

Pierce wins GOP nod for governor

Salem physician faces Brown in November

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Salem physician Bud Pierce has won the Republican nomination for Oregon governor.

In November he will face Democrat nominee Gov. Kate Brown, who was elevated to the Governor's Office when John Kitzhaber resigned last year. The winner will serve the two years remaining in Kitzhaber's term.

"Tonight's victory is the result of incredible teamwork and the hard work of many fine people," he said.

Pierce defeated former state GOP chairman Allen Alley, the next highest vote getter in a field of five, with 45 percent of the vote compared to Alley's 29 percent. In Clatsop County, voters gave Pierce 46 percent to Alley's 33.

"Oregonians are tired of empty political promises and puppet leaders who are at the beck and call of powerful interests in our state enriching the connected and powerful and impoverishing the people," Pierce said. "Selma and I have listened to the people's hopes and dreams and aspirations and we are committed to helping to make those dreams come true."

Alley told Pierce he will support him for his run for governor.

"I would like to thank the citizens of Oregon for supporting me," Alley said. "I have had some amazing experiences walking across the state and meeting the people of the



Paris Achen/Capital Bureau

Bud Pierce addresses supporters in Salem after winning the Republican nomination for Oregon governor.

state, and I had a terrific message to juxtapose against Kate Brown's."

"I regret not being able to take on Kate Brown," he said.

Alley said Pierce's campaign outspent his and traveled more around the state. "He ran a better primary race, and the results show he ran a better primary race," Alley said.

With experience in state government and as a candidate for statewide office, Alley, 61, was the presumed frontrunner in the race for the nomination. The Lake Oswego businessman served as deputy chief of staff for former Gov. Ted Kulongoski and chaired the Oregon Republican Party.

But Pierce, 59, invested more than \$1 million into his campaign to reach out to voters. When the Salem oncologist entered the race, he had almost no name recognition and no experience as an elected official. Alley, in contrast, had sought the GOP nomination for governor in 2010 and for state treasurer in 2008.

Brown earned the Democratic nomination with 84 percent of the vote. She defeated Ashland physician Julian Bell, Springfield professional driver Chet Chance, Walmart produce team member Kevin Forsythe of Newport, Portland home care worker Steve Johnson and Portland environmental engineer and attorney Dave Stauffer.

Liz Accola Meunier, a spokeswoman for Brown's campaign, said the governor had been focused on governing and serving the state but would now begin ramping up her campaign to defeat Pierce.

"Tonight, we are happy with the results on our side, and the governor is really looking forward to talking about her vision for moving the state forward and looking forward to having a chance to talk about her vision, and we believe when voters gets a chance to compare her to her opponent that they will choose her," Meunier said.

Avakian, Richardson win secretary of state nominations

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian has won the Democratic primary for Oregon secretary of state.

This morning, Avakian had 39 percent of the vote leading state Rep. Val Hoyle, D-Eugene, who had 34 percent and state Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin, with 27 percent, according to unofficial vote totals. The Associated Press called the race for Avakian. Clatsop County gave Avakian 45 percent of the vote.

Former state Rep. Dennis Richardson appeared to be winning the Republican primary with 78 percent, and was declared the winner by The Associated Press. Clatsop County voters selected Richardson with 83 percent. Lane County Commissioner Sid Leiken had 22 percent of the vote, according to unofficial totals.

Avakian and Richardson will face each other in the November general election.

Richardson said Tuesday night that he was ready to campaign against Avakian based on their different views on the role of the secretary of state.

"Brad Avakian wants to investigate and go after private businesses," Richardson said, referring to Avakian's plan to have state auditors begin investigating complaints against state contractors. "My opinion is the secretary of state should be rolling out the red carpet to businesses in other states and countries, as well as in Oregon."

Richardson said the Audits Division in the Secretary of State's Office is supposed to review state pro-



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Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian has won the Democratic nomination for secretary of state. He will face Republican Dennis Richardson in November.

grams in order to "show that the people's money is well spent and (Avakian's) approach will be to ignore the waste that is taking place in public departments and programs and go after private businesses."

Avakian, who fought to set himself apart as the most progressive politician in the Democratic primary, could not be reached for comment Tuesday night. In a press release statement, Avakian's campaign manager Brad Pyle described Richardson as an "extreme right wing" politician.

The Democratic primary remained contentious until the 8 p.m. Tuesday election deadline, as the candidates increasingly went on the attack in an attempt to gain a lead in the tight race. Early on, Hoyle and Devlin critiqued Avakian for promising to create renewable energy and civics education programs, which are outside the secretary of state's role of chief elections officer, auditor



Dennis Richardson

and archivist.

Recently, Avakian and Devlin attacked Hoyle for accepting a \$250,000 donation in April from billionaire gun control advocate Michael Bloomberg. Avakian's campaign accused Devlin of accepting campaign donations from groups that benefited financially from legislation Devlin championed.

And a week before the primary, Hoyle also faced an attack ad by the Humane Society that took her to task for killing a 2015 bill that would have banned sales of ivory and rhino tusks in Oregon.

Earlier this month, a poll commissioned by OPB and Fox 12 showed the three Democrats were in a dead heat. Avakian was expected to win 21 percent of the vote, Hoyle was second with 16 percent and Devlin had 13 percent, a margin of error of plus or minus 5.7 percent. Most of the remaining Democrats in the poll were undecided.

Track: There isn't much room to expand school's track complex

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10 in both the 100 and 200 meters, along with being on some of Astoria's top-ranked relay teams. "And you basically can't set your blocks in certain lanes, because they will just slide" because of loose asphalt.

Darian Hageman, Astoria's only individual state champion from last year who is ranked first in the high, long and triple jumps, said the high school's athletes relish competing at other tracks, which always seem a lot nicer than home.

Garrett Parks, the third-year track coach at Astoria, said the worn-out surfaces definitely beats up his runners and their equipment.

"When we go to any other meet or any other facility, it's fun to hear our kids say, 'Man, this track is so spongy,' or, 'There's cushion,'" he said. "It's because we're so used to running on such a hard surface all the time that we're just not fortunate enough to have that feeling. We can tell."

Quick fix or full rehab

The differences between minor maintenance and the update of a track can add up to a lot of money. Nine years ago, Business Manager Justine Hill said Seaside School District received quotes that ranged from \$21,000 for minor repairs to more than \$700,000 for a complete resurfacing of the track.

"There are some minimal things we know we need to do, versus doing some major projects to have it updated," Rub said of Astoria's situation.

The district is looking at anything from minimal maintenance to a complete update of one or both of the tracks.

"We want places to be safe for kids, and to be something they're proud of," said Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes of the district's immediate goal. "It has nothing to do with how well the track team is doing."

Going regulation

Part of the question is whether Astoria wants to spend the money for an

updated, regulation track that can support district meets. Astoria's track is shaped like an egg, contains only seven of the usual eight lanes and was originally measured in yards instead of meters. Resurfacing could cost more than \$100,000, while making the track regulation could surpass \$600,000.

"The amount of space we have is a little bit of an issue at the high school," Rub said. "In regard to the field events, we would like to have more space."

There isn't much room for the high school track complex to expand beyond its current footprint, though, with a designated slide zone on one side and U.S. Highway 101 Business on the other.

The school district has looked at moving competitions to the middle school, which Hoppes said received a new surface in the early 2000s as part of the bond that remodeled many of the district's schools. But he said the school board remains non-committal while the district gathers more information.

Column: Most visitors to the park are from out of town

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are disappointed that teenagers in formal gowns and tuxedos had to pay on their special night. If no students take him up on the offer, he plans to donate the money he set aside to cover the fees to Astoria High School's safe and sober graduation party.

The Column is a city park, but the grounds are managed by the Friends of the Astoria Column, a nonprofit led by Portland real estate magnate and philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer.

While the city has welcomed the time and money Schnitzer and other private donors have invested in preserving the Column, there is a perception that the Friends have outsize political influence.

The Column is a local trea-

sure, yet, according to the city, most visitors to the park are from out of town. The City Council did not consider a \$5 annual pass exorbitant when the increase was unanimously approved in December. The city receives \$1 from each pass, while the rest of the money goes to the nonprofit to help maintain the grounds.

Di Bartolomeo does not object to the city charging a reasonable fee for visitors from out of town. "I do have a problem when a private entity essentially takes a private toll to park in a city-owned park," he said. "I think it would be a good idea to exempt people who live in Astoria and pay property taxes from having to pay a fee."

At a City Council meeting Monday, City Councilor Drew Herzig mentioned the buzz surrounding Di Bartolomeo's

Facebook post and suggested the Friends of the Column consider a free pass on prom night.

"Because if this is an Astoria High School tradition, we might as well let the kids get up there and get their photos taken and not try and shake them down for the parking fee," he said.

Karen Whitman, who serves on the board of the Friends of the Column, said Tuesday that the nonprofit can waive parking fees for sanctioned events.

Prom pictures are not a sanctioned event, but Whitman, who graduated from Astoria High School and lives in Portland, said charging students to park was regrettable.

"You wouldn't maybe call it a sanctioned event," Whitman said, "but this is the kind of thing that we ought to support for heaven's sake."

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