

# BOONE

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expensive health care is preventative care.

"I would like to see the Oregon Health Plan expanded to include access for people who do not have health insurance for whatever reason — it's not provided by their employer or they cannot afford private coverage — so that they may pay a premium for basic health care and not have to utilize the emergency department for health care. This would help the OHP remain solvent while providing care for those who qualify by low income levels as well as middle income working people.

"Even if it only covered basic exams and women's exams, things like that, costs would go down."

She said the same approach is needed in education funding.

"We have to provide an adequate amount of money for kindergarten through twelfth grade education, but nobody ever said what that is."

Boone said she believes the Legislature should define what a quality education is and start setting goals to be achieved in areas such as class sizes and levels of instruction.

"It would probably cost more than we have budgeted now, but it would provide goals. We could start implementing some now and, maybe in ten years, we'd have a quality education model. That would enable our kids to go to any college — state, private or in other states — and not be limited to community colleges. The message is it takes planning and priority-setting that I don't think has been there."

She also said she believes state agencies should be free of the traditional budget practice of "use it or lose it."

For example, she said, "What if the Department of Environmental Quality came to the end of the year and they still had \$2 million in their budget? And they said, 'We don't really need it this year, but next year

## Boone: Re-examine state's budget priorities

BY JOE HAPP  
Headlight-Herald Staff

TILLAMOOK — With taxes and government spending high on the list of voter concerns in Oregon, 32nd District Rep. Deborah Boone maintains there's really only one way to go.

Noting that budgeting is the only job the Legislature must by law do, she said in a recent interview with the *Headlight-*

we have a lot of monitoring to do.' Let them keep it for the next year," she suggested instead of putting them into the position of using it on something that isn't needed or losing it in the following budget.

Boone said she believes adding jobs is key to reducing state spending.

The state needs to get family-wage jobs for people to lower the demands on state-funded services, she said.

"People with, say, two minimum-wage jobs may make enough to pay for rent, but not enough to maintain their homes. They're going to use home heating assistance, food stamps and the health plan."

To do that, she added, the state needs to choose carefully the programs it spends money on, picking programs that will bring in matching federal grants for example, that will result in jobs.

"If the state pulls back its one dollar that gets 25 other dollars and doesn't invest in job creation, it's something that won't happen."

Boone expressed frustration with the way state agencies sometimes make decisions that effect people in her district.

"I don't think they consider

the human factor," she said, referring to the recent closure of sport fishing for groundfish species by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife right before the traditionally busy Labor Day weekend.

"What's missing here is the consideration of the local economy. They were just looking at numbers," she said, adding, "I would rather have seen them

*Herald*, "I'd try to rethink how we spend our money."

Boone, a Clatsop County Democrat seeking election to the seat she now occupies by appointment in the wake of last summer's resignation by Rep. Elaine Hopson, advocates a budget process that would re-examine all programs in terms

close it down for two weeks and then open it up for the Labor Day weekend."

If she's sent back to Salem, Boone said, she would support the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon and its mission of assisting primary prevention of child abuse programs.

"I also support associated programs that help children who have parents in the corrections system and reduce the cycle of abuse and violence that pervades their lives.

"In addition, I intend to work very closely with local law enforcement to address the methamphetamine problem in our communities. These issues are all intertwined. If we connect the dots, we will see the correlation between the drug situation, increased abuse, and criminal activity including identity theft and property crimes that serve to support the drug problem."

Another item on her agenda is working with regional economic development groups to develop new businesses and help existing businesses succeed.

"I also plan to explore ways to partner business and education locally and statewide by involving these communities in the policy-making process," she said. "We have a gold mine of opportunity in our community colleges and, by helping them increase access to students of all ages, we can facilitate many more opportunities for people."

Boone, along with several other candidates of both parties, has been vocal in her opposition to Measure 34, the so-called "50-50" plan for managing the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests.



Deborah Boone

of their value and "set our priorities from there."

Her favorite example is health insurance. Budget cutbacks in the last two years have forced many people off the Oregon Health Plan.

"When people don't have health insurance, they go to the emergency

room, where treatment is the most expensive. The least

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And she said, she opposes Measure 37, the ballot initiative that would require governments to pay property owners if land use restrictions reduce the value of their land.

"I do not support it because of the many uncertainties and the potential costs that would be incurred by cities, counties, and the state as well as the potential for completely undoing our land use system. I support the (Land Conservation and Development Commission) reviewing the land-use laws and rules and, if they need changing or adjusting, that they do it instead of doing it by ballot measure."

Boone has 16 years of experience working with the Legislature as an aide to Hopson and Tim Josi, the Tillamook County commissioner who held the seat previously. She is a former Clatsop County commissioner and is currently a member of the Clatsop County Planning Commission. She has served on various state commissions and advisory panels as a result of appointments by three governors.

She and her husband own a tree farm in Clatsop County, where she also serves as a member of the Hamlet Rural Fire Protection District's emergency medical and rescue team.

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