



# TORREY vs.

# WALKER



## Pro-Bush, anti-abortion Republican takes on state senator.

By Alan Pittman

The race between incumbent Democrat Vicki Walker and Republican challenger Jim Torrey for state Senate District 7 will be one of the fiercest fought in Oregon, political watchers predict.

Already Torrey, the former mayor of Eugene, has raised a war chest of more than \$110,000, largely from his developer, logging and big business backers. Walker has reported raising \$150,000, and is backed by labor and environmental groups.

Besides money, the biggest deciding issue in the race for the north Eugene seat could be political party. Running in a district with a substantial Democratic edge in party affiliation, Torrey portrays himself as nonpartisan, even though he's a staunch supporter of George Bush and an opponent of abortion rights.

Other big issues are the candidates' records, school finance and corporate welfare.

### MONEY

Torrey, a retired billboard advertising executive, reported \$110,679 in contributions through June 14.

Eugene timber baron and land speculator Aaron Jones is Torrey's biggest backer with a \$15,000 contribution. Jones is one of the state and national Republican Party's biggest money men, having given tens of thousands of dollars over the years. Jones has also given big money to anti-environmental causes. He gave about a third of the money, \$243,000, that was used to pass Measure 37, which forces taxpayers to pay developers or waive regulations.

Other big Torrey donors include Associated Oregon Loggers (\$10,000),

three \$1,000 checks from local gravel pit companies.

Walker, a court stenographer, reported raising \$149,774 for her re-election campaign. The Senate Democratic Leadership Fund gave Walker \$22,207, the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association \$17,350, the Oregon Education Association \$16,284 and the Oregon Public Employees Union \$14,473.

Both Torrey and Walker are expected to report much higher contributions in later filings, with some predicting record-breaking campaign spending.

Torrey was elected mayor with record-breaking contributions from development, land speculator, and anti-environmental special interests, many of whom are back-

### PARTY

Senate District 7, stretching north and west from 11th Avenue to include Bethel, River Road/Santa Clara, Junction City and Harrisburg, has a significant edge in Democratic voters.

With that demographic, Torrey isn't advertising his Republican party identification in his campaign materials.

"Unlike my opponent, I'm not afraid of my political party," Walker said at a recent candidate forum. "I'm in the Democratic Party because I support those core values."

At the forum, Torrey tried to distance himself from Republican Party platform positions against Head Start and preschool funding for children, and for eliminating the U.S. and Oregon Departments of Education.

One of Torrey's many TV ads attacks Walker for excessive partisanship. The cartoon ad depicts Walker as a frowning frumpy woman stuck in a "partisan box," while Torrey, depicted as a smiling, slim young man with wavy hair, "leaves party politics at the door."

### REPUBLICAN RECORD

But as the controversial mayor of Eugene, Torrey was a fierce partisan in support of pro-development, anti-environmental interests.

Just before an election in 2000, Torrey was talking more about train wrecks than bridge building. Torrey lashed out on the front page of *The Register-Guard* at the



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Associated Oregon Industries (\$8,600), the Oregon Republican Party (\$5,000), Oregon Senate Republican leader and timber lobbyist Ted Ferrioli (\$5,000) and Freres Lumber Company (\$2,500). More big money comes in

ing his current campaign. When he considered a write-in campaign for mayor in 2004 after the candidate he backed lost, Torrey said he could raise up to a quarter million dollars from his backers in 10 weeks.

But Torrey is a strong backer of President Bush, contributing \$2,000 to his 2004 re-election campaign, the maximum donation allowed. Torrey praised Bush's recent State of the Union address and pledged support for Bush's Iraq War.

possibility of a progressive majority on the City Council. He said he and other pro-developer councilors would clash with environmental councilors in a "train wreck" that would make it "practically impossible for any meaningful discussion."