

# The fight is on: Dueling ads hit airwaves

■ Following days of mean-spirited misinformation about our pensions in a series of radio ads produced by Bill Sizemore and Bob Tiernan, we launched an ad campaign that gives Oregonians a more balanced view of the work public employees do and just who

Sizemore and Tiernan were attacking. Apparently, Sizemore and Tiernan didn't like our message and came out with an ad on April 1 saying they're is not mean-spirited. We've aired another ad giving voters more information about our work and our pensions.

## THEM

The Tiernan, Sizemore ad was misleading . . .

"Did you know that, after a few years on the job, public school teachers (no matter how unsatisfactory their performance) almost cannot be fired?

"It's the teachers' union that insists on this ridiculous policy even though it weakens our schools.

"Did you know that after only 12 years' experience, Portland-area school teachers collect about \$70,000 a year in salary and fringe benefits, including an unbelievable retirement program! Seventy thousand dollars a year and they get 3-1/2 months off.

"The good teachers who really care about kids didn't become teachers just for the money. But, the teachers' unions have so strong-armed the school districts into providing such extravagant benefits that, frankly, the kids are now being made to suffer because of program cuts and fewer teachers.

"For a free brochure on waste in our public schools, call Oregon Taxpayers United Education Foundation at 251-1635."

## US

But, when they heard our ad . . .

"Recently, Bob Tiernan and Bill Sizemore have been attacking the public employees of Oregon. To hear them tell it, most of Oregon's problems can be solved just by cutting public employee jobs, salaries, and pensions. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Way too easy. Public employees are the police who patrol our neighborhoods; the firefighters who protect our homes; the teachers who educate our kids.

"Public employees are our neighbors. They share in our hopes, our worries, and they pay the same taxes as the rest of us. They — and Oregon — deserve better than the mean-spirited misinformation campaign being put out by Tiernan and Sizemore.

"Oregonians are engaged in a debate about the future. About whether we build up Oregon out of hope, or tear it down out of frustration. We stand with those Oregonians who are committed to building a better Oregon. Stand with us.

"A message from the public employees of Oregon — firefighters, teachers, policemen and women, librarians, child care workers, and all the others who serve Oregon well."

## THEM

Ouch! They were stung and aired this ad . . .

"We're not attacking firemen and librarians. We're simply telling Oregonians the facts about the high cost of excessive public pensions. True, those facts are shocking, and the facts do make taxpayers feel like they're being taken to the cleaners. But, the next time you hear a radio ad attacking Bill Sizemore or Bob Tiernan, say to yourself, why are they attacking the messengers? What's the message they don't want us to hear?

"This is Bill Sizemore for Oregon Taxpayers United. We're not mean-spirited about public employees, but fair, sensible people. When handed the facts, we'll recognize that public employees retirement benefits have crossed the line. They're excessive, and they're unfair to the rest of us who, paycheck to paycheck, are financing pensions for public employees that we ourselves could never even dream about.

"Want the hard facts on public employee pensions? Call us at 251-1235."

Phone 251-1235 and ask that they mail you a copy of the "hard facts" so you can compare it with what you know to be true about PERS.

## US

Voters heard the facts about public employees . . .

"All of us are frustrated at the cost of government. We're looking for more efficient ways to get things done. But, there's a lot to get done. There's no shortage of kids to teach or criminals to catch.

"We just don't live in a simple world anymore. That's why simplistic solutions generally end up doing more harm than good.

"Take Bill Sizemore and Bob Tiernan. They want to cut the salaries and pension of over 180,000 working men and women in Oregon. They make it sound like public employees are rich when the average salary is barely over \$25,000. They make it sound like public employee pensions are too much when the average pension is just \$714 a month.

"Why attack the people who do the work? Why not work together to solve Oregon's problems. We stand with those Oregonians who are committed to building a better Oregon. Stand with us.

"A message from the public employees of Oregon — firefighters, teachers, policemen and women, librarians, child care workers, and all the others who serve Oregon well."