

...Oregon AFL-CIO issues May primary endorsements

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herding votes in 2003 to reform the Public Employees Retirement System.

Schrader is facing four Democratic challengers in the primary. Hooley, a Democrat, surprised many when she announced earlier this year that she would not seek re-election.

In addition to Schrader, COPE endorsed the re-election of Congressmen David Wu in District 1, Earl Blumenauer in District 3, and Peter DeFazio in District 4. None is facing a serious challenger.

A motion to make an early endorsement for labor commissioner in the November general election failed to win enough votes to proceed. Incumbent Dan Gardner, a member of Electrical Workers Local 48, resigned last month to take a job with his international union in Washington, D.C.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski appointed State Sen. Brad Avakian (D-Bethany) to replace Gardner. Avakian was running in the crowded race for secretary of state. He now must run for the labor office in the November general election.



Pat Riggs-Henson, secretary-treasurer of the Lane County Labor Council, requests to be heard at Oregon AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education endorsement meeting March 27 in Northeast Portland. COPE made its recommendations for the May 20 primary election. Next to Riggs-Henson is Mike Richards, executive secretary-treasurer of Portland-based Office and Professional Employees Local 11.

In contested state House and Senate primary races the Oregon AFL-CIO endorsed the following candidates:

OREGON SENATE

- Dist. 5 - Joanne Verger (D)
- Dist. 14 - Mark Hass (D)
- Dist. 21 - Diane Rosenbaum (D)
- Dist. 23 - Jackie Dingfelder (D)
- Dist. 25 - Laurie Monnes-Anderson (D)

OREGON HOUSE

- District 5 - Peter Buckley (D)
- District 8 - Paul Holvey (D)
- District 9 - Arnie Roblan (D)
- District 10 - Jean Cowan (D)
- District 11 - Phil Barnhart (D)
- District 12 - Terry Beyer (D)
- Dist. 13 - Nancy Nathanson (D)
- Dist. 16 - Sara Gelser (D)
- Dist. 21 - Brian Clem (D)
- Dist. 22 - Betty Komp (D)
- Dist. 27 - Tobias Read (D)
- Dist. 28 - Jeff Barker (D)
- Dist. 30 - David Edwards (D)
- Dist. 31 - Brad Witt (D)
- Dist. 33 - Mitch Greenlick (D)
- Dist. 34 - Suzanne Bonamici (D)
- Dist. 35 - Larry Galizio (D)
- Dist. 36 - Mary Nolan (D)
- Dist. 40 - Dave Hunt (D)

U.S. SENATE

Jeff Merkley (D)

U.S. CONGRESS

- Dist. 1 - David Wu (D)
- Dist. 3 - Earl Blumenauer (D)
- Dist. 4 - Peter DeFazio (D)
- Dist. 5 - Kurt Schrader (D)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

John Kroger (D)

STATE TREASURER

Ben Westlund (D)

Mortgage industry gets \$5.5 million from Labor Dept.

The U.S. Department of Labor will give \$5.5 million to California to provide employment and training assistance for some 863 workers dislocated as a result of statewide layoffs from companies within the mortgage and banking industries.

Between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2007, more than 40 mortgage industry employers filed worker adjustment and retraining notices with the Labor Department, resulting in large number of layoffs.

The money will provide skills training, career counseling and relocation assistance for workers to help them find new jobs.

The money comes from a National Emergency Grant, which is part of the secretary of labor's discretionary fund. It is awarded based on a state's ability to meet specific guidelines.

Labor groups are split in race for Oregon attorney general

Both candidates running for Oregon attorney general in the May 20 Democratic primary have union support.

Law school professor and former federal prosecutor John Kroger has been endorsed by the Oregon AFL-CIO; Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council; Service Employees International Union locals 503 and 49; Oregon Education Association; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48; Carpenters Locals 1065, 711, 1388, 2416, 247, and 2154; Portland Police Association; and the Oregon State Police Officers Association.

His opponent, State Rep. Greg Macpherson of Lake Oswego, has been endorsed by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 and Teamsters Joint Council No. 37. He also was recommended for endorsement by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council.



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