

Buying Lane County

Timber barons and developers fight unions and environmentalists with campaign cash.

Timber barons and developers are battling unions and environmentalists in a high-cost bid to pocket county government so they can cash in on environmental destruction and urban sprawl.

The prize is the East Lane County Commission seat held by Democrat Don Hampton. Replacing Hampton, a political moderate, with Republican timber heir Faye Stewart would provide a key swing vote for a potential pro-sprawl, anti-environmental majority on the commission. The race is officially non-partisan, but has divided along party lines following the May primary when neither of the top candidates won a majority.

Big timber and developer contributions



Don Hampton

plans for a huge gravel pit off River Road. Other big development donors who gave \$1,000 each include construction and rock company owner Bob Mullins, real estate speculator Hult and Associates, the Oregon Realtors PAC, and Cottage Grove developer Tod Woodward. The Eugene Chamber of Commerce, which lobbies for urban sprawl and developer subsidies, contributed \$1,250.

In all, 34 big donors giving \$500 or more contributed almost three quarters of Stewart's campaign money. Twenty-one of those big donors gave \$1,000 or more each.

Hampton lead Stewart with \$100,586 in reported contributions by Sept. 27. Hampton also relied heavily on big donations. The former teacher, city councilor and mayor from

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filled two-thirds of Stewart's campaign war chest, according to a look at reported contributions of \$500 or more by Sept. 27.

Timber barons have pumped \$31,300 into Stewart's campaign in 16 contributions of \$500 or more. That's 41 percent of the \$76,408 total Stewart reported raising.

Stewart, himself a member of a wealthy timber family, personally contributed \$18,300 of that money in loans and cash. Other members of his family contributed another \$2,500. Bruce, Dorothy and Steven Stewart gave \$500 each. Stewart's relative Jennifer Solomon (a conservative Eugene city councilor) and her husband gave \$1,000. Altogether, big donations from Stewart and his family made up 27 percent of Stewart's war chest.

Nine other big timber donors kicked in another \$10,500 in donations of \$500 or more. Siuslaw Forest Properties of Mapleton gave \$2,500, Starfire Lumber President Robbie Robinson gave \$2,000 and Pleasant Hill logging executive Darrin Kronberger gave \$1,500. Rosboro Lumber, Roseburg Forest Products and Seneca Jones Timber gave \$1,000 each.

Big donations from 16 development interests have funded 26 percent of Stewart's campaign with \$19,500 in contributions of \$500 or more. The Giustina family of land and real estate speculators gave \$3,250, Wildish (sand, gravel, construction and land) gave \$2,800, and Arlie and Company gave \$1,700. Arlie is headed by John Musumeci, the land speculator who made \$20 million by helping PeaceHealth's efforts to move from downtown to the McKenzie River in far north Springfield.

Land and real estate speculator Donna Woolley gave Stewart \$1,500, the Gonyea land speculation family gave \$1,500 and Mike Altucker, owner of Eugene Sand And Gravel gave \$1,250. For years, farmers and environmentalists have fought Altucker's

Oakridge received a much larger number of small contributions of \$50 or \$100. But about three-quarters of Hampton's money also came from 34 big donors giving \$500 or more. Sixteen gave \$1,000 or more.

But Hampton's big contributors were far different than Stewart's — unions and environmentalists vs. timber barons and developers. In four big donations, unions with thousands of members gave Hampton a fifth of his campaign money — \$21,620. The Lane County Public Works union gave \$10,000, the Association of Federal, State, County and Municipal Employees gave \$9,270. Smaller donations came from the local Building Trades union (\$1,000), the AFL-CIO (\$850) and the Eugene Firefighters union (\$500).

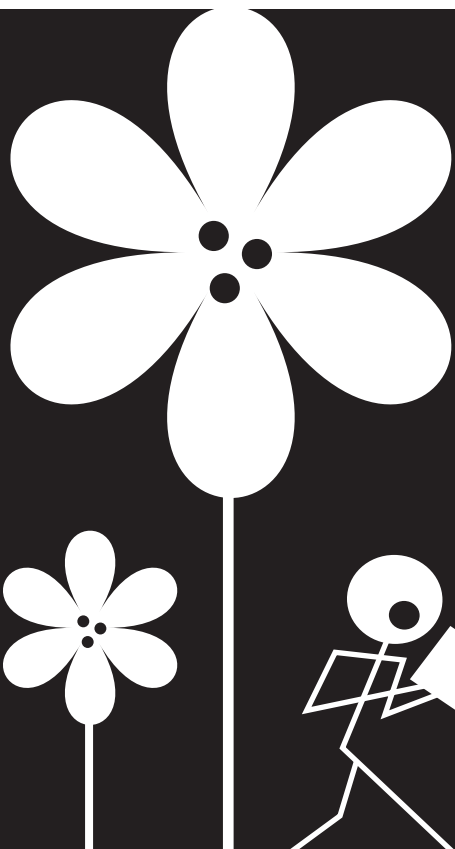
Environmentalists and urban sprawl opponents also gave big donations. Tom Bowerman gave \$5,000, former County Commissioner Tom Lininger \$2,527, Robert Emmons \$2,500, Art and Anita Johnson (part-owners of *Eugene Weekly*) \$1,500, Nena Lovinger \$1,495, Ronald Norberg \$1,495 and Norm Maxwell \$1,200. Carrie Petitti, John Jaqua and Roscoe Divine gave \$1,000 each.

Like Stewart, Hampton is also self-financing a big chunk of his campaign. Hampton gave or loaned his campaign \$20,327. That includes \$6,147 in non-cash, in-kind contributions.

Hampton has served a year on the County Commission. Other commissioners appointed him after Tom Lininger resigned to take a job as a UO law professor. Citing his extensive government experience, *The Register-Guard* and *EW* editorial boards have endorsed Hampton. Stewart is endorsed by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce.

Candidates must file more campaign contribution reports on Oct. 21, 25 and 29, but by then many people will have already voted by mail.

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