

Business hamstrung, candidate claims

Small business is hamstrung in Oregon, and District 13 Sen. Walt Brown is campaigning in the District 12 Democratic primary for a chance to change that.

The Lewis & Clark College law professor told the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce Tuesday that discriminatory rail prices and costly workers' compensation make Oregon unattractive to new business the state hopes to attract.

Small business, being labor-intensive, is especially crippled by government costs including workers' compensation that is the fourth costliest program in the nation.

State agriculture recoils

from another jolt in rail rates that "discriminate" against Oregon, Brown said, adding Midwest concerns have always treated Oregon "like a colony."

What suffers, Brown said, are people like turkey growers who depend on Midwest feed. Also, there is a lack of slaughterhouses in Oregon, since livestock is shipped out of state for processing.

Smaller Oregon businesses are being bought out by larger outside conglomerates who buy them to milk them and then "put them out for slaughter," Brown said with references to Salem bean-packing firms and John's Furniture.

High cost of labor is

largely to blame for Oregon business shortcomings, Brown said.

"The glove industry in Portland is almost out of business now, because more people are willing to buy Communist Chinese gloves," he said. "Buy American," now is almost a dirty word. Overseas, they don't buy our goods, though—just our ideas."

Sen. Brown said American labor has priced itself "out of the market. So it's not surprising American business goes abroad."

Brown said campaigning door-to-door opened his eyes to a new distribution of wealth that favors laborers.

"I find people living in

expensive homes with campers and boats, who work through labor unions. These are houses and campers small business people would like to afford."

Sen. Brown said a new senate task force he's joined could develop legislation to help state business get rolling again.

The task force probably will encourage a progressive corporate excise tax to help small business and work to clean up Oregon's workers' comp entanglements, Brown said.

"Business does not want to come here, if it's labor-intensive and they must pay those rates," he said of workers' comp.

A dollar collected for workers' comp in Oregon pays out only 50 cents in benefits, making the state's program the fourth costliest in the nation.

Brown also advocates Oregon bailing out of Bonneville Power Administration dependence, since Oregon will be asked to help pay for the Washington WPPSS disaster. The problem arose when public utilities across the river engineered nuclear plant projects stifled by cost overruns.

"We must find some way to unhook ourselves from BPA," Brown advised, "and develop new sources of energy here of our own, in addition to conservation."

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Thompson calls for registration revisions

Residents of Clackamas County don't seem very happy with the state's method of voter registration.

After five meetings with voters throughout the county John Thompson, Republican candidate for state Senate District 14,

reached the conclusion that voters would just as soon find an alternative to same-day voter registration because of the inequities that can arise.

The general consensus, he said, is that same-day registration is "probably not a good idea."

Thompson cited the recent election in Antelope, held to disincorporate the city, where followers of an Indian guru swarmed to register to vote at the last minute and kept the town alive over the objections of longtime residents.

Thompson, a Welches

resident, said he would favor a cut-off in voter registration 30 days before an election.

"A lot of people don't seem to realize that 90 percent of their property tax is voter-approved," he said.

He blamed off-year elections that aren't widely

advertised for the misunderstanding.

"You get only about 15 percent turnout and so you have 8 percent turning thumbs up or thumbs down," Thompson said.

He said he favors a system similar to the state of Washington that requires at least 60 percent of the number of voters in the previous general election to vote in a special election in order to pass a levy based on property tax.

Committee named for bike-a-thon

Committee members have been named for the Sandy-Boring St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Wheels for Life Bike-a-thon scheduled May 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Mountain Shadow subdivision near Kelso School.

Last year, 26 riders participated in the bike-a-thon and raised approximately \$1,000 for the hospital. Organizers are hoping to top that in riders and pledges this year.

Kathy Abbott and Brenda Tinjum will be on hand at checkpoints. Gail Rischman and Connie

Weathers will be in charge of refreshments.

A volunteer is still needed to collect pledges and tally them to determine prize winners.

"Our committee people

are giving their time and talent to help in the fight against cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases," said chairman Anita Tinjum.

Riders may pick up their

sponsor registration forms at Art Lutz Realty, 3885 Pioneer Blvd., or Boring Fire Department. For information, call 668-6043, 668-7481, 663-4638 or 658-3728.

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(The incumbent commissioner consistently opposes or refuses to participate in actions that would provide needed jobs, calling such efforts "useless".)

✓ **DALE HARLAN says:**
"An elected official has an obligation to be informed, to make his known in public, and to vote on the issues fairly and honestly."
(The incumbent commissioner often votes "Absent when present," abstains or casts the only "NO" vote without explanation.)

✓ **DALE HARLAN says:**
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✓ **DALE HARLAN** has been endorsed by The Oregonian, Clackamas County Central Labor Council, Clackamas County Oregon Education Association and the V.F.W.

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