



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian  
Oregon gubernatorial candidates William "Bud" Pierce, left, and Bob Niemeier visited the North Coast Conservative Picnic Saturday at the Lighthouse Christian Church in Warrenton.

## Warrenton: Republican candidates haven't won a statewide office since 2002

Continued from Page 1A

Pierce, a Salem oncologist who announced his first run for office Thursday, described Oregon's ailment as its one-party, Democratic rule. No Republican has won a statewide office since 2002, and Victor Atiyeh left office as the last Republican governor in 1987.

"If you're a leader in your profession or your community ... and you're Republican, in a representative democracy, it's time to step forward," Pierce said.

Oregon has a \$69 billion 2015-17 budget. Pierce said 17 percent of the budget is administration, compared to 1.5 percent at his employer, Hematology Oncology of Salem. Reducing administration, he said, will provide another \$10 billion in revenue and tax savings. Oregon has more than 250 commissions, he added, and needs to eliminate many of them.

"Money's being stolen. It needs to end. We need to get rid of a lot of these useless programs," he said.

Pierce said Oregon needs government to help businesses grow and pay great wages; create an educational system that helps teachers and provides technical training; expand infrastructure; and appropriately use natural resources.

### Convention of States

Niemeier, a mechanical engineer from Tualatin, first

ran for office in the 2014 Republican primary against Jason Yates and Delinda Morgan to see who would face U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore. Niemeier took 17 percent of the vote in the primary. Yates lost to Bonamici in the general election.

"Congress is hopeless," Niemeier said of his run for the House. "One person out of 535 isn't going to accomplish anything."

As governor, Niemeier said he hopes to attend a Convention of States, an effort to gather support from at least 34 states under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to make amendments without needing the approval of Congress.

Niemeier said government needs to stop bullying and get out of the way of business, adding he would give a full pardon to Sweet Cakes by Melissa, a Gresham bakery fined for refusing to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding based on the owner's religious beliefs.

### Local issues

Kitzhaber's plan to phase gillnet fishing off the main stem of the Columbia River all but handed Clatsop County last November to his Republican challenger, Dennis Richardson.

Pierce said Oregon needs to let commercial, recreational and native fishing stakeholders create an equitable way to share fish, with the government as a mediator.

Pierce added he needs to research the issue more. Niemeier said he doesn't know much about the current situation, adding he was totally against the previous plans to move gillnetting into select areas, calling them unenforceable.

"I'm personally against gillnetting in the river," Niemeier said, adding commercial fishermen should go out in the ocean.

On another big issue, the proposed liquefied natural gas terminal in Warrenton, Pierce said the issue should have been decided years ago.

Countries that are more successful than the United States with infrastructure projects put time limits on decision-making, Pierce said, and the LNG terminal proposals should have been decided within two to three years.

"If the citizens don't want it, and the locals don't want it, it doesn't happen," he said. "But, again, at least you can tell people that 'the project can't happen; go do it somewhere else,' so you don't get this digging in mentality."

Niemeier said the terminal should have been done by now, adding that natural gas is used for a lot more than people think.

Niemeier so far has no account set up on the state's website that tracks campaign contributions. Bud Pierce for a Better Oregon, meanwhile, has gathered \$318,000, including \$253,000 of his own money.

## Bonamici: 'We want to encourage people to come here'

Continued from Page 1A

during the town hall at the Warrenton Community Center, which boasted about 25 attendees and began with Bonamici outlining her ongoing projects in the U.S. House of Representatives.

She said that her Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2015 was among the first bills that passed the U.S. House during this session. The bill, now in the U.S. Senate, would help finance the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami research and warning activities.

But the LNG project's implications for the natural disaster-prone region continued to hang in the air.

"I know this is a big concern, and I've been expressing concerns about it from the time I was in the state Legislature," said Bonamici, who represented District 17 in the Oregon Senate, serving parts of Washington and Multnomah counties. Her predecessor, David Wu, was outspoken on LNG and sought to increase state control over LNG projects.

Bonamici said constituents should continue to talk to their elected officials about the Oregon LNG project. Public comments, she said, are "making a difference."

Though the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's draft environmental review of the proposed LNG project said the environmental risks could be reduced to less-than-significant levels, Bonamici said that local and state laws must still be observed as the project unfolds.

"When there are local and

**'I know this is a big concern, and I've been expressing concerns about it from the time I was in the state Legislature.'**

— Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore.

She represented District 17 in the Oregon Senate, serving parts of Washington and Multnomah counties

state rules, a company can't just say, 'We're choosing not to follow them.' That's unacceptable. There are local and state rules for a reason," she said, adding later: "We will be monitoring the whole process, and, if there's a company that's not complying with local and state laws, we will speak up."

### The economic question

Bonamici — provoking a few low groans from the audience — reminded them that some of her constituents support Oregon LNG because the energy company claims the project will provide thousands of temporary construction jobs and more than 100 permanent jobs.

She recommended that, when LNG opponents debate whether LNG is suitable for the area, they should also discuss what else can be



Photos by Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian  
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., speaks before a modest crowd at the Warrenton Community Center during her town hall meeting Sunday. The congresswoman discussed the importance of tsunami preparedness and other subjects close to her heart.

done to boost the local economy.

Nancy Holmes of Seaside said that the area needs more jobs, particularly in transportation infrastructure, and more workforce housing.

Bonamici responded: "There are a lot of ways that we can build our economy through small business support, through renewable energy, through infrastructure, all of those," she said. "There's just a lot that we can be doing that is positive."

The tourism industry is vital to the North Coast economy, she said. However,

the New Yorker article published in July about the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami has made it more difficult to promote the area.

"I tell ya, a lot of my constituents are terrified because they read that New Yorker article," she said.

Cities on the coast should work to inform potential visitors, as well as residents, about tsunami preparedness and make sure they know what to do during a natural disaster, she said.

"We want to encourage people to come here," she said. "The coast is amazing and beautiful."



U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., begins her town hall meeting Sunday in Warrenton. After discussing her ongoing projects in the U.S. House of Representatives, she took questions from the audience.

## Stanley: He served two terms on a city council in Indiana

Continued from Page 1A

Stanley then touched on larger topics. He fears that, if a Republican president is elected in 2016, aging Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be replaced by conservative justices. And he's worried about the pressure that corporate money exerts on the American political system.

"It's pretty frustrating generally in politics," he said, chuckling. "It's pretty frustrating being a liberal."

### Business and politics

Stanley was raised in Huntington, N.Y., a town on Long Island about 50 miles away from New York City. A high school dropout, Stanley joined the U.S. Air Force at age 18 and worked as an airborne radio operator while the Korean War was winding down.

He then spent about 20 years as an air traffic controller, moving around the Midwest for his job.

While in his 20s, Stanley served two terms on the City Council in Mooreville, Ind., a tiny burb outside Indianapolis.

He likes to tell the story of when he got into a fight with an unhappy constituent whose proposed business Stanley helped to kibosh.

The would-be business owner wanted to set up a business for punching sheet metal in his garage, which happened to be in the middle of town. Stanley was concerned about parking problems and had received noise complaints from neighbors, so Stanley turned him down.

After the vote, the councilor went out into the parking lot, and that guy was waiting for him. "I think I whupped him,"

Stanley said, smiling — though he admitted that his opponent may well have been in his 50s.

### 'That's how we learn'

Stanley and his wife moved into their Svensen home shortly before getting married there in 2003, the year before the first incursion of an LNG company into the North Coast. "And it's been going on all this time — can you imagine?"

He used to write many letters to the editor and has been published in The Daily Astorian, but he only does it about three times a year now.

"I've got a computer full of letters, but a lot of times, I just don't finish them," he said. "And then I'll go back and read 'em, and say, 'Boy that was a good letter. I should have sent it.'"

Stanley wasn't always so outspoken. He followed the unwritten rule that one doesn't discuss politics or religion in public. "So I didn't," he said. "Even my kids didn't know how political I was, because I wouldn't even talk about it with them."

Then it dawned on him: "Ya know, that's what those lous-

es want you to do. They want you not to talk about it, because you're liable to learn something you didn't know."

Stanley's own mind has been changed on hot-button issues through the art of conversation. For years, he went back and forth on the death penalty until he came around to adamantly opposing it.

"I really feel that it's a mistake to not discuss politics," he said. "That's how we learn: by talking to different people."

"Now you can't shut him up," Christine said with a laugh.

— Erick Bengel