

**Candidate would  
look to voters**

PORTLAND — The state's budget problems should be solved outside of Salem, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ted Kulongoski told a roomful of child advocates on Thursday. 5038

As governor, he would prioritize children's issues from public education to child health care to literacy, Kulongoski said.

He was speaking at a forum sponsored by Children First for Oregon, a children's advocacy network. His Republican opponent, Kevin Mannix, is scheduled to speak to the same group today in Salem.

More revenue is needed to support state services, Kulongoski said, but he would look to voters and grassroots activists to spearhead any tax referrals, citing a poor track record of tax measures backed by politicians over the last three decades in Oregon.

— From news service reports