

Marked distinctions separate candidates for Governor

For public employees, the positions that distinguish the Democratic candidate, John Kitzhaber, and the Republican candidate, Denny Smith, are highly contrasted.

In Kitzhaber, a physician and former state Senate President, public employees face a candidate who understands and highly regards our work. Where there are problems, he pledges to take the lead in making public employees "part of the solution."

In Smith, the owner of a string of newspapers and a former U.S. Congressman, public employees face a candidate who will cut government in response to Measure 5 and will support the public employee-bashing petitions on the November ballot.

The excerpts that follow of the interviews conducted by the statewide CAPE Committee show where Kitzhaber and Smith diverge on the issues. CAPE unanimously recommends Kitzhaber. Enclosed in this paper is a ballot card for members to

indicate their preference for endorsement. The Board of Directors will take its endorsement vote on March 12:

- **Accessibility** ~ While Smith says he has "no problem" talking with us, Kitzhaber makes a specific commitment to meet with the membership regularly and provide "immediate access" to our leaders as needed.

- **Salaries and Benefits** ~ Kitzhaber "takes exception" to the characterization that our salaries and benefits are a problem; Smith believes our salary and benefits should be in "parity" with the private sector.

- **Fair Compensation Initiative** ~ Kitzhaber opposes it and speaks out against it; Smith favors it. (For more on initiative, see Page 8.)

- **Shifting Services** ~ Kitzhaber would not shift services unless the "infrastructure" exists locally to accept them; Smith says doing a "better job" of delivering services may mean doing them locally.

- **PECBA** ~ Kitzhaber is un-

equivocal in his support of our bargaining rights and would veto any bill that reduces them; Smith believes we shouldn't have the right to strike.

- **PERS Benefits** ~ Kitzhaber is concerned enough about the Tieman initiative passing that he said he would take the leadership in finding a way to defeat it; Smith said employers have an obligation to provide retirement benefits, but believes we should pay half (7+%) the cost of our retirement. (For more on initiative, see Page 8.)

- **Health Care** ~ Kitzhaber wrote the Oregon Health Plan; Smith opposes an employer mandate.

- **Measure 5 Budget Gap** ~ Smith believes there will be no more revenue from taxpayers and would cut, merge, and privatize programs to bridge the gap; Kitzhaber agrees there will be no new revenue this biennium, but is concerned about the level of support for public services and believes taxes fairness is needed between individuals and corporations.

- **Davis-Bacon** ~ Smith doesn't support the concept; Kitzhaber opposes the initiative to eliminate the prevailing wage law.

- **Contracting Out** ~ Kitzhaber opposes contracting out and understands how it leads to lower wages for all Oregonians; Smith supports the lowest cost, including wages, for delivering services. (For more on initiative, see Page 8.)

- **OCA Initiatives** ~ Kitzhaber said he is "passionately" opposed to the measures and speaks out against them; Smith said no one should have special rights, except disabled persons.

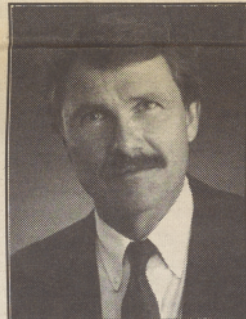
- **Budget & Workload** ~ Kitzhaber said workload should be commensurate with staff; Smith's answer seemed to indicate he doesn't appreciate what budget cuts have already done to workload.

- **Eisenzimmer Initiative** ~ Smith favors it; Kitzhaber opposes it and is actively campaigning against it. (For more on initiative, see Page 8.)

John Kitzhaber

Introduction

My modus operandi in the Legislature was to try to get as many people to the table as collaborators and allies and try to work out common solutions to problems. As I prepare a budget document for presentation, I want you involved in that because it's going to involve some difficult choices and it's much better to have people invested in the choices we have to make as opposed to having them dictated to you.



Q-1. Access to the Governor is an important issue for us. How would you rate your availability and willingness to discuss important issues with OPEU and labor leaders during your career as a public official or public leader and what steps will you take to ensure accessibility in 1995?

A. As Governor, what I would propose is setting up a regularly scheduled meeting with your membership just to discuss anything that happens to be current with immediate access to your leadership on an as-needed basis if something comes up.

Q-2. What role will organized labor have in your public policy making, including preparation of budgets and appointments to Boards and Commissions?

A. It's an open process and I would invite you now to participate in that. I want you involved in that because it's not going to work unless we all go in with a budget that we understand and have come to some consensus on.

Boards and commissions, I would certainly consult especially on those boards and commissions that have a scope which affects your membership.

Q-3. Public employees' salaries and benefits are being characterized as the problem with funding state government. What is your response to this characterization?

A. I have often taken exception with that characterization. The comparison that needs to be made is compensation for like jobs in the public and private sector, and I think when you do that, on balance there is very little discrepancy.

Q-3A. What is your position on the Fair Compensation Act? Will you actively campaign on

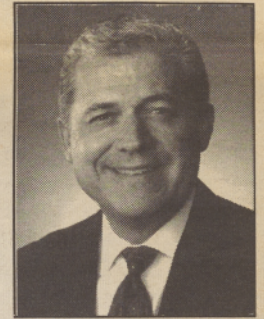
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Denny Smith

Introduction

I think this can be the best state in the nation. We have the resources, we have the people, we have the climate, we have the location on the Pacific Coast. We're going to have to live within the revenue we have plus the growth that we have in this economy. So the best thing we can do is make ourselves as efficient as we possibly can.

Now, the realities are: the Republican party is going to win control of the State Senate, and we should continue to control the House of Representatives. If we have a Governor of the same party, we, working together, can get this state headed down the right road. All of you that work for the state government have a great stake in this.



Q-1. Access to the Governor is an important issue for us. How would you rate your availability and willingness to discuss important issues with OPEU and labor leaders during your career as a public official or public leader and what steps will you take to ensure accessibility in 1995?

A. I would welcome somebody in the inner circle from the Union to work with me. I have no problem with talking with you and telling you where I think we are going and where we are going to try to go, to become more credible with the Oregon taxpayer.

Q-2. What role will organized labor have in your public policy making, including preparation of budgets and appointments to Boards and Commissions?

A. I think you will see an even-handed choice of people from throughout the area. I don't see how you run a board, or a commission, or a board of directors without somebody with a conflict of interest. Because, if you don't have a conflict of interest you don't know enough about the subject to be able to be effective on the board. So I would have no trouble having a labor representative on respective boards, no matter what area it was in.

Q-3. Public employees' salaries and benefits are being characterized as the problem with funding state government. What is your response to this characterization?

A. I don't think that you can characterize that it's the salaries alone. I do think that you're going to have to be on parity (with the private sector) with pay and benefits both.

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