

East vs. West meets left vs. right in congressional race

BY GARY A. WARNER

Oregon Capital Bureau

On the left, Terrebonne attorney Jamie McLeod-Skinner, the progressive Democrat who vanquished seven-term U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-Canby, in the May primary.

On the right, former Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer, the conservative Republican with hopes of flipping the seat to the GOP.

Polarized politics isn't the only rift in the 5th Congressional District. There's the looming mass of the Cascade Mountains that cleaves the district into western and eastern portions. It's tied together by a thin ribbon of blacktop on U.S. Highway 20 as it crosses the Santiam Pass at 4,817 feet.

By the general election on Nov. 8, the candidates will have to simultaneously track their poll numbers and the chances for black ice or snow drifts on their campaign routes.

The 5th district was created by Democratic legislators last autumn in an effort to tie the bulging number of Democratic votes isolated in Bend with like-minded voters far to the northwest. The resulting seat stretches from Portland in Multnomah County to Sunriver in Deschutes County.

The Democratic and Republican primaries featured one candidate from each side of the mountains. When McLeod-Skinner upset Schrader and Chavez-DeRemer beat Jimmy Crumpacker of Bend, it set up the left vs. right, west vs. east race in the district with the slimmest par-



Submitted photos

The major party candidates vying to represent Oregon's 5th Congressional District, Democrat Jamie McLeod-Skinner, left, and Republican Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

tisan division in the state. The Cook Political Report, a widely read political forecasting website, puts the Democratic tilt at just 6%.

Both primaries were closed, with only party members allowed to cast ballots to pick a nominee.

Democrats chose McLeod-Skinner, a liberal who is pro-choice, supports gun control efforts and backs President Joe Biden's agenda of expanded aid to help Americans through the tumult of the COVID-19 pandemic. She supported public health restrictions to curb the spread of the pandemic.

Republicans picked Chavez-DeRemer, a conservative who is anti-abortion, supports gun rights and blames Biden's spending decisions for steeply rising inflation, including

high gas prices. She's opposed most COVID-19 restrictions as government over-reach.

They also highly contrast with their political surroundings. Chavez-DeRemer's home is in Clackamas County, less than 10 miles from the Democratic stronghold of Portland.

McLeod-Skinner is in the sparsely populated High Desert plateau east of the mountains, with thousands of square miles to the north, east and south sprinkled with steadfastly Republican communities.

Both candidates say they will hold their side of the mountains and run strong on the other candidate's turf.

"I've raised my kids in Clackamas and have built a small business right here as well," Chavez-DeRemer said "I've made long-lasting relationships

with key partners in the county. Voters in Clackamas know my track record of common-sense leadership and know how much time I've put into giving back to our wonderful community."

Chavez-DeRemer started making forays over the mountains to Deschutes County almost a year ago.

"We won our primary decisively, sweeping every county and having a strong win in Deschutes County too," Chavez-DeRemer said. "I've campaigned in Deschutes County at least twice a week since we announced in July 2021, doing meet and greets and knocking on doors, and we certainly won't slow down."

Chavez-DeRemer has reached out to Rep. Jack Ziska, R-Redmond, the outgoing state representative for much of the congressional district's eastern side. She's also garnered support from Deschutes County Commissioner Tony DeBone and Redmond Mayor George Endicott.

McLeod-Skinner remains confident that she can hold the loyalty of most voters on the east side of the Cascades.

"People know me in Deschutes County," she said. "They saw my campaigns, they see me around town. This is my home."

McLeod-Skinner ran a high-profile race against former U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, in 2018 in the heavily Republican 2nd Congressional District that at the time included Bend and portions of Deschutes County. She lost, but held Walden to just over 56% of the vote, the lowest re-election vote in his 20

years in Congress.

McLeod-Skinner did receive some statewide exposure when she ran for secretary of state in 2020. But her campaign was lost in the din of the fight between two Portland political powerhouses serving in the state Senate. Shemia Fagan defeated Mark Hass, with McLeod-Skinner coming in third. She garnered Democratic endorsement for the west side of the mountains even before defeating Schrader. Her endorsement list now runs like a political who's-who of U.S. Senators, former governors, state and local officials from Portland and counties to the south.

The west side of the Cascades will be a challenge — it contains the bulk of 5th district voters.

But the political split favors a Democrat. Republicans have called her a "socialist" and Schrader suggested after her victory that it was a sign of a "socialist" trend in Oregon Democrats. McLeod-Skinner's amiable, casual approach in personal appearances is honed from years of campaigning in sometimes hostile political territory.

One issue unlikely to play a big role in the race: Neither candidate technically lives in the 5th district — they can't even vote for themselves. Under the U.S. Constitution, House members don't have to reside in their district, just the state. But in political advertising, such legal distinctions have easily been muddled in congressional campaigns around the nation. But in the 5th district, it's a lose-lose topic.

Big Ten

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is the most established of the conference networks.

USC and UCLA would be taking a step up in football, both in visibility and competition.

"Pac-12 After Dark" televised games that kick off in the middle to late evenings in most of the country have made it difficult for the conference to get exposure. The Pac-12 has had teams in the College Football Playoff just twice — Oregon (2014 season) and Washington (2016).

USC President Carol L. Folt said she and university leaders considered the coast-to-coast travel that will come with

competing in the Big Ten. Nebraska is the westernmost school in the conference now, and Lincoln is almost 1,500 miles from Los Angeles. Rutgers, the easternmost Big Ten school, is a nearly 5 1/2-hour flight from LA.

"We are fortunate we can spend the next two years working with the conference on travel and scheduling plans," Folt said.

The Big Ten, Pac-12 and Atlantic Coast Conference last August formed an alliance in the wake of Oklahoma and Texas joining the SEC. The conferences said the 41 members would take a collaborative approach to charting the future of athletics. The three conferences set up scheduling

arrangements in some sports and have pooled resources to promote athlete welfare.

Less than a year later, the future of the alliance would appear bleak with the Big Ten taking two of the Pac-12's biggest brands.

USC and UCLA will be severing longstanding conference relationships. USC joined California, Oregon, Oregon State, Stanford, Washington and Washington State in the Pacific Coast Conference in 1922, followed by UCLA in 1928.

They went together in 1959 to the Athletic Association of Western Universities, which became the Pac-8 in 1968, the Pac-10 in 1978 and Pac-12 in 2011.

Timbers

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down in the box, giving Portland a penalty kick in the 34th minute. Moreno converted for a 1-0 lead.

"I felt very confident," Moreno said through a translator. "Any time I have a chance like that I feel very comfortable that I will score."

Just moments later, Moreno beat Houston goalkeeper Steve Clark with a left-footed shot for his third goal of the season. It was his first career two-goal game.

Moreno nearly had a hat

trick in the 63rd minute but Clark stopped it at the right post. Clark, who played for the Timbers from 2018 until last year, made his 200th career MLS appearance.

The Timbers (5-6-7) have never had a player score a hat trick in an MLS match.

Houston (6-8-3) narrowed the deficit in the 65th minute on Quintero's arcing shot from outside the box. It was his seventh goal of the year.

"I think the general feeling is right now that we deserved more. We know this is a good team at home, but I felt like the way the

game played out, I think we deserved to at least to get tie here," said Houston defender Adam Lundqvist said.

The Dynamo were coming off a 2-0 victory at home over the Chicago Fire on Saturday. The win snapped a three-game losing streak.

The Timbers defeated the Colorado Rapids 3-0 on June 25 to snap a four-game winless streak.

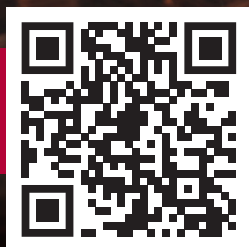
There were nine yellow cards handed out in the match, which was chippy at times. Portland's Bill Tuiloma was sent off after his second yellow in the 75th.

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