From: salem_update-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu on behalf of Mills, Jock
To: CAS DeanStaff; CAS Unit Leaders; Salem Update Listserv
Subject: [Salem Update] Reactions to legislative appointments, candidacies,and the forecast
Date: Monday, August 24, 2009 3:38:39 PM
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Editors and Republicans react to legislative appointments. For a sense of the editorial reaction to the recent migration of three Democratic state legislators into state agency jobs – State Sen. Vicki Walker to the Parole Board, State Rep. Larry Galizio to the Oregon University System, and State Sen. Margaret Carter to the Department of Human Services – here are editorials from: The Tigard Times, The Eugene Register Guard, The Baker City Herald, and The Bend Bulletin *(Must be a subscriber for content from the Bulletin)*

In reaction, Oregon House Republicans have proposed a bill that would require legislators to wait until the end of the next regular legislative session before they can seek and obtain work for state agencies. (A bill passed in the 2007 legislative session already requires legislators to wait one year after leaving the legislature before they can actively lobby.) House Republican Press Release.

Without regard to the merits of the proposed bill, the trend of leaving the legislature for a state job is neither new, nor unique, to Democrats. Following the 2003 legislative session, three Republican legislators left to take state agency jobs: Rep. Lane Shetterly (Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development), Max Williams (Director of the Department of Corrections), and Lenn Hannon (Parole Board). In the election following those departures Democrats captured two of the vacant seats, giving them control of the Senate and narrowing the margin of Republican control in the House.

Riley announces a run for Senate. State Rep. Chuck Riley (D-Hillsboro) has announced his intention to run for Senate district 15, currently held by Republican State Sen. Bruce Starr. Starr, who served two terms in the House and is now in his second term in the Senate, won the 2006 Senate race with 55% of the vote, and in 2002 with 62% of the vote.

The two house seats that comprise Senate District 15 are held by Democrats, Riley, and Rep. David Edwards, a two-term member of the House who took his seat away from the Republicans in 2006. Riley has served three terms in the House after capturing the seat from a Republican with 48% of the vote in a 3-way race in 2004. He carried the 2008 election with 60%.

- In 2008, Barack Obama carried the precincts in Senate district 15 with 58% of the vote, compared to 39% for McCain.
- In 2008 in that district, Democrat Jeff Merkley edged out Republican Gordon Smith in the US Senate race with 48% of the vote, compared to Smith's 46%.

Riley's announcement also indicates that his wife Katie Riley will seek to replace him

in the House. She is a retired member of the faculty in the Public Health Program at OHSU.

In subsequent issues we'll provide a rundown of all the state and federal positions that will be up during the 2010 election cycle (governorship, at least 15 State Senate seats, and 60 seats in the House, along with the five House seats in Washington, DC). Given the turnover in the legislature, we expect a number of "open seats" in Salem.

Quarterly revenue forecast due this week. On Thursday, August 27th the State Office of Economic Analysis will provide the next quarterly economic and revenue forecast to a joint session of the House and Senate Revenue Committees. (8:30 AM, Hearing Room A.) To follow the action on Thursday: Legislative Audio. Once at the site, click on Capitol Hearing Room Video: A

Once it's posted on Thursday, you can get a summary -- and more here: Office of Economic Analysis. (Under "New Reports," click "most recent forecast." If the most recent forecast is May 15th, the new one hasn't been posted yet.)

Any predictions about the forecast are purely speculative until it is released on Thursday, but most Salem insiders do not expect big changes from the May 2009 forecast though lottery proceeds may be lagging. Regardless of what the forecast shows, the legislature is not expected to take any budgetary actions until it convenes in a special session in February 2010. For those who would like to wait for a Cliff's notes version, we will provide a summary of the September forecast in a subsequent update.

Calendar:

10:00 AM, Wednesday, September 2, OSU Alum Chris Edwards will be sworn in to take his seat in the Oregon State Senate representing District 7 which includes much of Eugene, north to Junction City.

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