

Election '96

Portland Observer & Observador recommend:

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| President of the United States | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Clinton | City of Portland Commissioner, Position 2 ... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Sten |
| Vice President of the United States | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Al Gore | State Representative, 7th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Shook |
| United States Senator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Bruggere | State Representative, 10th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Lester |
| Representative in Congress, 1st District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Furse | State Representative, 11th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anitra Rasmussen |
| Representative in Congress, 3rd District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Earl Blumenauer | State Representative, 12th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Beck |
| Secretary of State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Keisling | State Representative, 13th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Gardner |
| State Treasurer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hill | State Representative, 14th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Eighmy |
| Attorney General | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hardy Myers | State Representative, 15th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randall Edwards |
| State Senator, 6th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ginny Burdick | State Representative, 16th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Shields |
| State Senator, 7th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Brown | State Representative, 17th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Fahey |
| State Senator, 8th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Fitz | State Representative, 18th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Margaret Carter |
| State Senator, 10th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Avel Gordly | State Representative, 19th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jo Ann Bowman |
| State Senator, 11th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Lim | State Representative, 20th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Kelley |
| State Senator, 28th District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Campbell | State Representative, 21st District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lonnie Roberts |
| City of Portland Commissioner, Position 1 ... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gail Shibley | State Representative, 22nd District | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Partington |

Next Week: Ballot Measures

Washington state democrates hope to hold back GOP tide

Democrats are hoping for sweet revenge Nov. 5 in Washington state, where Republicans scored one of the biggest victories of their 1994 sweep by ousting House Speaker Tom Foley and four other incumbents.

Including one seat left vacant by a retiring Democrat, six of Washington's nine congressional districts went to freshman Republicans, more than any other state.

Now several of those freshmen appear vulnerable to a backlash against House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Republican-led Congress, and some analysts say the vote could go either way in all six districts.

"I think we have a historic chance

to take back the majority of the seats we lost," said Paul Berendt, chairman of the state Democratic Party.

"On the other hand they're all extremely competitive," he said. "We could lose them all, we could win them all or any combination thereof."

The opportunity for Democrats to gain ground in their battle to regain control of the House has attracted national interest with labor, environmental and business groups pouring millions of dollars into targeted television advertising.

In a campaign swing through the Pacific Northwest, President Clinton said Washington offered "a bigger opportunity than any other state to

say, 'We need change in Congress.'"

Opinion polls suggest Clinton should win the state easily, and Democrat Gary Locke is favored to win the open governor's seat over Republican Ellen Craswell. But analysts expect strong turnout from both parties given the large number of contested races and issues on the ballot.

Last month's open primary gave a hint of what may lie ahead as several Republicans unopposed in their own party barely got a majority including Reps. Randy Tate, Rick White, Linda Smith and George Nethercutt, the giant-slayer who replaced Foley in eastern Washington's vast Fifth Dis-

trict.

While Nethercutt is expected to survive a challenge by wheat farmer Judy Olson, the other three are particularly vulnerable, said Tim Hibbitts, an independent pollster based in Portland, Oregon.

But Hibbitts said even Rep. Doc Hastings of central Washington's Fourth District, considered the safest of the state's freshmen Republicans, could be in trouble "if there is a Democratic landslide at all levels."

At the other end of the spectrum is Tate, who was outpolled in the primary by Democratic challenger Adam Smith and is considered the most vulnerable incumbent.

Tate said he was confident he would be retained by voters in the Ninth District south of Seattle.

"I feel pretty darn good," said Tate, who attributed his weak primary performance to labor union advertisements attacking his record.

"I think the biggest threat is outside groups coming in and lying about my record," he told Reuters. "Now we're getting a chance to give the other side of the story."

Smith said he thought his chances to win were "terrific," due in part to backlash against the Republican-led Congress.

"They went too far," he said. "They felt that they had their blueprint and they didn't need to listen to anyone."

Meanwhile Linda Smith, a rising star of the freshman class from the party's Christian conservative wing, is in a surprisingly tough battle against psychologist Brian Baird in southwest Washington.

"She has never won by large margins," Hibbitts said. "She has a tremendous following of core committed followers, but a lot of other people don't care for her preachy kind of politics."

And White, whose votes frequently broke with a more conservative party leadership, faces a stiff challenge from former county prosecutor Jeff Coopersmith in the First District, which includes part of Seattle and its suburbs.

Running Black and Republican

Party finds more candidates, but most face an uphill battle
BY GARY YOUNG

In his plush suburban home, Jim "Dadio" Walker, owner of the largest black-owned, black-oriented radio station in Colorado, is fiddling with the several gold chains around his neck and offering his views on politics and child-rearing as they relate to the black community.

"What do we tell our kids they have to do if they want to get on?" he asks. "We say, 'Stay in school, keep away from drugs and don't join gangs.' We never said, 'You've got to be a Republican or a Democrat. It's time we started looking after our own.'" So Walker is voting for President Clinton and for Joe Rogers, the black Republican candidate in Colorado's 1st Congressional District.

Rogers, a 32-year-old attorney, is hoping many of the black voters in the Denver-area district will follow Walker's example. Only 12 percent of the district's voters are black and the vast majority vote Democratic. But Rogers, who grew up in the area, said with 40 percent of their votes he can clinch the election. "This might be Clinton country, but it's Joe Rogers's neighborhood."

Rogers is one of a record 37 African Americans who ran in GOP con-

gressional primaries this year, and one of 15 who will face a Democrat in November. A 16th is running to be a delegate from the Virgin Islands.

"More and more African Americans are seeking office for the Republican Party because the Democrats have failed them. They want to fix the welfare system so they can end the cycle of dependency," said Craig Veith, National Republican Congressional Committee spokesman.

Despite the increased number in African American candidates and Veith's claim, few of these candidates are likely to win. Only 2 percent of registered Republicans are black, and a recent survey by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies found that even black Republicans favor Clinton over Republican presidential nominee Robert J. Dole, 46 percent to 42 percent. Moreover, most of the black GOP challengers are running in strong Democratic areas.

But a few like Rogers have a fighting chance of swelling the ranks of black Republicans in the House from two--Reps. Gary A. Franks (Conn.) and J.C. Watts, Jr. (Okla.). There are 38 black Democrats in the House and one black Democratic senator. Democrats have seven black challengers in this election.

Rogers says his campaign's polling suggests he has a reasonable chance of winning and he notes that Franks and Watts were elected in white-majority districts. The Democratic candidate, Diana DeGette, who is white, will not reveal her polling but her campaign manager, Lisa Weil, said, "We are taking this race very seriously."

The black GOP challenger with the best chance of winning a House seat is Danny Covington, running in Vicksburg, Miss., against Rep. Bennie Thompson (D), who is black. Early on, Teresa Doggett in Austin, Tex., appeared to be running well, but support for her opponent, Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D)(no relation) appears to be holding fast.

On paper, Rogers has a tough task ahead of him. Registered Democrats in the district, which has been represented by retiring Rep. Pat Schroeder (D) since 1972, outnumber registered Republicans by 2 to 1. But his hopes were boosted recently when he won the endorsement of the Denver ministerial alliance, a coalition of mostly black churches in the area, which had supported Schroeder.

"We endorsed Rogers because he completely outrated everybody else," said Rev. Acen Phillips of the Mount Gilead Baptist Church and a member

of the group's endorsement committee. "The choice had very little to do with color. If someone came to us and they said we're black and that's all, that just wouldn't do. We endorsed Clinton and a whole host of other white candidates. We are depending on him to vote correctly and in our interests whether (House Speaker) Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) does or not."

Rogers plays down that he is a Republican, stressing instead his local ties, that he was brought up on welfare and has a "common sense, pragmatic approach" to politics.

"You can vote for me if you're a Republican or a Democrat. I'm all kinds of things. I'm an African American; I'm a Republican; I'm a man. But most of all I'm Joe Rogers, that's the person I want people to vote for. If they want to vote against Newt Gingrich they should go to Georgia," he said.

Rogers is a moderate Republican who models himself on retired Gen. Colin L. Powell. He is personally opposed to abortion but is an abortion rights supporter. He favors affirmative action but opposes quotas. His campaign calls for an "economic development and job creation" program that will give incentives to businesses to move into run-down areas of Denver where many black people live.

Send Linda Smith home for the holidays

Rep. Linda Smith, the Republican congresswoman who won Southwest Washington's 3rd District seat in the House in the Newt Gingrich landslide of 1994, has drawn criticism for characterizing a group of minority business owners as "colored men."

A fundamentalist Christian who has earned a reputation as

perhaps the most conservative member in the House of Representatives, Smith holds down a chair on the House Small Business Committee.

Smith has taken the position that minority-owned businesses already have equal opportunity to compete with white-owned businesses and that the country no longer needs

programs that help minority-owned companies obtain contracts and other business.

During the two years that Representative Smith has occupied her seat in the House, she has consistently proven herself to be unwilling to represent the interests or views of the people of the State of Washington, instead us-

ing the position to champion her own extreme positions, particularly on social issues.

The Portland Observer and Observador urge all of our Washington readers to turn Mrs. Smith out of office. A vote for Brian Baird will bring a more realistic and representative view to Washington's congressional delegation.

2500 CEO's, business leaders endorse President Clinton

At the Presidential debates Americans a good look at two decidedly different views about how to best get us to the 21st century.

In Stamford, Connecticut, President Clinton received the endorsement of 2500 CEO's and business leaders because of his sure and common sense handling of the US economy.

Business leaders endorse Clinton, cite leadership on economy--A quick check of the facts underscores President Clinton's steady, common sense economic stewardship: Spending cut \$255 billion over five years, the deficit cut by over 60%, federal workforce reduced by nearly 240,000, ten and a half million new jobs, family income up, poverty down, and record numbers of new business starts.

President Clinton calls on busi-

ness leaders to help move people from welfare to work--After years of Reagan/Bush deficits and neglect, America is back on track. President Clinton today called on business leaders to lend a hand in the national effort to get people from welfare to work--to do all they can to make sure there are jobs for Americans determined to replace welfare checks with paychecks.

Bridge to the 21st century built on education: If American business is to remain competitive in the global market place, and if Americans are going to be able to compete for high wage, high skill jobs, we must do all we can to make sure that every American who is willing to work hard has access to a quality education. President Clinton's concrete plan, built on ambitious investment in education, will get us there.

Congresswoman opposes C-17 decision

An Oregon congresswoman said the Defense Department's decision to buy 80 more McDonnell Douglas C-17 cargo jets was based on politics and she promised to fight it in Congress next year.

"I'm going to continue fighting to make sure Congress doesn't spend one more nickel on the C-17," Democratic Rep. Elizabeth Furse said at a news conference.

Furse asked the General Accounting Office to review the Pentagon decision. She said a mix of C-17s and a military version of the Boeing 747 would be much cheaper than the \$18 billion for a full order of 120 C-17s, including 40 already approved.

"This astonishingly uncritical recommendation had more to do with politics than facts. Decision-makers at the Pentagon behaved like lemmings in their rush to 1996 election appeasement," she said.

The C-17 is made in Long Beach, California. The state is considered key to President Clinton's re-election chances next year and has lost thousands of jobs from defense budget cutbacks and base closings.

Pentagon officials said they decided to buy more C-17s because the aircraft could perform more missions and operate out of smaller airfields than the 747 or the C-5A, even though a mix of aircraft would be cheaper.

Remember to vote on November 5th.