

Johnson to run for governor

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

by next summer to qualify for the November 2022 ballot.

Johnson has more than \$500,000 in her candidate finance committee, which she has maintained for her campaigns for state Senate. State law will allow her to transfer the account to the governor's race.



Betsy Johnson

State Sen. Betsy Johnson, the influential co-chairwoman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, is running for governor next year as an independent.

The Scappoose Democrat made the announcement in an email to supporters last Thursday.

"Oregonians are eager for a fresh start and new leadership," she wrote. "But having to choose between another left-wing liberal promising more of the same or a right-wing Trump apologist — is no choice at all. Oregonians deserve better than the excesses and nonsense of the extreme left and radical right. Oregonians are ready to move to the middle where sensible solutions are found."

"That's why I have decided to run for governor as an independent leader unaffiliated with any party and loyal only to the people of Oregon."

Johnson said in a statement that she would raise money and start assembling staff and supporters before formally announcing her campaign early next year.

By early March, Johnson will have to give up her membership in the Democratic Party to run as an unaffiliated candidate. Without party backing, she will need to collect at least 23,744 signatures

missioner Casey Kulla and New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof have launched or are exploring primary campaigns.

On the Republican side, Salem physician Bud Pierce — who lost a campaign for governor in 2016 — Sandy Mayor Stan Pulliam, Baker City Mayor Kerry McQuisten, political consultant Bridget Barton and Medford business owner Jessica Gomez are among the contenders.

Johnson, 70, was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 2000 and served until 2005, when she was appointed to finish the Senate term of Joan Dukes. She was first elected to the Senate in 2006 and is now in her fourth term.

Johnson, born in Bend, comes from a family embedded in Oregon politics and government. Her father, Sam Johnson, who died in 1984, served in the state House as a Redmond representative. Her mother, Becky Johnson, served on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education as well as numerous other boards, according to the Oregon Legislature website.

A graduate of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, Johnson also holds a law degree from the Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland.

A licensed fixed-wing and helicopter pilot, Johnson has operated aviation-related companies and also served as manager of the aeronautics division of

the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Senate seat

Johnson would be up for reelection next year in Senate District 16. Her run for governor could create a competitive open seat. In 2020, the campaign for an open seat in state House District 32 between Suzanne Weber and Debbie Boothe-Schmidt was among the most expensive in the state. Weber's victory was the first time a Republican won the House seat on the North Coast in nearly two decades.

Weber, a former Tillamook mayor in her first term in the House, announced late Thursday that she would run for state Senate to replace Johnson.

"There are no bigger shoes to fill in Oregon politics than those of Sen. Johnson. But I will work every single day to live up to her legacy as an independent, nonpartisan leader here in rural Northwest Oregon," she said in a video posted on Facebook.

Andy Davis, the chairman of the Clatsop County Democratic Party, said the organization has not yet crafted a statement about Johnson's run for governor or her decision to leave the party.

"Betsy is an important member of the caucus at the state Senate level," he said. "Obviously, she's had an influential voice, within the committee structure especially, at the Senate, and those are big shoes to fill and an important vote on some issues."

Weber announces state Senate bid

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

to get the solutions that are appropriate for the problem rather than the party," Weber said.

Weber has lived in Tillamook for more than half a century. A former Tillamook mayor and city councilor, she said that her long-term knowledge of the region has helped her understand what her district needs.

She said that state agencies and departments need to be upgraded to handle events like the COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout, such as evictions and landlord reimbursements.

"All of those things need a person who is going to be there to continue to work to improve those agencies and those systems," she said.

A retired elementary school teacher, Weber said voters have recognized her dedication to issues like education and housing. "I think that they can trust me to be able to do that, to represent them," she said.

"I know the people in the area. I know the conditions that we live under in rural Oregon," she said, "and I think I have a real good grasp of common sense and common-sense solutions."

Once Johnson declared her candidacy, Weber started discussing her campaign with her staff. "We'll be coming forward with plans and ideas very soon," she said.

Asked what her priorities as a state senator would

be, Weber said, "Continuing to make rural Oregon and the coast an integral part of decision-making in our state."

Andy Davis, the chairman of the Clatsop County Democratic Party, said that although there has been talk among Democrats of who the party might put up to challenge and replace Weber, no names have been discussed.

"Obviously, since (Weber is) in the opposite party from us at the moment, we've been thinking about it since

she was elected," he said.

As for who Weber would like to see replace her, she said she will not be giving endorsements. However, she said, "I have a list of people that I will be talking to, to encourage them to move forward and decide to run."

Weber said she intends to serve out her first term. "I will continue to represent this area to the best of my ability until my term is up. I do not intend to resign," she said. "There is so much work that needs to be done."

State Rep. Suzanne Weber, the Tillamook Republican who represents state House District 32, will run for state Sen. Betsy Johnson's seat.

Johnson, a Scappoose Democrat who represents Senate District 16, announced last Thursday that she will run for governor in 2022 as an independent. Weber announced her campaign in a Facebook video.



Suzanne Weber

Weber edged Debbie Boothe-Schmidt, an Astoria Democrat, for an open House seat in 2020. It marked the first time a Republican had won the North Coast district in almost two decades.

"I think that there needs to be continued representation from this area from someone who is deeply invested in this area, and I feel that I am that person," Weber said in an interview.

"And Sen. Johnson and I have been talking about this for quite some time," she continued. "You know, a lot of people have been urging her to take this step."

Weber, who called Johnson a "local hero" and her governorship aspirations "game changing," said she had been thinking about this move for a long time in the event Johnson decided to run.

"I feel it's really important to work across the aisle

NEWS IN BRIEF

Newman, Lindberg exhibit at Trail's End show

Trail's End Art Association Gallery present two featured artists Nov. 5 to Nov. 28.

Richard Newman presents his series of black and white fine art photography featuring bridges and transportation. Also featured are the imaginative and colorful fused glass work by Carolyn Myers Lindberg. Join them at the Nov. 6 Gearhart Art-Walk from 2 to 5 p.m., with refreshments served.

Newman is the current President of Trail's End Art Association.

artist, who has worked in glass for over 25 years and recently moved to Seaside from Portland. This show is a collection of functional forms she's created over the past several years that employ a wide variety of glass types and techniques.

Trail's End is a non-profit art association that has been in existence over 70 years and welcomes new members. To learn more about the gallery, visit trailsendart.org or call at 503-717-9458.

The gallery is located at 656 A Street, Gearhart.

DINING on the NORTH COAST

Great Restaurants in:
GEARHART • SEASIDE
CANNON BEACH

WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE LOCALS GO?

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Junior Menu
- Lighter appetite menu

RILEY'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

BEST BREAKFAST IN TOWN! Fish 'n Chips • Burgers • Seafood & Steak
Friday & Saturday - Prime Rib
Lounge Open Daily 9-Midnight
All Oregon Lottery products available
1104 S Holladay • 503-738-9701 • Open Daily at 8am

CHOCOLATE CAFE

Cannon Beach Chocolate Cafe

10% OFF your purchase through 10/31/21
MILKSHAKE HAPPY HOUR
3PM-5PM, \$1 OFF ALL MILKSHAKES
232 N. Spruce • Cannon Beach, Oregon
503.436.4331
Starting in October: 9am-5pm daily, closed on Tuesday and Wednesday

Call Sarah Silver
503.325.3211
ext 1222

YOUR RESTAURANT AD HERE.

Find Your Next Regular Customers!

Business Directory

CONSTRUCTION

BOB McEWAN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

EXCAVATION • UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
ROAD WORK • FILL MATERIAL
SITE PREPARATION • ROCK

OWNED AND OPERATED BY MIKE AND CELINE McEWAN

503-738-3569

34154 Hwy 26, Seaside, OR
P.O. Box 2845, Gearhart, OR

SERVING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SINCE 1956 • CC48302

REAL ESTATE

Melissa Eddy

REAL ESTATE BROKER
Your real estate vision is my expertise.

✉ melissaeddy@windermere.com
🏠 beachhomerealtor.com
📞 503-440-3258

Windermere REAL ESTATE WINDERMERE REALTY TRUST

CREMATION

Ocean View

Funeral & Cremation Services

Telephone Advice & Assistance 24-Hours A Day
1213 Franklin Ave., Astoria • 503-338-7200
www.OceanViewAstoria.com

Lowest Cost Cremation
On The Northern Oregon Coast

See our website for Up-To-Date Pricing Comparisons.
Also registered in the State of Washington

ELECTRICAL

- Repairs
- Generator installation & servicing
- New construction
- Remodels

Borland

COASTAL ELECTRIC, INC.
FOR YOUR COMPLETE ELECTRICAL NEEDS

Serving the North Oregon Coast since 1950!

Serving Clatsop & Tillamook Counties
CCB#3226 503.738.8391

ELECTRICAL

JJ ELECTRIC SERVICE

CCB #198257

CALL US for your next electrical project!

503-739-7145
712 S. Holladay Dr. • Seaside, OR
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
www.jjelectricservice.com

- New Construction
- Remodels
- Panel Changes & Upgrades
- Add Circuits or Lighting
- Generators
- Repairs

FLOORING

COREtec

the Original
Luxury vinyl planks and tile.

Carpet Corner

you walk on our reputation
Flooring Installation

3470 Hwy 101 Suite 102 • Gearhart, Oregon
503.739.7577 • carpetcornergearhart.com

FLOORING

Randall Lee's

0% FINANCING AVAILABLE

Flooring America

Window Treatments, Fabric, Designer Wallpaper, Counter Tops, All Flooring and Miele Vacuums

Visit Our Outlet!

Randall Lee's Seaside • 2311 N. Roosevelt Dr. • 503-738-5729
rflooring@yahoo.com • www.RandallLeesFlooring.com

Randall Lee's Flooring Outlet • 3579 Hwy 101 Gearhart • 503-738-6756
Warehouse pricing • Open to the Public • Hundreds of instock rolls & remnants • In House Binding

LANDSCAPING

YARD DEBRIS DROP-OFF (no scotch broom)

- Laurelwood Compost
- Soil Amendments
- Planting MacMix
- Mulch

503-717-1454
34154 HIGHWAY 26 SEASIDE, OR

LANDSCAPING

Laurelwood Farm

YOUR AD HERE!
Our Business Directory is an inexpensive way for your business to advertise with us!

CALL TODAY
SARAH SILVER
503-325-3211
to discuss new and exciting ways to promote your business on the North Coast