

Oregon News

District up for grabs? Jamie McLeod-Skinner challenges 10-term Congressman Greg Walden

By Gary A. Wamer
WesCom News Service

Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner has traveled more than 40,000 miles across Oregon's 2nd Congressional District and raised nearly \$1 million in an energetic bid to flip one of the most steadfastly Republican bastions in the country.

It's an uphill drive all the way.

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, has represented the district, which includes most of Eastern, Central and much of Southern Oregon, since 1999. He's chairman of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee. In the 2016 presidential election, the district overwhelmingly supported Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton. Walden regularly wins re-election by more than 60 percent of the vote — in 2016, he topped 70 percent.

McLeod-Skinner says 2018 is different, pointing to other heavily Republican districts around the country captured by Democrats who have taken advantage of the unpopularity of President Trump's tax and health care policies among parts of the electorate. Walden has been at the center of those debates as his committee handled the attempt to scuttle the Affordable Care Act (failed in the Senate) and pass deep

Jamie McLeod-Skinner

- Party: Democratic
- Age: 51
- Residence: Terrebonne
- Profession: Water and natural resource management
- Education: Law degree, University of Oregon; master's degree in planning, Cornell University



corporate and individual tax cuts (passed by the Senate).

McLeod-Skinner has also brought a bankroll to the fight — though one dwarfed by Walden's. But Walden's incumbency means he has been fundraising since the last election and has drawn a total of \$4.58 million in contributions.

Since starting her campaign, McLeod-Skinner has raised a total of just over \$905,000. The difference means that although McLeod-Skinner has spent just over \$289,000 in the race, Walden has spent 10 times more — just over \$2.89 million, though much of it went to other candidates in other races.

The Bulletin asked McLeod-Skinner and Walden questions on three issues and let the candidates add a

fourth they think is important.

Mark Roberts won the Independent Party nomination, only to be repudiated by his party over coarse comments regarding First Lady Melania Trump. The Independent Party has since endorsed McLeod-Skinner, though Roberts remains on the ballot.

Here are McLeod-Skinner and Walden's responses:

Q: What can Congress do to ensure people in the 2nd Congressional District have access to affordable health insurance and health care? Please include your position on the Affordable Care Act and any cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

• McLeod-Skinner: Congress must do a better job of

Greg Walden

- Party: Republican
- Age: 61
- Residence: Hood River
- Profession: Congressman
- Education: Bachelor of science in journalism, University of Oregon



managing costs, promoting preventative care, supporting caregivers and insuring coverage of pre-existing conditions so all people in our district can access affordable physical and mental health care. My opponent wrote bills repealing the Affordable Care Act and allowing insurance companies to demand high premiums from 27 percent of Oregonians and 60 percent of farmers and ranchers with pre-existing conditions. I will work to improve the ACA and make sure everyone is covered, reduce system costs, protect Medicare and Medicaid and stand up to pharmaceutical companies by negotiating lower prices for life-saving medications.

• Walden: I know what Medicare meant to my parents, and will always work to strengthen it. I helped create Medicare Part D, giving seniors access to more affordable drugs. I'm working to fix

the ACA and drive down the cost of health care by putting an end to "gag clauses" that prevent pharmacists from telling customers how to save money on their medicines. I led the effort to fully fund community health centers and fund — for a record 10 years — the Children's Health Insurance Program. I helped pass "Right-to-Try," giving patients with incurable diseases access to promising medicines.

Q: What can Congress do in the future to lessen the number, size and impact of wildfires in Oregon? Please include whether or not you think global warming is involved in making the fire problem worse.

• McLeod-Skinner: Lessening wildfire impacts to our communities is critical to safeguard public health and safety. It is also one important

way to develop our economy and create jobs. Congress must supply more resources to implement fuel reduction, which experts and land management collaboratives in our district say is the best solution in the short-term. I will push for fire-suppression resources dedicated to our district that cannot be called away somewhere else, leaving our communities vulnerable. Wildfires are driven in part by increasing temperatures, and long-term solutions must include more investment to develop renewable energy and reduce heat-trapping carbon emissions.

• Walden: We need more active management of our forests like we're seeing on the Skyline Forest Collaborative to reduce fuel loads. Then we need to remove the burned dead trees — where appropriate — after a fire while they still have value and replant a new forest for the next generation. This year, I helped pass the largest reforms to forest management in over a decade, including a fix to "fire borrowing." Catastrophic wildfires are major carbon emitters in Oregon, and the climate change problem will become more severe if we do not take action to bring active management back to our forests.

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Baker County



CHURCH DIRECTORY

<p>Baker United Methodist Church</p> <p>Sunday Worship Casual Service: 8:30 AM Traditional Service: 10 AM</p> <p>1919 2nd Street, Baker City 541-523-4201</p>	<p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Worship Service 10:30 AM</p> <p>1995 4th Street, Baker City 541-523-5201 firstpresbaker.blogspot.com</p>	<p>Third & Broadway 541-523-3891</p> <p>Calvary Baptist Church</p> <p>Sundays 10 AM Service & Children's Church 6-7:30 pm Youth Group (Grades 7-12) Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm Free Community Dinner www.bakercalvarybaptist.com</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Service 11:00 AM</p> <p>www.spirituality.com</p> <p>3rd & Washington, Baker City 541-523-5911</p>	<p>CHURCH OF NAZARENE</p> <p>Sunday Worship 9:45 AM</p> <p>Pastor Troy Teeter 1250 Hughes Lane, Baker City (Corner of Cedar & Hughes) 541-523-3533 www.bakernaz.com</p>	<p>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</p> <p>Baker City 1st Ward Sacrament Meeting 1 PM Baker City 2nd Ward Sacrament Meeting 9 AM Baker Valley Ward Sacrament Meeting 11 AM 2625 Hughes Lane, Baker City 541-523-2397</p>
<p>Elkhorn Baptist Church</p> <p>Sunday School 10 AM Morning Worship 11 AM Evening Worship 6 PM Discovery Kids Worship 6:30 PM 3520 Birch St, Baker City 541-523-4332</p>	<p>Harvest Church & HARVEST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (Preschool-12 Grade)</p> <p>Harvest Cafe 9:15 am Morning Worship 10:10 AM 3720 Birch St, Baker City 541-523-4233 <i>The first Sunday of each month is Mission Breakfast. Donations and non-perishable donations for NEOCC are accepted.</i></p>	<p>New Beginnings Fellowship PC of G</p> <p>Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM Sunday Evening 6 PM Weds Service 7 PM</p> <p>Zan & Dawn Coen 1820 Estes, Baker City 541-524-1394</p>	<p>FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Service 11 AM</p> <p>1734 Third Street, Baker City 541-523-3922 firstlutheranbakercity@gmail.com</p>	<p>ST. BRIGID'S IN THE PINES COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Services 1st & 3rd Sunday Holy Eucharist</p> <p>East Auburn Street, Sumpter 541-523-4812 A Mission of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Baker City</p>	<p>BAKER CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday Worship First Service 9 AM 2nd Service & Sunday School 10:45 AM Jr. High & High School Youth Tues 6:30 PM Youth Pastor Silas Moe 675 Hwy 7, Baker City • 541-523-5425</p>
<p>SAINT ALPHONSUS HOSPITAL CHAPEL</p> <p><i>Open to all patients, family and friends for reflection and prayer.</i></p> <p>St. Alphonsus Hospital in Baker City</p>	<p>AGAPE CHRISTIAN CENTER</p> <p>Sunday Services 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM</p> <p>South Highway 7, Baker City 541-523-6586</p>	<p>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</p> <p>Saturday Worship 11:00 AM</p> <p>www.bakercityda.com 17th & Pocahontas, Baker City 541-523-4913</p>	<p>St. Francis De Sales Cathedral</p> <p>Daily Masses at 9 AM at the Cathedral</p> <p>Established 1904 Baker City Saturday Mass 6 pm Sunday Mass 9:30 am Spanish Mass 1:30 pm (2nd & 4th Sun) St. Therese in Halfway 2 pm Sat St. Anthony's in North Powder 1:30 Sun 541-523-4521 Corner of First & Church, Baker City</p>	<p>St. Stephen's Episcopal</p> <p>Services at 9 AM 1st & 3rd Sundays, Holy Eucharist 2nd & 4th Sundays, Morning Prayer 5th Sunday, Morning Prayer 2177 First Street • Baker City Entrance on 1st Street Corner Church & First Streets 541-523-4812</p>	<p>Faith Center Foursquare</p> <p><i>A Four Square Gospel Church</i></p> <p>Worship Service 10:45 AM</p> <p>1839 3rd St, Baker City 541-523-7915</p>

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