



East Oregonian, File

Dan Daltoso, associate director of Umatilla Morrow County Head Start, right, shows Oregon U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden through the program's operations Aug. 31, 2021, at the Neal Early Learning Center in Boardman. Wyden is running for reelection in 2022 and has raised \$11 million for his campaign in the past two years.

Wyden reports strong fundraising as Dems' Senate majority wobbles

By GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, has raised \$11 million during the past two years, solidifying his spot among the “solid Democrat” seats on the 2022 electoral map.

The five Republicans running in the GOP primary have raised less than \$500,000 all together.

Wyden's latest Federal Elections Commission report lists over \$7.87 million still in his campaign fund.

Since winning a special election for the seat in 1996, Wyden has been reelected four times to full six-year terms, never receiving less than 57% of votes cast.

Despite a slump in President Joe Biden's approval rating, Wyden's reelection is rated as “strong” or “solid” among major political forecasters, including the Cook Political Report, FourThirtyFive, and the Center for Politics at the

University of Virginia. While impressive by Oregon standards, Wyden's political bankroll is small when compared to some other Senate races.

The Federal Election Commission reported that as of April 22, candidates running for the 35 U.S. Senate seats on the ballot this year had raised \$796.2 million.

Republicans totaled \$404.8 million while Democrats had raised \$388.4 million.

Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Georgia, had raised over \$67 million to defend the seat he won in a 2020 special election. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., has raised \$41.9 million.

The Senate fundraising is the flood of money reported to the FEC.

During 2021, candidates for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House raised \$1.3 billion and spent \$720 million. Political parties raised \$862.6 million and spent \$668.3 million.

Political action commit-

tees supporting a specific cause or group raised \$3.2 billion and spent \$2.5 billion.

Wyden is chair of the Senate Finance Committee. While the odds-on favorite to win reelection, Wyden's role in the Congress that convenes in January could change for the second time in two years.

Republicans were a majority in the Senate through 2020, but lost control to Democrats when the election gave Democrats 48 seats, along with two independents who caucus with the party. The total of 50 seats matched the number of Republican senators.

The 50-50 tie was broken by the election of President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. The vice president also holds the largely symbolic position of president of the Senate.

Harris can break some tie votes, but more importantly, she gives Democrats and their allies an official majority, which include the chairmanship of committees.

Previously suspended judge challenges incumbent in Court of Appeals race

By ZANE SPARLING
The Oregonian

SALEM — Voters will encounter something unusual while filling out their ballot for one seat on the Oregon Court of Appeals this year: a choice.

Judge Darleen Ortega, who has served on the appellate court since 2003, is facing a challenge from Vance Day, a former Oregon Republican Party chairman whom the Oregon Supreme Court suspended from his role as a Marion County judge in 2018 for making false statements.

Day says the real reason behind his suspension was his religious opposition to gay marriage, which became apparent when he refused to marry same-sex couples.

The statewide race for a six-year term is the first real electoral test for Ortega, who at 59 is the first woman of color and the only Latina to serve on Oregon's second highest court.

The incumbent says that

while nonpartisan judges are elected to determine the facts, not represent constituencies, the absence of people of color from positions of power can omit important perspectives, such as when the 13 Court of Appeals judges confer as a group.

“As a result, I think the process is missing key information, resulting in biased outcomes,” Ortega said in a written reply to questions. “My experiences as a Latina from a challenging background, along with my compassion, help me to be curious about things that others miss, and regularly help me to deepen the conversations we have at the court as we apply the law.”

For his part, Day, 61, says he will bring ideological diversity to the appellate court. Describing himself as a strict constructionist who interprets the Constitution as it was originally intended, Day claims that Ortega and other judges have embraced an “equity doctrine” that picks winners

and losers. “You can't have a justice system which views those in the system differently depending upon their color, their experience or whether they're an oppressor or an oppressed person,” he said. “Our laws should be applied to all people in all places at all times equally.”

Single-candidate races featuring only the incumbent judge are the norm in the Oregon judiciary, as most judges choose to retire midterm, allowing the governor to handpick their successors, who can then run as an incumbent during the next election. While the court itself does not track contested races, they are exceedingly rare, although defense attorney Kyle Krohn made them less so in recent years.

Krohn lost to incumbent Judge Rex Armstrong in 2018. Incumbent Judge Joel DeVore also defeated Krohn in the May 2020 primary. In both cases, the incumbents won handily.

Adrian Brown, a former assistant U.S. Attorney in Oregon, triumphed over attorney Rima Ghandour in another hotly-contested judgeship in Multnomah County Circuit Court in 2020.



Day



Ortega

ELECTION BRIEFING

Phil Knight gives \$1M to PAC to elect Republicans

SALEM — Nike co-founder Phil Knight has given \$1 million to a political action committee focused on electing more Republicans to the Oregon Legislature.

Knight disclosed the huge contribution to the Bring Balance to Salem political action committee on Tuesday evening, April 26, according to state

campaign finance records.

Bring Balance to Salem has not yet spent much of its total \$2.7 million raised, but will support candidates who support limited government and “common sense problem solving,” according to a spokesperson for the group. Democrats hold majorities in both chambers



Knight

of the Oregon Legislature.

Most of the money raised by Bring Balance to Salem comes from the timber industry, with \$250,000 each donated by Swanson Group, Roseburg Forest Products, Murphy Company and Sierra Pacific Industries. Freres Timber kicked in \$150,000 and Norman Brenden, the former chief financial officer of a chain of senior living homes, gave \$100,000, according to state records.

— The Oregonian

Now Hiring!

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL
AND ST. ANTHONY CLINIC
MANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE
BENEFITS FOR FULL AND PART TIME POSITIONS



Scan me to browse our available positions

