to help kids and their families afford college by increasing Pell Grant scholarships and low interest loans."

Websites: www.kurtschrader.com and schrader.house.gov

State Representative Scott Bruun, Republican



Resume: Since 2004, Bruun has been an Oregon State Representative, serving on the House's revenue and health care committees. Before this, he had 10 years of experience in commercial banking, and he was the CFO of Lorentz Bruun, a local construction company. He has previously been a member of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and is currently a board member of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Statement: "I am an advocate for strengthening our schools and making sure educational opportunities are available to all Oregonians. I know seniors at West Linn are facing huge decisions about seeking post-secondary education or entering the work place. With Oregon's economy in its current state, this is a scary prospect for many students. In Congress, my number one priority will be strengthening the economy and promoting private sector job creation so that West Linn students can graduate with the confidence that jobs will be available to them in Oregon. [...] I am confident in America's future, and I know the students of West Linn High School will all play a role in our nation's growth and renewal."

Website: www.joinscott.com

Oregon State Representative (District 37)

Will Rasmussen, Democrat/Independent



Resume: Rasmussen is a volunteer for the Oregon Democratic Party and University of Washington, vice chair of the Oregon Business Association Good Government Committee and an attorney for Miller Nash LLP.

Statement: "I know first hand that for Oregon's economy to be prepared for the 21st Century, we need to expand access to affordable college education. That is why I will sponsor legislation to end the tuition hikes that are pricing Oregon students out of higher education. When students are prepared for a career, we must make sure that they have opportunities to compete for good paying jobs. My plan accomplishes this by assessing Oregon's economic development efforts and directing our limited resources to those programs that get the most bang for our buck in creating local jobs. Go Lions!"

Website: www.votewillrasmussen.com

Julie Parrish, Republican

Resume: Parrish is a mother of three and the owner of Coupon Girls, a web forums company. Parrish has close ties to a number of community organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Oregon Army National Guard Military Family Readiness Program and food pantries.

Statement: "I'm a mom, with three kids in West Linn, and I have worked with the school district. One big issue for voting high school seniors should be the cost of higher education. I hate seeing students saddled with student loans, and I want to take this conversation to the Oregon Legislature [...]. I also want to make sure that when you graduate, there will be jobs for you. These are two of the biggest issues I'm running on that will affect kids at West Linn High."

Website: www.julie4oregon.com



U.S. Senator

Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat



Resume: Wyden is a former co-director of the Oregon Gray Panthers, an organization that advocates progressive reforms. In 1980, he went to the House representing Oregon's 3rd district, and became a Senator in a 1996 special election. A member of five committees and chairman of two subcommittees, Wyden is famous for his advocacy of health care reform and his hard questioning of the tobacco industry.

Statement: (from Jake Weigler, campaign manager) "Senator Wyden has been a strong advocate for Oregon's young people and hopes to have your support [...]. Wyden has opposed government spending like going to war in Iraq and the \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street because they are adding trillions in debt that can burden your generation for decades to come. He's worked hard on funding for both K-12 and higher education, supporting legislation this summer that averted the firing of 1,600 Oregon teachers, and voting for larger Pell Grants for Oregon's future university and community college students and to make student loans more affordable. Building Oregon's clean energy economy is another Wyden priority, developing renewable sources and helping young people get training for green jobs with good pay."

Websites: www.standtallforamerica.com and wyden.senate.gov

Professor Jim Huffman, Republican

Resume: Huffman has taught at Lewis & Clark Law School since 1973, and from 1994 to 2006, he was its dean. He has written a book titled "Government Liability and Disaster Mitigation: a Comparative Study," several articles for law reviews and journals, chapters for books about topics ranging from the environment to feminism to infrastructure, and book reviews and opinion articles for publications such as The Oregonian and Los Angeles Times.

Statement: "I have three school-aged children and I am concerned about the future that their generation will be inheriting. The government has been reckless with spending and increasing the size of the government for too long. It is immoral for the federal government to continue expecting your generation to pay for the burdensome debt being incurred now. [...] I believe you are in a position to tell government to stop the reckless spending and borrowing against your future. I will go to Washington and stand against reckless spending, big government and higher taxes, to ensure that your generation has a future of promise and opportunity."

Website: www.huffmanforsenate.com



Oregon State Senator (District 19)



State Senator Richard Devlin, Democrat

Resume: Devlin began his political career on the Tualatin City Council and helped start its first police system. He served three terms in the Oregon State House until he was elected to Oregon State Senate in 2002. Devlin has been Senate majority leader since 2007. He serves on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

Statement: No information was provided.

Website: devlinfororegon.com and www.leg.state.or.us/devlin

Mary Kremer, Republican

Resume: Before moving to Oregon, Kremer was an investment banker in Chicago. She volunteered in Portland for 20 years feeding homeless teens and serving on a school board for lower-income families. Kremer became interested in politics after serving on the Oregon Connections Academy Parents Association. She also has volunteered at Lake Oswego High School.

Statement: "My number one priority is education. I will work for funding schools K-12 and higher education, and I'll do this by prioritizing government spending [...]. I have the background and experience; I spent 15 years in finance and 20 years giving lower-income families what they need. I think we need to bring that to the table. I would love to be involved with the students and motivate them to get out the vote."

Website: www.vote4mary.com



Governor

Former Governor John Kitzhaber, Democrat



Resume: From 1974 to 1988, Kitzhaber worked as an emergency room doctor. In 1978, he won his bid for Oregon State Representative, and was elected state Senator in 1980. In 1985, he was chosen to be the Senate President. While a Senator, he helped create the Oregon Health Plan. From 1995 to 2003, Kitzhaber was Oregon's governor, and he helped create a series of progressive reforms such as the Oregon Children's Plan and Oregon Business Plan. Under Kitzhaber, Oregon had its lowest unemployment rate in its history, and the state's Patient Bill Of Rights was created.

Statement: "Your education is the single most important pathway to success, and providing you with a quality education is part of my job as governor. One reason I want to be governor is to make sure that you have opportunities right here in Oregon. [...] I do hope that after high school you choose to pursue at least two years of additional education or training. [...] To help you, I will work to see that the state's college student aid program is there to offer you and your parents with financial assistance. I also will work with Oregon's community colleges and universities to see that your college degrees and certificates are connected to jobs in Oregon that need more workers. For the entire state, I also will work to grow Oregon's economy - so there are good jobs for your parents and you. [...] I look forward to working hard every day to deliver a better, brighter future for Oregon and for you."

Website: www.johnkitzhaber.com

Chris Dudley, Republican

Resume: In 1994, Dudley and his wife founded The Dudley Foundation, an organization to help children with diabetes. For 16 seasons, Dudley was an NBA basketball player, and for six seasons, a Portland Trail Blazer. After retiring from basketball in 2003, he became a partner in a small business and the senior vice president of M Financial.

Statement: No information was provided.

Website: www.chrisdudley.com

