

As mayor Torrey used his tie-breaking vote to support gerrymandering council ward boundaries to give conservatives a majority and to prevent discussion of items of interest to the progressive council minority. When progressive councilors opposed Torrey's appointment to the Planning Commission of a gravel mining executive over a UO planning professor, Torrey lashed out again. That prompted council moderate David Kelly to caution the mayor not to engage in "character assassination," the *R-G* reported.

When a local developer secretly bankrolled "Gang of 9" attack ads against moderate and progressive councilors, Torrey went on local conservative talk radio to join the attacks.

Torrey had a consistent partisan conservative and pro-developer voting record on the council, according to an *EW* review of votes. In five years, Torrey broke tie council votes 13 times, always siding with big business and developers against the environment, livable planning and efforts to reform corporate welfare and increase government accountability.

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) has described Torrey's mayoral environmental record, which included strong support for destroying wetlands, as "dismal."

Walker criticized Torrey for opposing the city's Toxics Right To Know Law. "You stood with polluters," she said.

While serving largely to thwart progressive councilors, Torrey was faulted for showing little actual vision or leadership for the city. Torrey sat in his car and did

not question the police pepper spraying and gassing of tree sitters on June 1, 1997. In the ensuing citizen uproar, he praised police for the attack on protesters, and opposed police accountability reform.

Some of that reform could have helped Eugene avoid the Roger Magaña/Juan Lara police sex abuse scandals, which occurred under Torrey's watch as mayor. A consultant who reviewed the scandal faulted city leadership for failing to oversee the police department. Torrey played a role by pushing to delay the appointment of a new permanent police chief for a year, according to city documents.

Torrey has tried to take credit for a number of city successes, including the new library, fire, parks and schools measures. But Torrey was not the leader and initiator of any of these campaigns, and they passed thanks to harder work done by many other councilors and citizens.

On his campaign website Torrey claims that while he was mayor, new employers were recruited "creating 8,300 new jobs." But the local jobless rate increased while Torrey was in office, not decreased. Torrey also opposed a living wage ordinance for local workers.

DEMOCRATIC RECORD

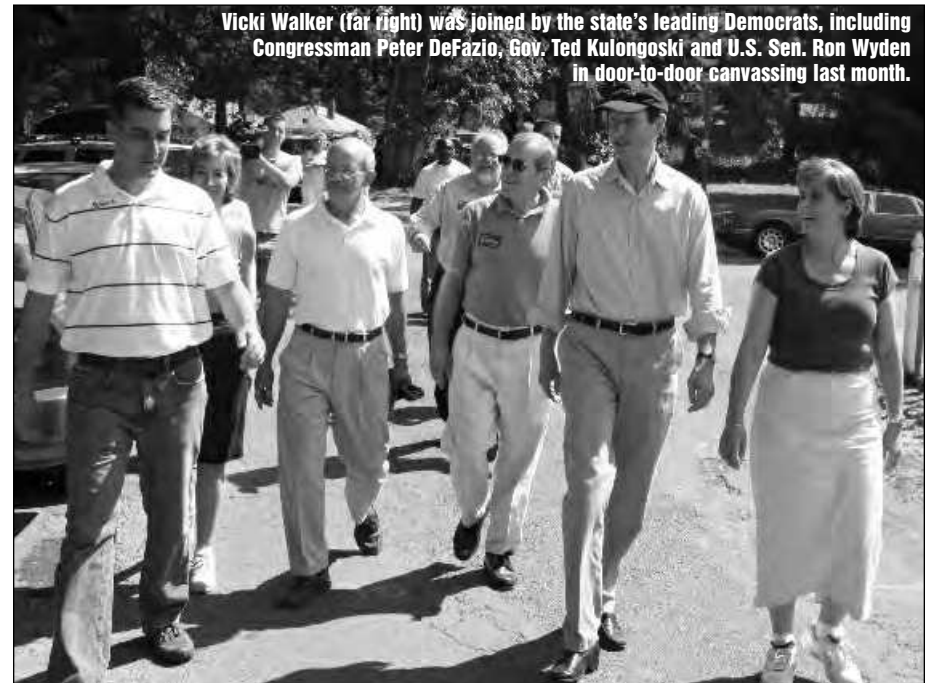
Vicki Walker has touted her Democratic affiliation, but she's perhaps

best known as a party maverick.

Walker has been one of Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski's thorniest critics for the governor's failure to fund schools and health care. Walker publicly considered running against Kulongoski in the primary before deciding the Senate re-election fight was more important. In a move *The Oregonian* questioned as "political pay-back," Kulongoski's former chief of staff and re-election operative organized a Portland fundraiser of big business inter-

ests for Torrey.

In the state Legislature since 1998, Walker has earned a reputation as a crusader for consumer rights and against what she calls the "good ol' boy" network in state government. Walker, herself abused as a child, was the original source for *Willamette Week's* revelation that former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, then one of the state's leading corporate lobbyists, sexually abused a 14-year-old girl. The story rocked the state's political establishment,



Vicki Walker (far right) was joined by the state's leading Democrats, including Congressman Peter DeFazio, Gov. Ted Kulongoski and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden in door-to-door canvassing last month.

'Unlike my opponent, I'm not afraid of my political party.'

—Vicki Walker

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