

OPEU Staffer Corcoran wins nod for House District 44 contest

OPEU-backed candidates show winning edge.

The May 17 Oregon Primary improved chances of winning a pro-labor Oregon State House of Representatives.

Maintaining or improving chances for labor in the state Senate remains very difficult.

OPEU/SEIU Local 503 Organizer **Tony Corcoran** became the Democratic nominee for House District 44, which includes portions of Lane County south of Eugene.

Only three of the candidates endorsed by OPEU failed in their Primary contest.

One of the biggest surprises from that number was the defeat in southwest Portland's House District 8 of Republican Mary Alice Ford, an eight-session veteran who has supported OPEU members on human resources issues and who was a key Republican vote last session on the "triple freeze" bill. Republican voters replaced her as their standard bearer with Eileen Qutub, newcomer supported by several right-wing organizations.

Veteran Portland Democrat Tom Mason, an outspoken and staunch supporter of working people and the Public Employees Collective Bargaining, was surprised and defeated in his bid for reelection to House District 11 by Anitra Rasmussen by a margin of more than 2-to-1. Rasmussen, an education-issues activist said that "walking the district like it's never been walked before" made the difference in her low-budget campaign.

Finally, former Oregon AFSCME and Northwest Oregon Labor Council official Sam Gillespie defeated Jim Groener for the House District 25 seat in Milwaukie.

The election was marked by low voter turnout, with voter interest falling below Secretary of State Phil Keisling's prediction of 45%. Fewer than four in 10 voters showed up at the polls, making this the lowest voter turnout in modern Oregon history. Since 1960, when Jack Kennedy and Richard Nixon eventually became their parties' standard bearers, Primary voting has ranged



Jeanne Atkins
House District 7



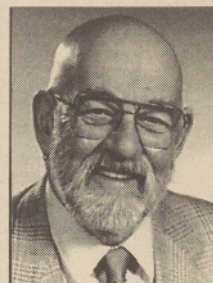
George Eighmey
House District 14



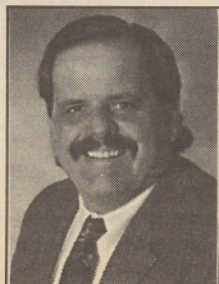
Bryan Johnston
House District 31



Barbara Ross
House District 35



Chuck Ivey
House District 43



Tony Corcoran
House District 44



Mike Lehman
House District 47

Legislative
candidates in some
key races seeking
our support in the
November 8
General Election.



Lou Hannum
House District 50



Joan Silver
House District 59



Robert Shook
Senate District 3



Dave McTeague
Senate District 12



Jay Watts
Senate District 14



Tricia Smith
Senate District 17



Karsten Rasmussen
Senate District 22

from a high of 72.8% in 1968 to 43.3% percent in 1978. Sherman County turned out the most voters in each party: 73% of the Republicans, and 62% of the Democrats. Polk County turned out the least, again for both parties: 21% of the Democrats, and 26% of the Republicans.

In several top-of-the-ticket races, the resulting General Election campaign will now feature a sharp contrast of ideologies. Republicans nominated Denny Smith, generally considered to be the more conservative candidate, over moderate Craig Berkman, to take on Democrat John Kitzhaber, in the race for Governor.

Republican Bill Witt, the most conservative of three men seeking their party's nod for the First Congressional District, will take on Elizabeth Furse.

In the sprawling Second

Congressional District, Wes Cooley narrowly won over a Christian broadcaster in a large field, to take on Jackson County Commissioner Sue Kapillas in the General Election.

However, in the Fifth Congressional District, Democratic state Senator Catherine Webber, who won overwhelmingly in a crowded field, will face conservative Republican state Senator Jim Bunn.

One example of where this trend continues among legislative races is in House District 31 of south and west Salem, where OPEU-backed Bryan Johnston, a strong candidate with supportive and informed views on OPEU issues, is facing the most conservative of the four seeking the Republican nomination. His opponent will be a wealthy eye doctor who poured a large amount of his own money — and only his own

money — into the race. His wealth is sufficient that he was able to pay, single-handedly, for paid signature gatherers to put a campaign reform measure on the November ballot.

In the race for Commissioner of Labor and Industries, OPEU-backed Mary Wendy Roberts turned back well-financed challenges from Metro Executive Rena Cusma and state Representative and union member Bob Shiprack for a resounding victory. She will face Lane County Commissioner Jack Roberts (no relation) in the fall.

OPEU's CAPE will now consider endorsements in 21 legislative and Congressional races where we have not endorsed prior to the AFL-CIO Convention in June.

By July 8, the qualifying deadline, we will know what initiatives have gathered enough signatures to appear on the November ballot.