

Independent Party seeks partners for third-party coalition

Looking for alternative for president

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

The Independent Party of Oregon and the Independence Party of Minnesota have joined forces to organize a national coalition to nominate a third-party candidate for president.

The parties plan to hold a national conference in late summer to select their nominee, said Sal Peralta, secretary of the Independent Party.

A decision by the Oregon secretary of state to require the new party to participate in the presidential primary was the impetus for forming the national coalition, Peralta said.

"I think there are a lot of folks out there who are frustrated with the candidates the two major parties have pro-

duced this year, and a lot of voters are frustrated and don't feel they're represented," Peralta said. "It should be no surprise to anyone that activists, donors and a lot of people would like to see a change. I think this really is the beginning of the third party movement."

The two independent parties have identified about 14 other centrist parties around the nation they plan to invite to the conference, which will be similar to the Republican and Democratic conventions. The conference is likely to take place in late August after the Republican National Convention and before the deadline for filing a candidate in Oregon, party leaders said. The deadline is Aug. 30.

"The Democratic and Republican parties are poised to nominate candidates with the highest negative poll ratings in history," said Rob Harris, a Washington County attorney who was central to the

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Sal Peralta

secretary, Independent Party of Oregon

talks between the two parties. "With the two parties nominating historically unpopular candidates, this is a conversation that is long overdue. We believe voters are ready for a change."

Phil Fuehrer, chairman of the Independence Party of Minnesota, said independents have attempted to form national third-party coalitions in the past. His party joined a coalition in 1996 to nominate third party presidential candidate Ross Perot, who created the Reform Party. His party cut ties with the Reform Party in early 2000 when the Reform Party nominated Pat Buchanan

as its presidential nominee because the party disagreed with the candidate's social conservative agenda, Fuehrer said. Another attempt to form a national third-party coalition in 2004 never panned out, he said.

This presidential election has shown that voters are interested in nontraditional candidates such as U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and businessman Donald Trump, Fuehrer said.

"I realized now is the time to move forward with a national third-party coalition and give it another try," he said.

In addition to nominating a third party presidential candidate, the two parties plan to use the coalition to share best practices and improve ballot access for third parties, Peralta said.

The Independent Party of Oregon had initially tried to opt out of participating in the presidential primary. But earlier this spring, the Oregon Secretary of State's Office informed the party that because of its size, it is required to offer a ballot line for the presidential primary.

The secretary of state recognized the party as a major political party in 2015 because

its membership reached a threshold of 5 percent of voters registered in the state. The party has about 104,000 members.

The secretary of state has indicated the party is prohibited from listing primary candidates from other political parties — such as Sanders — who have cross party appeal. Without its own primary candidates, the party was forced to offer members only a write-in option.

Oregon law also bars the party from nominating a general election candidate who lost in the primary because of the state's so-called "sore loser" law, meaning Sanders could not be the party's presidential nominee if he loses the Democratic primary to former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Primary opponents for secretary of state race go on the offensive

By **HILLARY BORRUD**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon secretary of state's race heated up in the last week, as three seasoned Democrats increasingly went on the attack against each other.

Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian; state Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin; and state Rep. Val Hoyle, D-Eugene, are vying for the Democratic nomination in the May 17 primary election.

Two Republicans are running in the primary, former state Rep. Dennis Richardson from Central Point and Lane County Commissioner Sid Leiken from Springfield. The Republican primary has unfolded quietly, without the types of attacks Democrats recently unleashed on each other.

The winner of the Democratic primary has a good chance at becoming the next secretary of state. Oregon's last Republican secretary of state was Norma Paulus who served from 1977 to 1985, although Republicans had held that office with only a couple exceptions since statehood, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

This year's Democratic and Republican primary winners will face off in the November general election.

Tactics shift

Until this week, Hoyle and Devlin appeared to share the view that Democrats should vote for anyone but Avakian. They critiqued Avakian's promises to create renewable energy and civics education programs, which are outside the secretary of state's role of chief elections officer, auditor and archivist.

Hoyle and Devlin's apparent friendliness ended this week, when Devlin sharply critiqued Hoyle for accepting a \$250,000 donation in April from billionaire gun control advocate Michael Bloomberg.

A spokesman for Bloomberg told Willamette Week the former New York City mayor appreciated Hoyle's role in getting a bill passed in 2015 to expand background checks to private firearm transfers. Hoyle's second largest reported contribution was \$100,000 from EMILY's List, which supports pro-abortion rights Democratic women.

Hoyle has raised the most

Hoyle has raised the most money in the Democratic primary with nearly \$855,000 since 2015, while Avakian has raised \$626,000 in that time frame, according to an analysis of state campaign finance reports. Devlin has raised nearly \$295,000 since 2015.

Hoyle, who will be out of office in 2017 unless she is elected secretary of state, is not the only Democrat in the race to raise campaign donations from people or groups impacted by their official actions.

Avakian, whose current term as labor commissioner extends through 2018, counts food workers and construction unions among his top supporters.

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701 gave Avakian's campaign \$35,000 in donations since 2015, according to an analysis of state campaign finance data.

The union filed two requests in 2015 for Avakian to change classifications or expand the type of jobs equipment operators could do on public construction projects that pay prevailing wage.

As of Monday, state campaign finance records showed Avakian received a \$5,000 contribution from the union in May 2015, ahead of his July 2015 decision that resulted in field surveyors getting a large bump in pay

on many government projects. The remainder of the union's contributions came in February. Avakian's approvals of the union's requests took effect in January.

"Brad Avakian has run the Bureau of Labor and Industries with a record of integrity and a record of supporting workers and employers who are playing by the rules," said Brad Pyle, Avakian's campaign manager.

Donors have benefited

Pyle said donors to Devlin's campaign benefited from bills Devlin helped to pass. "Richard Devlin's been using his position as the co-chair of Ways and Means to exploit funds from the lobbyist community to support his run for secretary of state," Pyle said.

Devlin, who will continue to serve in the state Senate if he is not elected secretary of state, received his largest contributions from groups that represent residential and long-term care facilities and nurses. Those groups benefited from a bill Devlin sponsored earlier this year, which gave nursing home owners additional time to qualify for a state incentive to shut down under-utilized homes.

The Oregon Health Care Association, Devlin's largest contributor at a total of \$41,000, gave money to his

campaign before and after the 2016 session, according to state data. The group represents long-term care companies.

Emily Brixey, Devlin's campaign manager, said Devlin has longstanding relationships with both the Oregon Nurses Association and Oregon Health Care Association. "I don't necessarily think any of the contributions in this campaign are correlated with any one specific bill, as they are in the Val Hoyle campaign," Brixey said.

Richardson has fundraising edge

In the Republican primary, Richardson has raised nearly \$409,000 and Leiken has raised \$178,000, according to state data. Richardson's largest donor is timber executive Andrew Miller with a total of nearly \$19,000.

Leiken's largest contributors are Bud Pierce, the Salem doctor running for governor, who gave Leiken \$24,000, and the timber company Giustina Resources, which has given a total of \$15,000 to his campaign.

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Army Corps rejects new coal terminal

By **PHUONG LE**
Associated Press

SEATTLE — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has denied a permit to a \$700 million project to build the nation's largest coal-export terminal in northwest Washington state, handing a striking victory to the Lummi tribe which argued the project would violate its treaty-protected fishing rights.

The decision Monday ends the federal environmental review of a deep-water port that would have handled up to 54 million metric tons of dry bulk commodities, mostly coal, at Cherry Point. The venture between SSA Marine and Cloud Peak Energy proposed receiving coal by train from Montana and Wyoming for export to Asia.

Col. John Buck, commander of the corps' Seattle district, said the Gateway Pacific Terminal project can't be permitted because the impacts from the trestle and three-vessel wharf would interfere with the tribe's treaty rights to fish in its traditional areas.

"The corps may not permit a project that abrogates treaty

rights," Buck said.

The Lummi Nation said the Corps honored its treaty with the U.S. and recognized that the project would hurt the tribe's fishing rights.

"It's great news for the Lummi, a great win for treaty rights and Indian country," said Tim Ballew, chairman of the tribe with more than 5,000 members and one of the largest tribal fishing fleets in the country. "The record established, and everybody knew, this project would have negative impacts to treaty fishing rights."

Like many tribes, the Lummi signed a treaty with the U.S. in 1855 in which it ceded its land but reserved the right to hunt and fish in "usual and accustomed" areas.

Project developers said Monday that they are considering all alternatives.

"This is an inconceivable decision," Bob Watters, president of Pacific International Terminal, LLC, said in a statement. "Looking at the set of facts in the administrative summary, it's quite obvious this is a political decision and not fact based."

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Sarah Kangas, a physical education teacher at Warrenton Grade School

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