

November 5, 2002 General Election Columbia County Results

Votes may not total 100% because of rounding, undervotes and write-ins.
Dem = Democrat Rep = Republican Lib = Libertarian
Con = Constitution Ind = Independent

U.S. SENATOR*	% of Vote	U.S. REP.*	% of Vote
Rep. Gordon Smith	55	Dem. David Wu	62
Dem. Bill Bradbury	37	Rep. Jim Greenfield	30
Lib. Dan Fitzgerald	3	Lib. Beth King	4
Con. Lon Mabon	3	*Columbia County only	

GOVERNOR	County	State
Dem. Ted Kulongoski	47	49
Rep. Kevin Mannix	44	46
Lib. Tom Cox	7	5

STATE SENATOR, DIST 16	County	District
Dem. Joan Dukes	54	57
Rep. Don Fell	36	38
Lib. Helen McDaniel	5	5

STATE REP, DIST. 31	County	District
Dem. Betsy Johnson	60	67
Con. Bob Ekstrom	25	24
Ind. Mervyn Arnold	9	9

ST. REP, DIST. 32	County	District
Rep. Joe Meyer	49	48
Dem. Elaine Hopson	45	52

COUNTY COMMISSION, POS. 2	County	District
Dem. Rita Bernhard	52	N/A
Con. Joe Cason	21	N/A
Ind. Cathy Taylor	16	N/A

(N/A=Not Applicable)

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BALLOT MEASURE	County		Percent of Vote		State	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
5-109 Local Option Tax Levy for Law Enforcement	43	53	N/A	N/A		
14 Removes racial references in Constitution	60	36	71	29		
15 Bonds for seismic rehab of public ed. bldgs	46	49	56	44		
16 Bonds for seismic rehab of emerg. serv. bldgs.	46	49	56	44		
17 Reduce minimum age for State Legislators	23	74	27	73		
18 Allows split tax rates for some districts	30	62	39	61		
21 Allows "None of the Above" in judicial elections	47	48	44	56		
22 Requires District elections for state Supreme Court and Court of Appeals judges	54	42	49	51		
23 Creates health care finance plan	19	77	21	79		
24 Allows denturists to install partial dentures	71	23	76	24		
25 Increases minimum wage, ties to future inflation	56	42	51	49		
26 Prohibits payment of signature gatherers based on number of signatures	72	25	75	25		
27 Requires labeling of genetically -engineered foods (N/A = Not Applicable)	24	74	29	71		

Increase in low wage jobs will stall state economy

Oregon's economy is growing again, but the typical worker is not likely to see significant earnings or income gains any time soon, according to a report by the Oregon Center for Public Policy, a non-profit, non-partisan research group that studies how the economy and government policies affect low and moderate income Oregonians.

"Even after current high unemployment falls, the long-term trends of widening income inequality, growth in low-paying jobs and declining unionization will shape Oregon's economy for many years to come," said Jeff Thompson, an economist with the Center.

The report notes that during the late 1990s workers in Oregon benefited from significant investments in high-tech manufacturing and a lengthy period

of sustained low unemployment, factors that are not likely to repeat in the near future.

The 113 page report, *Boom, Bust and Beyond: The State of Working Oregon 2002*, provides a comprehensive study of the status of working Oregonians. The report examines the living standards of working Oregonians, providing new data on income inequality, family and household income, wages, hours worked, housing affordability, bankruptcy, unemployment, retirement security, health insurance, the changing quality of jobs, hunger, mortgage foreclosure and poverty.

The report shows that after rising for a number of years, real average annual earnings fell by 1.5 percent in 2001.

The 2001 recession erased improvement in poverty. The

report notes that Oregon's poverty rate was flat over most of the 1990s and had started to fall at the end of the decade.

Data included in the report show that between 1989 and 2000, the average income of the richest one percent of Oregonians rose 98 percent, while the median household income rose just 9 percent. "Over the last twenty years, Oregon went from being one of the most equal states to one of the most unequal, with a wide gap between the rich and both middle income and poor families.

"Not only did the wealthiest Oregonians reap the lion's share of the benefits of the 1990s expansion, but many poor and low income Oregonians fell further behind," said Michael Leachman, policy analyst. "The high tech boom did not stem the tide of rising poverty among working families with children."

As many as 54,000 Oregonians lost health insurance due to the 2001 recession, and a return to rapidly rising premiums ensures that insurance costs and coverage will continue to be a problem.

Even the best economic times failed to deliver greater health insurance coverage for Oregon workers. Uninsurance among the 18 to 64 year old population rose from 13.7 percent in 1996 to 15.3 percent in 2000.

Rapidly rising home prices made housing less affordable. Oregon went from being the 11th most affordable state for housing in 1989 to the 42nd by the late 1990s.

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