

Government Relations Update

March 11, 2010

Issue No. 5



State updates

Key races set for May and November

In order for candidates to appear on the May 18th primary ballot they had to have filed the necessary papers by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 9th. The death of State Treasurer Ben Westlund two days before resulted in a quick rush for candidates to participate in a special election for the State Treasurer's office.

Early on Tuesday, the Governor announced that he was appointing Multnomah County Chairman Ted Wheeler to fill the void. A successor for the remaining two years of the term will be elected in the November election. Wheeler filed to run for the position, as did two other Democrats – Jim Hill who served two terms as the Treasurer from 1993–2001, and Sen. Rick Metsger (D-Mt. Hood) who is retiring after 3 terms in the State Senate. Sen. Chris Telfer, a Republican in the middle of her first term representing Central Oregon, also filed for the position. The three Democrats are in a mad dash to win the May primary in order to face Telfer in the November general election.

The appointment of Wheeler did not create a domino effect in the legislature, but it did create a flurry of activity in Multnomah County where a number of candidates rushed to get their papers in to vie for Wheeler's position. Jeff Mapes of [The Oregonian](#) covers that action.

Jock Mills, Director
jock.mills@oregonstate.edu
541.737.0725

Kate Sinner, Federal Relations Director
kate.sinner@oregonstate.edu
503.891.3332

Heather Bené, Government Relations Associate
heather.bene@oregonstate.edu
541.737.4514

652 Kerr Administration Building
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2128
<http://oregonstate.edu/government>

Below is a list of all the statewide and Congressional offices on the ballot in Oregon.

A rush of late minute filers in both the U.S. Senate and Governor's races will present Republican voters with a long slate of candidates – 8 for the Republican nomination to presumably face the incumbent Wyden in November, and 9 for the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

Very few “free rides” in State Legislative Races

Unlike previous years, very few legislative candidates will be unopposed in the November general election, and a surprising number of House Republicans – ten – will face primary opponents. For a list of all the [legislative races](#).

In the Senate...With 18 members in the Senate, Democrats currently hold a “super majority.” But if they loose one seat, it will require a bipartisan effort to pass any tax bills. Democrats also have more at risk because they are defending 12 seats vs. only four for Republicans.

As a result of resignations and appointments, three Democrats will be facing voters for the first time, even though they are currently in office – Edwards (D-Junction City), Schrader (D-Canby), and Shields (D-Portland). One Democrat – Lee Beyer of Eugene who is returning to the Senate from the Public Utility Commission – faces no primary or general election opponent. And one Democrat incumbent – Rod Monroe (Portland) – faces two primary challengers, including Ron McCarty, a former state legislator.

At least two races will likely attract attention in November:

- Senate District 15** (Hillsboro) where Republican incumbent Bruce Starr is being challenged. Democratic Rep. Chuck Riley early on announced his intention to vie for the seat, but must first succeed in the May primary against Travis Comfort, an Ameri Corps activist; and

- Senate District 26** (Hood River, Clackamas Counties) where Rep. Brent Barton, a first term Democrat and Chuck Thomsen, a Republican Hood River County Commissioner and orchardist, are vying to fill the seat being vacated by Democrat Rick Metsger.

More notable races may emerge as the campaigns swing into full gear.

In the House...Democrats also hold a super majority that would disappear with the loss of one seat. In a mid-term election, it's expected for the minority party to pick up a few seats, especially since many of the “swing district” seats are currently held by Democrats who took control of them over the last two election cycles. But five seats currently held by Republican incumbents are contested in the primary – two of these races involve Republican incumbents (Jenson and Smith) who voted for one or both of the tax measures that were eventually referred to the voters as Measures 66 and 67.

Another four seats in districts the Republicans are seeking to capture from Democrats are contested, meaning that precious campaign funds will be used to settle family disputes before they can be used to take on the Democrats. The winner in the contested primary for the seat currently held by Republican George Gilman in House District 55 has no Democratic opponent. Only one incumbent Democrat is facing a primary challenger (Kotek, Portland).

Congressional Races

US Senate

Democrats: Pavel Goberman, Loren Hooker, Ron Wyden (Incumbent)

Republicans: Loren Later, Walter H Woodland, Robin S Parker, G. Shane Dinkel, Tom Stutzman, Kareem E Hamdy, Jim Huffman, Keith Waldron

Congressional District 1 (Clatsop, Columbia, Washington, and Yamhill Counties)

Democrats: David Wu (Incumbent), David Robinson

Republicans: Stephan Andrew Brodhead, Rob Cornilles, John Kuzmanich, Douglas Fitzgerald Keller

Congressional District 2 (Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Jefferson, Wheeler, Grant, Baker, Deschutes, Crook, Jackson, Klamath, Lake, Harney, Malheur, and Josephine Counties)

Democrat: Joyce B Segers

Republican: Greg Walden (Incumbent)

Congressional District 3 (Multnomah and Clackamas Counties)

Democrats: Earl Blumenauer (Incumbent), John Sweeney

Republican: Delia Lopez

Congressional District 4 (Benton, Linn, Lane, Douglas, Coos, Curry, and Josephine Counties)

Democrat: Peter A DeFazio (Incumbent)

Republicans: Jaynee Germond, Art Robinson

Congressional District 5 (Tillamook, Lincoln, Polk, Marion, Clackamas, and Benton Counties)

Democrat: Kurt Schrader (Incumbent)

Republicans: Scott Bruun, Fred Thompson

Governor

Republicans: Allen Alley, Clark Colvin, William Ames Curtright, Chris Dudley, Bob Forthan, Darren Karr, John Lim, Bill Sizemore, Rex O Watkins

Democrats: Bill Bradbury, John Kitzhaber, Roger Obrist, Steve Shields

(Some candidates have indicated that they are not going to pursue the office even though they are on the ballot.)

State Treasurer

Democrats: Jim Hill, Rick Metsger, Ted Wheeler

Republican: Chris Telfer

Superintendent of Public Instruction (non-partisan)

November election

Susan Castillo (Incumbent)

Ron Maurer

Due to retirements or resignations, five seats currently held by Democrats will involve Democratic candidates who have not previously been elected to the office for which they are running (Frederick, Meyers, Hoyle, K. Riley, and Doherty. But one of these candidates – Frederick – has no primary or general election opponent).

Races to watch in November:

- House District 14** (West Eugene/Junction City) where Democrat Val Hoyle who was appointed to fill the vacancy when Chris Edwards moved to the Senate is being challenged by Republican Dwight Coon, Mayor of Junction City. That seat has been in Republican hands before.

- House District 24** (Yamhill County) where Republican first term incumbent Jim Weidner is being challenged by Democrat Susan Sokol Blosser whose winery will help in carrying a high degree of name recognition into the November general election.

- House District 37** (West Linn/Tualatin) where three Democrats are vying to take on Republican realtor Chael

Sonnen to fill the vacancy created when Republican Scott Bruun decided to run for Congress.

- House District 39** (Oregon City/Canby) which is a rematch of the 2008 race in which Republican Bill Kennemer narrowly defeated Democrat Toby Forsberg; and

- All five of the seats Democrats picked up from Republicans in the 2008 General election:

- House District 49**, one-term Democrat Nick Kahl v. Republican Matthew Wand;

- House District 50**, one-term Democrat Greg Matthews v. Republican Andre Wang;

- House District 51**, (open seat) Democrat Cheryl Myers v. the winner of the Republican primary between John Swanson and Patrick Sheehan (who has the endorsement of the House Republican Caucus);

- House District 52**, one-term Democrat Suzanne VanOrmann v. Republican Mark Johnson; and

- House District 54** (Bend), one-term Democrat Judy Stiegler (the only Democrat east of the Cascades) v. Republican Jason Conger.

Ben Westlund, a true friend to OSU

When I started my career at OSU a little over 10 years ago, one of my first objectives was to get to know State Rep. Ben Westlund. It was at a time when OSU and others were developing proposals to meet the community's demand for a university campus in Bend. While I don't remember the subject matter of our first encounter, I do remember that it was not a pleasant experience. Westlund cut me short and told me to stop wasting his time and get to the point and he was pretty direct about it. Not a good start when this guy was going to chair the Joint Ways and Means Committee the next session.

So from then on, I got to the point as quickly as I could with Ben – and now I try to do it as much as possible with everyone else. (Thanks, Ben.) In the course of my first legislative session – the session in which Westlund co-chaired the Joint Ways and Means Committee – I joined many other lobbyists who lined up at his corner office on the 2nd floor of the House wing for whatever time we could get. Over the course of that session, he started making time for all sorts of conversations. Over the years they took place at odd hours over the cell phone; other times when a big vote was impending. We covered such crucial topics as what it's like to hop a freight train (I think he was intensely jealous of this foolish feat), classic Rolls-Royces, the LA Dodgers, and our great kids – and how they'd better not even think about freight hopping.

That 2001 session was probably OSU's most successful. In addition to establishing and funding the Branch Campus, we secured the state match for the \$45 million Kelley Engineering Center, and funding to develop OSU's College

of Veterinary Medicine into a stand alone program. And we also recovered some \$15 million in proposed reductions to the beloved OSU Statewide Public Service Programs. That's the short list of what Westlund did for us. It wasn't because he liked our mascot – especially his first name. It was because he saw how things needed to be, and he worked hard to make them so.

Westlund visited the campus numerous times during the next 10 years, as a candidate for Governor, as a candidate for Treasurer, and as a football and baseball fan. And he frequently made a point of going out of his way to tell people what a great job I did for OSU in Salem. He didn't have to do that. It's just the way he was.

He was always moving, always thinking of the next thing. Insightful, thoughtful, and never treading water. It was a privilege to work with him and I will miss him. He was a one-of-a-kind. – Jock

Memorial services for Ben will be held on Friday in Bend and on Saturday in Salem:

Friday, March 12
2:00 PM
The Riverhouse
Convention Center, Bend

Saturday, March 13
2:00 PM
Oregon State Capitol,
House Chamber





Congressional updates

House announces new earmark regulations

Yesterday, David Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, along with Norm Dicks (D-WA), Chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, announced a ban on earmarks for for-profit companies. In response, today the House Republican Caucus announced a temporary ban on all earmarks for Republican members.

Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, responded swiftly indicating that the Senate will follow current procedures which will not limit earmarks for for-profit companies.

The stated purpose of the ban on for-profit earmarks is to break the appearance of a link between campaign contributions and earmarks awarded. To prevent a move to “pass through” marks that use a non-profit entity to funnel money to for-profit companies, Obey has announced a new requirement that at least 5 percent of all earmarks directed to nonprofit entities will be audited. Obey also hinted that this new policy may be a permanent procedural change.



OSU's Cyril Clarke, Anita Azarenko, Clark Seavert and Bill Boggess meet with U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center on January 4 to discuss issues including organic cropping, specialty crops, mycobacterial research and station operations.