

OCT 22 2005

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

In their own words

Last Sunday, the Statesman Journal Editorial Board endorsed Gov. Ted Kulongoski for re-election. We invited the five gubernatorial candidates to respond to that endorsement, writing essays no longer than 300 words. We said: "Respond to the editorial by saying why you should be elected — what your vision is for Oregon. Don't talk about your opponents. We're sick of negative ads and finger-pointing." Here are their responses:



Gov. Ted Kulongoski

Oregon is on the right path

BY TED KULONGOSKI
I appreciate your support for my re-election, and I welcome your call for clear direction, bold leadership and a willingness to stand up to special interests.

Clear direction: We now have the resources to make our schools better without diverting funds from other vital services. My opponent wants to cash out these resources with new tax giveaways to the wealthy. I want to use them to ensure that we have more teachers who are better trained teaching more children who are better prepared in classes that are the right size for learning. My Education Enterprise lays out a specific path to accomplish this over the next four years.

Bold leadership: I led our state from hard times to better times. We have 130,000 more jobs — and more jobs on the way from dynamic employers like Google, Wachovia and Lowe's. We shut down 70 percent of small meth labs through a program recognized as a national model. We averted a crisis with PERS and now have one of the most secure retirement systems of any state in the country.

But we have to do more. Now that our economy is improving, I'm asking corporations to step up and pay their fair share so that we can enroll more children in Head Start and make our community colleges and universities affordable for all working families.

Standing up to special interests: I stood with Oregon's working families to defend our minimum wage, took on the big drug companies to reduce prescription-drug costs for seniors and overcame big oil to establish tougher tailpipe emissions standards to protect our air. My opponent will roll back economic and environmental protections to benefit a long list of special-interest clients.

I look forward to working with you for an ever better Oregon in the years ahead.

Ted Kulongoski is the Democratic candidate for governor. Contact his campaign at P.O. Box 389, Portland, OR 97207; info@tedforgov.com; www.tedforgov.com; (503) 546-0416.



Ron Saxton

State is in need of change

BY RON SAXTON
This election gives Oregonians a chance to answer an important question: Are we, as a state, doing the best we can or is it time for change, new leadership and a new vision for Oregon? I believe that answer is change.

Over the past four years, on Gov. Kulongoski's watch, Oregon has too often been playing for too instead of first. As "The Oregonian" wrote, "This state has slipped and fallen."

For example, Children First for Oregon, a nonpartisan organization, gave Oregon a D+ this year when grading how well Oregon takes care of its children.

The FBI, in its annual crime statistics, said Oregon ranks second-worst in the nation in law enforcement per capita, third-worst for larceny and theft, and fourth-worst for property crime.

And when it comes to business, Oregon has the ninth-highest unemployment rate (a full point above the national average) and, according to Forbes, ranks 31st on a list of the best states for business.

These results are not acceptable, change is the answer and, to date, eight of Oregon's largest newspapers have endorsed my candidacy and my vision for Oregon.

The Medford Mail Tribune wrote, "... Oregon state government needs to make systemic changes or face an endless string of funding crises. And that's the main reason we're supporting Ron Saxton."

The Oregonian wrote, "Oregon needs new energy, new blood, new ideas and a determination to get them done. And only Saxton ... promises to bring that passion for change to the executive office."

And the Bend Bulletin said Saxton is "both refreshing in a political sense and ideally suited to lead a state like Oregon."

Please take a moment to read my Oregon Action Plan at www.votesaxton.com.

Together, we can lead Oregon to a brighter tomorrow. I would appreciate your vote.

Ron Saxton is the Republican candidate for governor. Contact his campaign at P.O. Box 163, Portland, OR 97201; info@votesaxton.com; www.votesaxton.com; (503) 224-2006.



Mary Starrett

Business as usual isn't working

BY MARY STARRETT
When the political pedigree of the frontrunners in the governor race is just about identical, do voters really have a choice? They can vote for "Socialist A" or "Socialist B." Liberal Democrats, both, despite the party label, don't offer voters much of a choice. It's status quo political machinery advancing either way you slice it, if either of the "big-box" candidates wins the race.

I believe until we start looking at why things are such a mess in this state, nothing will change. It is unconstitutional programs and spending that have us going broke. Look at the advocacy commissions for Latinos, Asians, women, African-Americans and Native Americans. The Oregon Constitution is clear that no one group should receive extras that others are not privy to.

The Oregon Department of Education spends \$400 million of taxpayer money each year on (trying to) educate the children of illegals. Yet our schools are "broke."

I believe we need to privatize government agencies like DMV (noted for the horrific service and lousy attitudes of its employees).

The Oregon National Guard is now deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Japan. There is no constitutional authority for those deployments.

The Oregon Health Plan uses \$2.5 million of taxpayers' money each biennium for abortions. That procedure takes priority under the plan over such life-affirming procedures as heart valve replacement and cleft palate repair. That money could be better spent.

The illegal invasion costs the state millions in prison costs, education dollars, social-service money, not to mention the increase in crime and communicable disease. We must get this invasion under control by criminally prosecuting those who hire illegals. We must not allow state money to be used for social services for those here illegally.

It's time we move away from business as usual in Salem and vote principle above party.

Mary Starrett is the Constitution Party candidate for governor. Contact her campaign at P.O. Box 55, Wilsonville, OR 97070; marystar@marystarrettforgovernor.com; marystarrettforgovernor.com; (503) 263-5052.



Richard Morley

Bold leadership is needed

BY RICHARD MORLEY
The next governor has to be a tough leader with financial expertise who can make some hard decisions and then have the fortitude to carry them out. It is doubtful that returning the incumbent to office would accomplish what is needed, and Oregon will continue its slide toward bankruptcy or chaos in state government operations.

I am the only candidate in this race with the needed financial qualifications. The candidates include two lawyers, two political activists and me. I hold an MBA in management and have worked as VP and CFO of two corporations. I am a retired certified internal auditor and was the first state audit manager leading performance audits in the secretary of state's Division of Audits. I have recently taught accounting at the University of Phoenix, Oregon, campus.

Oregon is dependent on income taxes, which go up and down like a yo-yo. I would replace them with a revenue-neutral sales tax, exempting necessities. We have no savings account for when economic times are bad. I would create such savings. We have a huge Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) that is strangling the state's economy, and I would replace it with a 401(k)-type plan going forward. We are in debt for the payments into PERS that state agencies have neglected to pay, and our bond rating is being eroded.

Our state economists missed their estimate of revenues for this biennium by \$2.2 billion, or 20 percent, and they may need to go to an annual budget. Education doesn't get funded until all the other big state agencies and programs have had their budgets set. I will demand that education and public safety be funded first, and that we save money in state agencies and programs. Someone's ox will get gored, and it will take a strong, determined governor to motivate needed changes.

Richard Morley is the Libertarian candidate for governor. Contact his campaign at 6055 SW Walker Road, PMB 174, Beaverton, OR 97006; ramauditor@comcast.net; www.morley06.com; (503) 924-5591.



Joe Keating

'Big-box' candidates offer little

BY JOE KEATING
First, I want to thank the Statesman Journal for providing the opportunity for the three "creative" candidates for governor to fully present our ideas and plans for Oregon. Journalism and democracy go hand in hand and the Statesman Journal understands that relationship and its challenges.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with thousands of Oregonians over the last six months, and the one thing that is bedrock to folks is the need for a change. The clarion cry is for a government that they can trust to get the job done.

Neither the "big-box" incumbent or his "big-box" opponent will succeed in improving our troubled state. Oregon has a fiscal crisis. Saxton will not be able to bring "efficiencies" out of a system that is already bone dry and Kulongoski will not be able to generate new needed state revenues because he represents failed government and does not have the trust of the community.

Imagine if folks collectively realized that they could drop down a line and vote creative. The three creative candidates represent the full range of the political spectrum from conservative to progressive. We offer a breath of fresh air — a chance to vote for change knowing that whatever creative candidate wins, Oregon will be a better place.

Recycle the "big-box" candidates: Vote creative!

Joe Keating is the Pacific Green candidate for governor. Contact his campaign at 2032 NW Everett St., Portland, OR 97208; keats@garranet.com; joekeating.org; (503) 234-2613.