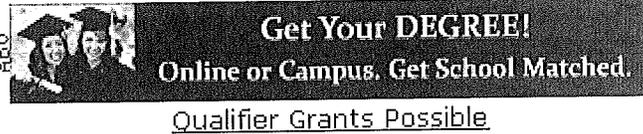


The Seattle Times

Monday, August 2, 2010



Local

Updated Monday, August 2, 2010 at 12:16 AM

Open seats in House, Senate give voters plenty of choicesBy Carly Flandro
Seattle Times staff reporter

Voters in the 32nd Legislative District this month will whittle down their choices to fill open seats in the House and Senate.

The seats came open when state Sen. Darlene Fairley, D-Lake Forest Park, chose not to run for re-election. That prompted Rep. Maralyn Chase, D-Shoreline, to give up her Position 1 House seat and run for Senate.

In the third race on the Aug. 17 primary ballot, incumbent Democratic state Rep. Ruth Kagi faces two challengers.

The top two vote-getters in each race will advance to the general election in November.

The 32nd District includes Shoreline, Edmonds, Woodway, Kenmore and Lake Forest Park.

State Senate

David Baker, a Republican, said he's never voted for a tax increase in his four years as Kenmore mayor.

The city recently paid for a new City Hall building with savings, and Baker, 66, hopes to bring a similar live-within-your-means attitude to the Senate.

He opposes an initiative on the November ballot that would establish an income tax for high-income earners.

His ideas for tackling the state's budget problems include consolidating departments, such as merging the state parks department with the department of natural resources. He'd also reduce middle management in the education system and try to reduce taxes on small businesses.

Baker has reported about \$2,000 in campaign contributions.

Patty Butler, a Democrat and an assistant manager at Fran's Chocolates, said she saw what happened when the Legislature enacted a new candy tax this year: unhappy customers.

For her, tax relief for the middle class is a priority.

Butler, 58, also opposes the income-tax initiative and would prefer a comprehensive tax program that didn't target specific groups of people.

A former state representative, she said she would bring "civility" back to Olympia and encourage cooperation between Republicans and Democrats. She said she also wants to protect funding for education and natural resources.

She has reported \$2,200 in campaign contributions.

Maralyn Chase, 68, is running for the vacant state Senate seat after spending nearly nine years in the state House.

She lists improvements in education as a priority, and she said she would support apprenticeship programs that could start as early as junior high to teach kids about alternate occupations, such as manufacturing in the renewable energy industry.

"Young adults should realize there are many pathways to success," she said. "We can train people to work in green jobs which would tackle economic renewal and climate change at the same time."

She supports an income tax for high-income earners. Washington's tax system is unfair, she said, because the state's poor spend a larger percentage of their income on taxes than the wealthy.

Chase has reported more than \$20,000 in campaign contributions.

State House, Position 1

Art Coday says taxing the rich may sound good, but he's skeptical. Coday, 48, a Republican, opposes the income-tax initiative.

A physician, he said the rich are usually business owners, and when they're taxed, they pass that cost onto consumers — often poor and middle-class people. There are better ways to solve the state budget shortfall, he said, such as privatizing the liquor industry, or re-privatizing the state ferry system.

Coday, who primarily treats patients on Medicaid or Medicare, said those programs can become more cost-efficient. He also said dental and mental-health care, and substance-abuse treatment are not available to many people. If they were, Coday said people could escape chronic poverty, freeing up governmental health programs and money.

Coday has raised more than \$8,000 for his campaign.

Doris McConnell said she's had to tighten her belt financially as a single mother — an experience she said will help handle budget issues in Olympia.

"Money in has to equal money out," said McConnell, 57, a Democrat and Shoreline City Council member. She said she supports the income-tax initiative.

McConnell said she'll make sure education — which she says is her expertise — maintains its funding. McConnell, a property manager, also has been active on three parent-teacher associations and was a school psychologist in the Bremerton School District.

If elected, she said she'll also strive to improve transportation.

"We need to move through decision-making as soon as possible," she said, adding that there's not enough mass transit.

McConnell has raised \$4,500 in campaign contributions.

Cindy Ryu says a Korean food jar is shaped like a good economy: robust in the middle and smaller on either end.

Ryu, 52, a Democrat who moved to the U.S. from Korea in 1969, said a strong middle class is essential, and she wants to help small-business owners and local economies thrive. A former Shoreline City Council member and mayor, Ryu helped institute free lunch-hour classes that taught business owners how to market their stores or services.

Ryu formerly operated an insurance agency and now owns 28 commercial business spaces. She supports an income tax for high-income earners but added, "The caveat is making sure that it doesn't creep down into the middle classes."

Ryu said money would flow into the state if it developed a niche for green businesses. "The Wal-Mart model doesn't work here," she said. "We can't provide the most and the cheapest."

Ryu has raised nearly \$34,000 in campaign contributions.

State House, Position 2

Gary Gagliardi, 58, a Republican, says the state must create a job-friendly environment, fix the education system, and restore trust in government.

He said adopting the income-tax initiative would be "the final nail in the coffin" for the economy because the current lack of an income tax draws people and businesses to the state.

Education could be improved if more money went to getting teachers in the classroom, he said, adding that he would strive to reduce by at least half the number of nonteacher positions.

He's raised nearly \$13,000 for his campaign.

Rep. Ruth Kagi, a Democrat who has been in the Legislature since 1999, said she's well-versed on the budget issues that lawmakers will grapple with in the upcoming legislation session.

Kagi, 64, who chairs the House Early Learning and Children's Services Committee, has focused on education and children's services that she says help keep families together safely.

"If we eliminate these services, the long-term cost will be enormous," Kagi said.

She supports the income-tax initiative and said it would generate critically needed resources for education and health care.

Kagi also hopes to consolidate state institutions for the developmentally disabled to save money. The number of residents has dropped dramatically in recent years, Kagi said, so there is excess capacity.

Kagi has raised more than \$33,500 for her campaign.

Stan Lippmann, a Democrat who has run unsuccessfully for several offices in the past, said he is against all taxes and would help solve state budget problems by ending the federal reserve and promoting the use of U.S. silver dollars instead of "fake monopoly money." He has reported no campaign contributions.

Carly Flandro: 206-464-2108 or cflandro@seattletimes.com

Doris McConnell

DEMOCRAT, HOUSE POSITION 1

Age: 57

Family: Two children

Residence: Shoreline

Education: B.S., psychology, Washington State University, 1974; graduate studies, Western Washington University, 1980-1982

Political/job experience: Shoreline City Council member, 2008-present; real-estate agent, 1988-1992; Bremerton School District, 1984-1986; Boeing, 1977-1999

Website: www.dorismcconnell.com

Maralyn Chase

DEMOCRAT, STATE SENATE

Age: 68

Family: Grown daughter

Residence: Shoreline

Education: Bachelor's in political science, University of Washington, 1972; masters, political science and critical social theory, University of Washington, 1974; Ph.D. student and instructor, University of Washington, 1994-1998

Political/job experience: State representative, January 2002-present; general contractor, 1985-2010; legislative assistant, 1994; director, Randolph Carter Industrial Workshop, a facility for disabled and disadvantaged citizens, 1980-1985

Website: <http://maralynchase.org>

Patty Butler

DEMOCRAT, STATE SENATE

Age: 58

Family: Four grown sons

Residence: Shoreline

Education: Associate degree, technical art and business management, Edmonds Community College, 2010; project-management certification program, Edmonds Community College, 2009; general studies, Shoreline Community College, 1970-1972

Political/job experience: Assistant store manager, Fran's Chocolates, 2008-present; state representative, 1996-1999; Former King County state committee woman; Premera Blue Cross, 2007-2008; public affairs and government relations,

Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, 2000-2005; personal-style image consulting, 1992-1996

Website: www.pattybutler.com

Stan Lippman

DEMOCRAT, HOUSE POSITION 2

Age: 50

Family: Single, no children

Residence: Lake Forest Park

Education: Law degree, University of Washington, 1998; Ph.D., physics, Johns Hopkins University, 1989; B.S., physics, New York University, 1981

Political/job experience: Molecular Epidemiology, 2008-2010; attorney, 2000-2008; owner, Executive Business Center, 2000-2005; Silq Networks, 2000-2010.

Website: Not available

Cindy Ryu

DEMOCRAT, HOUSE POSITION 1

Age: 52

Family: Husband Cody, two grown daughters, one teenage son

Residence: Shoreline

Education: B.S., microbiology, University of Washington, 1980; master's of business administration, operations management, University of Washington, 1983

Political/job experience: Mayor of Shoreline, 2008-2009; Shoreline city council member, 2006-2009; current commercial building manager; Allstate Insurance agent, 1990-2007; records manager/management systems analyst, city of Seattle, 1985-1989

Website: http://cindyryu.org

Art Coday

REPUBLICAN, HOUSE POSITION 1

Age: 48

Family: Wife Mary, two children

Residence: Shoreline

Education: B.S., University of Washington, 1990; doctor of medicine, Harvard Medical School, 1993

Political/job experience: Physician

Website: http://artcoday.com

David Baker

REPUBLICAN, STATE SENATE

Age: 66

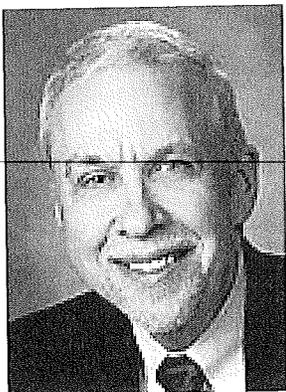
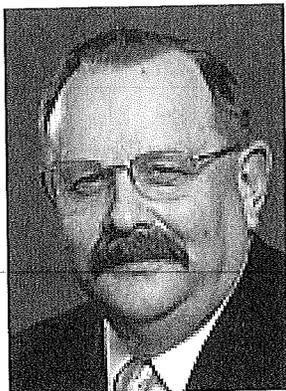
Family: Wife Sheri, three children

Residence: Kenmore

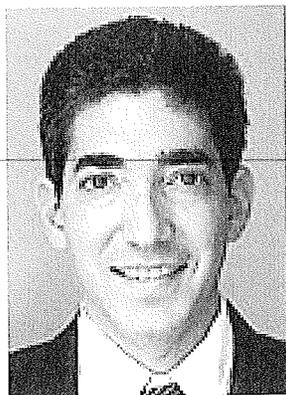
Education: B.S., University of Nebraska, 1978; M.S., human anatomy, University of Nebraska, 1978; Ph.D., neuroanatomy, Iowa State University, 1988

Political/job experience: Kenmore City Council, 2003-present; Kenmore mayor 2007-present; owner, Vision Systems Engineering; owner, Phone Fun Shop

Website: www.bakerinthesenate.com







[Top News](#) | [Latest News](#) | [Local](#) | [Nation & World](#) | [Business & Technology](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Travel & Outdoors](#)
| [Editorial & Opinion](#) | [Traffic](#) | [Horoscopes](#) | [Low Graphic Site](#)

E-mail us: mobilewebmaster@seattletimes.com
Copyright © 2010 The Seattle Times Company



PETER CALLAGHAN

< Back to Regular Story Page

Like it or not, the 'top two' primary is working as intended

PETER CALLAGHAN; STAFF WRITER

Last updated: July 20th, 2010 08:50 AM (PDT)

Unless you hang out with the most-devoted of the state's political-party devotees, you probably don't think much about the "top two" primary anymore.

While the party leadership continues to challenge the details of the primary, after losing quite convincingly at the U.S. Supreme Court, the rest of us have moved on.

A majority of voters would prefer the old blanket primary. That form of election let us vote for candidates of all parties in the primary. We could hop-scotch our way down the ballot – supporting a Republican in one race and a Democrat in another. The Democrat with the most votes and the Republican with the most votes advanced to the general election.

But that went away after the Democrats, Republicans and Libertarians sued us. The primary is their event, they successfully argued. They get to control access.

From that came the pick-a-party primary, which was about as popular as an oil spill. Only self-described Democrats could help select which Democrat was nominated; and only Republicans could help select which Republican was nominated.

Unhappiness bred top two, which was adopted by initiative. Top two isn't a nomination process but is instead a way to winnow the field down to two candidates. It may be a difference without a distinction, but the U.S. Supreme Court bought it.

Top two makes its second major appearance on your ballot Aug. 17 (it was used in a few races in 2009). So how has it worked? Mostly as advertised – or, for some, mostly as feared.

That both finalists might be from the same party is a consequence – not totally unintended but not the main point either. Still, it is the leading cause of consternation among some voters who think their freedom of choice is diminished.

That requires a revision of history, however. In the days of the blanket primary and in the short-lived pick-a-party, many voters in safe districts had just one name on the ballot in November – often the incumbent who ran unopposed.

Voters in other districts had the appearance of choice without actual choice. Two names might be listed, but only one – the nominee of the district's dominant party – had a chance of winning.

So in one important way top two increases competition. Under top two, districts dominated by one party have a real choice on the November ballot. Both finalists may prefer the same party, but often they fill different parts of the political spectrum, and both have a chance to win.

In this way top two increases competition in November. But it also seems to be increasing competition in the August primary. Voters are more likely now than before to have more than two Democrats and more than two Republicans to choose among in the primary election.

In 2006, the last year for pick-a-party, in which voters had to ask for one party's ballot, there were only five contested U.S. House primaries (out of a possible 18), five state Senate primaries (out of 48 possible) and 11 state House primaries (out of 196 possible).

While technically not a partisan primary, top two's debut in 2008 saw the numbers of contested August election races go up to seven for U.S. House, seven state Senate and 25 state House.

This year, the numbers went up again in two of the three categories – 12 contested U.S. House primaries, seven state Senate and 41 state House.

Competition is getting better, but isn't yet good. In this year's campaigns for state Legislature there are 123 races – all 98 House seats and 25 of the 49 Senate seats. Fewer than two-thirds will have traditional, multi-party primaries followed by a two-candidate runoff.

That's because 26 of those races have only one candidate. Another 16 are single-party affairs – six with no Democrat in the race and 10 with no Republican.

Exhibit 3/8
Page 3 of 3

It is in these so-called safe districts where top two has its most-important effect. Without it those 16 single-party primaries would have turned into single-candidate general elections.

Peter Callaghan: 253-597-8657
peter.callaghan@thenewstribune.com
blog.thenewstribune.com/politics



[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [About Our Ads](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#)
1950 South State Street, Tacoma, Washington 98405 253-597-8742
© Copyright 2010 Tacoma News, Inc. A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company

Voter registration deadline for Primary approaching

[« Back](#)

News Release

Issued: August 02, 2010

OLYMPIA... If you are not registered to vote in Washington State but want to vote in the August 17 Primary, you still have time. Monday, August 9 is the deadline for in-person registration at your county elections office.

July 19 was the deadline to register via online or mail for the upcoming Primary.

Go [here](#) to visit a county Web site to get more information about the upcoming Primary Election and candidates listed on the ballot. [Click here](#) to see a list of candidates who have filed with the Office of Secretary of State.

Secretary of State Sam Reed, who is predicting a 38 percent voter turnout in August, urges voters to use their voice by taking part in the Primary.

"We have some exciting primary races for U.S. Senate and several congressional seats, including the 3rd District," Reed said. "We also have lots of legislative, county and other local races on tap. Voting is easier and more convenient than ever. I hope people will take advantage by filling out their ballot at home and either mailing it back or delivering it to their county elections office or drop box."

This year's Primary features a hotly contested race for U.S. Senate featuring incumbent Democrat Patty Murray, former state Senator and two-time Republican gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi, Republican and Tea Party favorite Clint Didier, Republican Paul Akers and others.

There's also a closely watched open race in Southwest Washington's 3rd Congressional District featuring Democrat and TVW founder Denny Heck, Republican state Rep. Jaime Herrera, and Republican and former Bush administration official David Castillo, among others.

Reed reminds voters to study all of the voter information available to them, including local voters' pamphlets in some areas, My Vote and online voters' guides such as the one provided by the state Elections Division to learn more about the candidates and the issues before filling out their ballot.

To access My Vote and the Elections Division's online voters' guide, visit vote.wa.gov and click on the "My Vote" icon and the [2010 Primary Online Voters' Guide link](#).

The August 17 Primary will again feature the Top 2 system that was first used in 2008 after Washington voters approved it in 2004 and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld it in March 2008.

[« Back](#)

You can find this information at: http://www.sos.wa.gov/office/osos_news.aspx?i=MxIqrcLmfmdHvn7bPCmcw%3d%3d

Click to Print

Aug, 7, 2010

You really should vote in this month's primary election

THE BELLINGHAM HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD / THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

Every registered voter in Whatcom County should now have a ballot for this month's primary election.

Unfortunately, most of you will not bother to fill it out and return it. State officials estimate only about 38 percent of citizens will vote in the primary.

Today, just 10 days before the deadline to vote, we want to take a moment of your time to try and change your mind.

Perhaps more than ever, Whatcom County voters will be choosing between top-quality candidates in a primary. We have never been more impressed with a group of candidates as we were when we met with those seeking the 40th Legislative District seat being vacated by retiring state Rep. Dave Quall, for example.

In too many elections over too many years, citizens could only choose between incumbents and a group of unqualified challengers. Compared to those years, this year offers an embarrassment of ballot riches.

There is someone on your ballot worth your time to vote for. And with so many candidates in many of the races, the primary could knock out the person you believe is the best candidate. The top two candidates in almost every race move on to the November general election. In the case of the state Supreme Court, if one candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote, he or she is elected without having to run again in November.

Our editorial board interviewed the candidates for the races that have the most impact on county residents. And we only interviewed candidates who were running serious campaigns in our community.

Based on those interviews we recommend voters choose Jean Melious in the race for Whatcom County Council, District No. 1; Blaine Republican Jason Overstreet for the 42nd District state House, Position No. 1.; and either Bellingham Republican Dusty Gulleeson or Mount Vernon Democrat Thomas Boucher for the 40th District state House, Position No. 1

There are several races on the primary ballot for which we plan to interview the top two candidates before November

Our editorial board met this summer with the two U.S. Senate candidates from Bellingham, Paul Akers and Bob Burr. They face an uphill battle to make it through the primary, but we wanted to meet the local men who hope to make a mark in the U.S. Senate.

Akers, a Republican and owner of local business FastCap, impressed us with his strong beliefs that the U.S. government can be run in a much more efficient way. He is a true believer in the idea that efficiencies can save money and that any organization, including federal agencies, have smart workers who can help find the efficiencies that will do so.

Burr, a retired Democrat, decided to run after growing frustrated with some of the stances taken by current Democrat senator Patty Murray, which he believes don't represent the citizens or the party she represents.

Whether you support either of these two candidates, or someone else, we encourage you to cast your ballots this month.

The August primary has gained in importance in recent years with the change to the "top two" voting system that sees the top two candidates move to the general election regardless of party. And this year's ballot is stuffed with intelligent candidates who want to help make our communities and society better.

In our view: Plenty of Choices

Aug. 17 ballots are crowded, and our state's top two primary is showing its value

Sunday, August 8, 2010

If the Aug. 17 primary were a cattle drive, it could only be described as a stampede, but in the best kind of way.

Even before examining battles for the state Legislature and the local offices, consider the 10 races for Congress (nine battles for U.S. representative in districts around the state, plus one statewide race for U.S. senator). A whopping total of 64 candidates are stampeding toward those 10 coveted chairs in Congress. And it's a balanced offering: 25 Democrats, 24 Republicans, nine independents, two from the Constitution Party and one each who prefer the Green, Tea, Centrist and Reform parties. That's a lot of beef on the run, and there's a variety of critters in the herd.

Fortunately, voters have the top two primary — one of our BFFs in the democratic process — helping them keep up with all of it. This is Washington's second use of the top two primary, and everyone (except insiders with the political parties) seems to love it. As we've explained before, the top two primary is neither the people's election nor the parties' nominating process. It's a winnowing process that in each race advances the top two vote-getters — regardless of political party — to the Nov. 2 general election. It might look like a massive, free-for-all, battle royale, semifinals showdown, but we like to think of it as a magnificent bounty of freedom.

Many political observers say the stampede has been prompted by growing voter anger and the anti-incumbency sentiments that seem to be simmering. Whatever the cause, we can think of no better way for this to play out than through use of the top two primary, where the power of the people trumps any control of the parties.

In the race for U.S. Senate alone, Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Patty Murray is running against 14 challengers. And here in Southwest Washington, an open seat in the 3rd Congressional District has attracted six candidates (three Republicans, two Democrats and one independent). The other eight districts in the state all have incumbents running. In bygone days, such status was a plus. These days, we're not so sure.

One of the most frequent but futile laments from party leaders is that two Republicans, or two Democrats, could advance to the fall election. Our response has been simple: So what? Let the voters have their say. In fact, in the 7th Congressional District, it's already certain that no Republican will advance. Democrat incumbent Jim McDermott is up against three fellow Democrats and two independents.

The reverse trend is shaping up to the east. According to the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin: "In Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield counties it's likely — very likely — that the two finalists will be Republicans ... Under the top two system it's going to be far more difficult to convince Democrats to run for office in conservative Eastern Washington. However, the positive is this system opens the door for moderate Republican candidates as they now have a chance to make it to the general election by garnering support from Democrats and independents."

If there are any concerns about partisan impacts of the top two primary, those worries can be answered by the statewide balance we noted earlier: 25 Democrats, 24 Republicans and 15 others all trying to muscle their way to Congress.

All the more reason for registered voters to participate. Have you filled out and mailed your ballot yet? You've got 10 more days to help turn this stampede into an orderly parade of fall finalists.

This is a printer friendly version of an article from the **The Olympian**.
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[\[Back\]](#)

Published August 08, 2010

Williams' seat draws a crowd

BRAD SHANNON; Staff writer

The race for retiring state Rep. Brendan Williams' seat drew seven candidates this year, and the stability and adequacy of the state's budget is emerging as a major issue in the race.

Also key for most of the candidates: How to promote job creation while keeping the state budget balanced in a time of recession and shrinking tax collections.

Jason Hearn, a Lacey City Council member and the lone Republican in the race, is running under the GOP Party banner. He says he can bring more stability while pushing for smaller government and holding down taxes – mainly by planning on a longer-term horizon and being more realistic about the future.

Three candidates – Stew Henderson, Chris Reykdal and Judi Hoefling – are running as Democrats, and most see a need for more state revenue. Another candidate, Steve Robinson, says he is a “Progressive Dem,” and two other hopefuls – Jeremy Miller and F.G. “Fred” Jensen – are running on variations of the Democratic name.

Henderson and Reykdal have emerged as the most visible candidates and have pulled away in fundraising. Both have strong labor union backing in a region where government is the biggest employer and public-employee groups have clout. Both say they favor an income tax on higher earners to broaden the tax load and provide more revenue to fill gaps in the budget.

Hoefling says she is willing to look at Initiative 1098's high-earners tax, which proposes to raise \$1 billion a year by taxing individuals' incomes above \$200,000 while cutting property taxes and giving tax credits to small businesses. But Hoefling said the economy has changed, and state government needs to adapt temporarily to lower revenues without sacrificing basic programs such as education and aid to the vulnerable.

Robinson said he supports the income tax but also thinks government needs to make hard choices about programs it no longer will fund.

As of midweek, Henderson had raised \$63,095 for his campaign, including \$800 donations from environmental, trial lawyer and state employee groups. Reykdal had raised \$62,825, including \$800 donations from the American Federation of Teachers-Washington, American Transit Union's Legislative Council, state Rep. Reuven Carlyle of Seattle and labor groups including Public School Employees and the Service Employees International Union/Healthcare 775NW.

Robinson raised \$19,170, including 11 donations of \$800 each from tribes and tribal groups, while Hoefling had \$17,408, led by \$800 each from retiree Christine Warjone and Thurston County Commissioner Cathy Wolfe.

Miller, who is running as a “Demo Party” candidate, did not respond to a request for an interview last week. He reported raising \$12,690, including \$10,100 he lent the campaign. His funds included an in-kind donation for signs

worth \$2,590 from the Olympia Love and Freedom Foundation, according to the state Public Disclosure Commission.

Jensen lists no telephone or e-mail contact for his campaign and reported raising no money. He is running as a ProLife Democrat.

Some political watchers, such as Thurston County Democratic Party chairman Jim Cooper, think Hearn will lead all candidates in the Aug. 17 primary because the Democrats will split the vote. But Cooper also thinks the top Democrat who emerges from the “top two” primary runoff is destined to win it all Nov. 2 in the solidly left-of-center 22nd District.

The 22nd includes Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater and hasn’t elected a Republican in about three decades.

THE CANDIDATES

Henderson is a management consultant and former state agency assistant director, and he proved to be a prolific fundraiser for the local Obama-for-president campaign in 2008. He also is the formal nominee of the local Democratic Party, served on a city council in Maryland, once ran for Maryland’s House of Delegates and served in the Peace Corps. He paints himself as a reformer who would “debureaucratize” government and push for job creation in alternative energy fields.

Henderson has endorsements from top environmental groups and shares an endorsement with Reykdal from the Washington Federation of State Employees.

Reykdal is a Tumwater School Board member and has forged labor ties through his work as deputy leader of the state board for community and technical colleges. He won a sole endorsement from the state’s Washington State Labor Council and more recently has benefited from a \$25,000 independent expenditure campaign led by the Firefighters Action Support Team political committee and allies; the third parties are spending it on brochures and cable television ads.

Reykdal favors more investment in public schools and tax reform, and he is backed by Rep. Williams and Rep. Sam Hunt, the two House Democrats serving the 22nd, who have fought similar battles over the years. Hunt and Williams see Reykdal, who touts his budget experience in government, as a more able advocate who is ready to step into the job.

Robinson is a natural resources policy expert with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and he worked on major state-tribal agreements that dealt with sovereignty and natural resources – including the timber-fish-wildlife agreement that set streamside buffers a decade ago. He said his experience, which includes civic and environmental education roles, makes him easily the most qualified.

Hoefling is a Tumwater City Council member who grew up in a logging camp, and her background includes stints on planning commissions in Tumwater and Westport. She led local tourism and business-advocacy groups in Olympia and is an administrator for Behavioral Health Resources, which provides mental health and addiction-recovery services in South Sound counties. She describes herself as a proven leader, mentioning work to set up the 2-1-1 telephone network that provides crisis referral information to the public in several counties.

Miller has been an advocate for liberalizing marijuana laws, and he works with the Olympia Patient Resource Center, which provides information to medical marijuana patients. He touts himself as a “hometown candidate” and grass-roots organizer and says he’ll “always be a vote against state worker layoffs and benefit cuts.”

Jensen is a retired merchant seaman and anti-abortion activist who ran for the Legislature in the 22nd District in the 1998 primary, losing by a wide margin to then-Rep. Cathy Wolfe. Jensen, now 89, is not mounting a visible campaign, but his voter-pamphlet statement indicates he is running on an anti-abortion platform.

Hearn, a Lacey councilman, is a former state champion swimmer and attended Brigham Young University on a swimming scholarship; he said he attended the Mormon school as a "Protestant student." Hearn said his ownership of a business and service on a city council that cut \$2 million from its budget without layoffs are preparation for the job.

STATE SPENDING

The candidates vary in their response to the budget challenges that led the Democratic-controlled state House and Senate to raise taxes by nearly \$800 million this year. The majority Democrats voted in 2009 and again this year to cut state jobs, freeze cost-of-living adjustments for state workers and increase workers' share of out-of-pocket health care costs. They also voted this year to order about 35 percent of general-government workers to take 10 temporary layoff days, or unpaid furloughs, to save \$73 million.

Hearn says the Legislature has failed to look far enough into the future in its budgeting and failed to predict accurately how much money it has to work with.

"The top issue in this campaign is stability," he said, suggesting he can bring a new approach. "I'm hearing that people are concerned. They are concerned about the imbalance in the budgeting and the deficit."

But Hearn offered no clear-cut ways to bridge a budget gap now estimated at \$3 billion for 2011-13. He said he would look for guidance from state Rep. Gary Alexander, the House GOP's ranking budget expert, on ways to reduce state spending.

Hearn said some government activities might be better farmed out to the private sector, including possibly selling off state-run liquor outlets to private businesses. He also thinks lawmakers should make funding for state-worker pensions a higher priority.

Robinson does not criticize lawmakers but said the budget was full of "quick fixes."

"We have a much worse problem than they addressed in terms of the economy. We have to dig deeper," he said. "The solution is not exclusively cutting; it is also raising taxes."

Robinson also opposes cuts as the sole way to bridge the budget gap. But he said cuts need to be made, and he hopes they are done in a way that doesn't just "thin the soup" and leave programs that become ineffective.

Henderson said he generally favored the approach that majority Democrats took in balancing their budget this year through spending cuts and new taxes, but he thinks the tax system is unfairly weighted so higher-income people pay too little and the middle class is left feeling overtaxed. He said the state needs to better assess which of its expenses represent good investments of tax dollars and which can be cut.

Hoefling said the budget crisis of the past two years came quickly and caught lawmakers off-guard. She hopes to see a more balanced approach and more care taken to protect the vulnerable people who depend on state services; she also wants to protect state workers, who provide middle-class stability in Thurston County, she said.

Hoefling also says lawmakers have to revise the tax code and revise the way they spend money, because it might be years before the economy recovers enough to generate much new revenue.

"I think it's going to take every good mind in the state to figure out how this is going to work," Hoefling said. "I don't think any of these decisions about where to cut needs to be made by an individual."

Reykdal grew up in poverty in Snohomish County and said he hears a lot of "anxiety" from voters when he knocks on doors. In response, he tells voters that Washington has a history of boom-and-bust budget cycles and that the state tax structure, which relies on sales and other "consumption" taxes, causes wide swings that could be tamed by a more stable tax code that included income taxes on high earners.

Reykdal said lawmakers did well in the short term to deal with their budget shortfalls, but he thinks they failed to look long term. He thinks they added to the future tax problem with new taxes on bottled water, pop and candy – more consumption taxes.

JOBS CREATION

Robinson said lawmakers need to work to bridge partisan differences and find common ground to create jobs, just as he worked to balance timber interests with those of fish in the timber-fish-wildlife agreements of 1999-2000. He said regional climate change efforts could help create jobs by promoting alternative energy.

He also favors giving state help to small-business incubators that make it easier for entrepreneurs to get set up in new businesses.

Hoefling also said voters want politicians who can work across the partisan aisle and deliver results. She said Tumwater succeeded in attracting an outdoor-clothing business, and a solar-panel manufacturing company is considering putting a plant there. Lawmakers could bring in more businesses by doing a better job of marketing what the state has to offer, including the area's quality of life, Hoefling said.

Reykdal says government has a big role to play in making investments in infrastructure that create good-paying jobs. He mentioned Referendum 52, the school-retrofit measure on the Nov. 2 ballot, as a way the state can promote jobs in the next few years. Reykdal also thinks a corporate income tax would be an economic stimulus – if it replaced the state's business and occupations tax.

Henderson would go further. He would give “targeted” tax breaks to small businesses that can show they created jobs. He also would promote growth in alternative energy and says the state could recruit wind and solar start-up firms out of California.

Hearn has a more traditional Republican outlook but said he wants to work across party lines too. He said the state needs a business environment that is worth a business' effort to invest in.

Hearn favors reworking the Employment Security Department and Department of Labor and Industries to help businesses and eliminating the business and occupations tax. But he offered no specific reforms for agencies or a replacement revenue source for the B&O tax, a major source of state taxes.

Brad Shannon: 360-357-1688 bshannon@theolympian.com www.theolympian.com/politicsblog

Jason Hearn

Party: GOP.

Residence: Lacey.

Contact: 360-701-3490.

E-mail: jason@jasonhearn.com.

Website: www.jasonhearn.com.

Occupation: Owns NW Media Co., based in Lacey.

Experience: Served on the Lacey City Council since January 2008; co-owned business that publishes a magazine and does media buys since 2001.

Education: Bachelor of Arts degree in broadcast communications/media sales, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Stew Henderson

Party: Democratic.

Residence: Olympia.

Contact: 360-339-3069.

E-mail: stew@stewfor22.com.

Website: www.stewfor22.com.

Occupation: Self employed/management consultant.

Experience: Spent 20 years "helping government run better," including six as assistant director for management-consulting services at the state Department of Labor and Industries and for other agencies; active in local campaigns including Obama for president in 2008; seven years on the Hyattsville (Md.) City Council; ran for Maryland House of Delegates; served in Peace Corps and worked as a consumer-issues organizer for Ralph Nader.

Education: Bachelor of Arts degree, Dartmouth College, 1981; Master of Arts, applied behavioral sciences, Leadership Institute of Seattle.

Judi Hoefling

Party: Democratic.

Residence: Tumwater.

Contact: 360-250-9483.

E-mail: info@votejudi.com.

Website: www.votejudi.com.

Occupation: Administrator for private nonprofit health care corporation.

Experience: Tumwater City Council member since 2004; community relations administration for Behavioral Health Resources; director of Community Mental Health Foundation since 2001; led effort to create a 2-1-1 network providing health and crisis referral for a five-county area; was first woman to serve as executive director for the Thurston County Chamber; executive director of the Olympia-area Visitor and Convention Bureau; Westport city administrator; planning commission in Westport and Tumwater.

Education: Studied organizational management; college courses in board management and fund management.

Chris Reykdal

Party: Democrat.

Residence: Tumwater.

Contact: 360-790-3151

E-mail: chris4rep@gmail.com.

Website: www.chrisreykdal.com.

Occupation: Deputy executive director, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, since 2005.

Experience: Tumwater School Board member since 2007; state board for Community and Technical Colleges since 2002; worked for state Senate Transportation Committee, 1999-2002; management and budget analyst, Orange County, N.C., 1997-99; high school history teacher in Longview.

Education: Bachelor of Arts degree in social studies, Washington State University; master's degree in public administration, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Steve Robinson

Party: Progressive Dem.

Residence: Olympia.

Contact: 360-951-2494.

E-mail: water4fish@comcast.net.

Website: www.citizensforsteverobinson.com.

Occupation: Natural resources policy expert for tribes.

Experience: 25 years as natural resources policy adviser for Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; seven years as public affairs director, Department of Natural Resources; small-business owner and executive for seven years; former newspaper reporter in Eugene, Portland and La Grande, Ore.; former president of the Olympia Jaycees; former president of Northwest tribes' Salmon Homecoming Alliance; member of the National Congress of American Indians; president-elect of the Environmental Education Association of Washington; founding member, Thurston County Environmental Action League.

Education: Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism, University of Oregon, 1972.

Information was not available on candidates Jeremy Miller and F.G. "Fred" Jensen.



LOCAL NEWS

< Back to Regular Story Page

Spirited fight for 'top two' in primary

Election: Legislative swing districts around South Sound offer several matchups worth watching

JORDAN SCHRADER; STAFF WRITER
Last updated: August 9th, 2010 06:51 AM (PDT)

All the talk about Washington's "top two" primary and how it advances two candidates to the November ballot, regardless of party, can obscure the reality that in most South Sound campaigns for the Legislature, the pair will be one Republican and one Democrat.

That's why even in the top two era, most of the fights to watch during primary season – some friendly, some bitter – are between members of the same party.

Keep an eye on these pairs of rivals in the Aug. 17 primary: Republicans Paul Wagemann and Brian Wurts in Lakewood, Shawn Bunney and Cathy Dahlquist in eastern King and Pierce counties, and Nancy Wyatt and Mark Hargrove in the south King County suburbs, plus a pair of Democrats, Jake Fey and Laurie Jenkins in Tacoma.

All of them are trying to avoid elimination in the primary.

In districts dominated by one party, there's a good chance of the intraparty clash continuing to the general election. That could happen in Tacoma's 27th Legislative District – unless the ample Democratic vote is split by City Councilman Fey, Health Department official Jenkins and two candidates who aren't raising much money, nonprofit founder Janis Gbalah and Jessica Smeall, who conducts team-building seminars.

Then just one would go into the fall race for an open House seat, becoming an instant frontrunner against conservative independent Ken Nichols.

But most closely-watched races are in suburban districts that tend to be split more evenly between parties, such as the swing 28th District.

The fall contest in that district centered on Lakewood is likely to be between Democratic Rep. Tami Green and one of her challengers, either Wagemann or Wurts.

"They are two of the hardest-working guys in the state," said Kevin Carns, director of the House Republican Organizational Committee. "I expect that to be a pretty tough race in the primary and the general."

Republicans can choose between Wagemann, a developer and Clover Park school board member with a wide-ranging background in business, and Wurts, a police officer with experience in Olympia lobbying for changes in police and public safety laws, issues that gained prominence after last year's slayings of four of his fellow Lakewood officers.

Wagemann criticizes Wurts from the right, including for his job leading the Lakewood Police Independent Guild. He said Wurts "basically stands for everything we Republicans are against. He's a union guy."

Wurts says police need representation, but he resists the description of his guild as a union and says he hasn't pushed for raises during collective bargaining like union officials elsewhere have. He talks much like Wagemann and other Republicans do about the need for cuts in state government, even as he touts his ability to work with both parties.

But Wurts acknowledges he might not "pass the litmus test" for some Republicans, particularly social conservatives upset that he joined the effort that persuaded Lakewood voters in 2008 to defeat a proposed ban on minicasinos. "We've got to be a bigger tent," he said of his party.

Green, a nurse whose re-election is a top priority for unions and groups worried about cuts to state government, is waiting for one of them to emerge from the Republican fight.

Meanwhile she's making sure Democrats turn out for the primary and preparing for Republicans to attack her for supporting tax increases and suspending the initiative that made those hikes harder. "I'm not apologizing for the votes we did or the temporary suspension of I-960. I'm explaining that at the door" to voters, Green said.

OTHER RACES

- One race already becoming nasty is in the 47th District, but less within the Republican Party – where instructor pilot Hargrove vies with Auburn Chamber of Commerce president Wyatt – than over an assault charge filed against Rep. Geoff Simpson. A GOP television commercial says the Covington Democrat needs help for his history of domestic violence, but Simpson says the charge is politically motivated.
- The rural 31st District leans to the right but probably not enough for two Republicans to move on to the general election in any of the races there. It's more likely that Democratic South Prairie Mayor Peggy Levesque will face one of two Republicans – Pierce County Councilman Bunney of Lake Tapps or Enumclaw School Board member Dahlquist – for an open House seat.
- The Senate race in the same district is likely to be a referendum on Sen. Pam Roach of Auburn, who was kicked out of Senate Republicans' private meetings this year over her treatment of staff. Roach says GOP leaders are unfairly targeting her. If she can survive a challenge within her party from Sumner City Councilman Matt Richardson, Roach could end up facing one of two Democrats, Federal Way police officer Raymond Bunk or Ron Weigelt, a human resources manager in the Seattle and King County Public Health Department.
- There's one more campaign in the district: Centrist Rep. Christopher Hurst, running as an independent Democrat, is challenged by Republicans Patrick Reed, a manager in the Secretary of State's Office, and Daniel Geske, who isn't raising money.
- The Federal Way-area 30th District seat left behind by Republican Rep. Skip Priest's departure has drawn one Democrat, Carol Gregory, director of an anti-poverty nonprofit group. The GOP side is crowded. Three candidates are raising money – Milton Mayor Katrina Asay, millwright Jerry Galland and real estate agent Anthony Kalchik – plus Federal Way school board member Ed Barney. It's a swing district where either party has a chance.
- Longtime Rep. Steve Conway is the only Democrat running for Senate in the heavily Democratic 29th District and the only candidate raising money. He faces independent Ken Paulson, father of slain teacher Jennifer Paulson, and Republican Terry Harder, who helped found a group that sends packages to troops.
- Two Democrats are running for Conway's House seat in the same district: former Tacoma City Councilwoman Connie Ladenburg and Jonathan Johnson, a software specialist at Pacific Lutheran University. Two Republicans are hoping voters buck the district's usual Democratic bent: mortgage loan officer and minister Steven Cook and Pierce County sheriff's deputy Bruce Parks.
- In the swing 25th District centered on Puyallup, writer Hans Zeiger and consultant and retired Army officer Steve Vermillion are the Republican challengers to Rep. Dawn Morrell, the influential chairwoman of the House Democratic Caucus. Horticulturist Larry Johnson and instructor Brian Shaner are running as independents and Bethel School Board member Ron Morehouse as a Democrat. Only Morrell and Zeiger have reported raising significant money.
- Democratic Rep. Jeannie Darneille in Tacoma's 27th District is being challenged by retired teacher and Republican Jon Higley and from within her own party by consultant Jon Cronk, who hasn't raised money.
- Sen. Derek Kilmer, a Democrat in the swing 26th District centered on Gig Harbor, faces Republican real estate agent Marty McClendon and paralegal Kristine Danielson, who is running as an independent and isn't raising money.

Jordan Schrader: 360-786-1826

jordan.schrader@thenewstribune.com



Terms of Service | Privacy Policy | About Our Ads | Contact Us | About Us | Site Map | RSS
 1950 South State Street, Tacoma, Washington 98405 253-597-8742
 © Copyright 2010 Tacoma News, Inc. A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company



Oregon Public Broadcasting



(<https://secure.opb.org/support/contribute/>)

Search OPB News

[Login \(/accounts/login/redirect//article/10689-six-candidates-vie-washingtons-wide-open-house-seat/\)](/accounts/login/redirect//article/10689-six-candidates-vie-washingtons-wide-open-house-seat/) | [Register](#)

(</accounts/register>)

- [Newsroom \(/\)](#)
- [Oregon \(/oregon/\)](/oregon/)
- [Nation \(/nation/\)](/nation/)
- [World \(/world/\)](/world/)
- [Economy \(/economy/\)](/economy/)
- [Environment \(/environment/\)](/environment/)

Tomorrow:

City:

74°

[close \(#\)](#)

/



57°

72°



/

57°



[Traffic Map \(/traffic\)](/traffic)

[Listen Live](http://www.opb.org/programs/streams/) (<http://www.opb.org/programs/streams/>)

Six Candidates Vie For Washington's Wide-Open House Seat

Amelia Templeton | August 9, 2010 | Vancouver, WA

[Share \(#share\)](#)

[Discuss \(#post comment\)](#)

A Democrat has represented the third Congressional District for most of the last fifty years. But changing demographics have steadily turned the district more Republican. Incumbent Democrat Brian Baird announced this winter he would not seek re-election.

And that's left a wide open race that's getting national attention. Amelia Templeton reports on the six candidates competing in the primary.

On a recent weekend, a pair of canvassers for local Democrats are having mixed luck with their get-out-the-vote effort in Vancouver.

The canvassers have a map that shows households in this neighborhood near the center of town that have voted for Democrats in the past. Increasingly, though, even Democrats acknowledge the Vancouver suburbs are voting more Republican.

Dwight Pelz: "I think it's one of the more competitive races in the country."

That's Dwight Pelz. He's chair of the Washington State Democrats. The third district stretches from Vancouver and the Columbia River to Olympia and the southern edge of the Puget sound.

Pelz says the district's politics have shifted as its natural resource economy has contracted.

Dwight Pelz: "The district was more centered in the resource areas of timber, fish and oysters. And it was more blue collar unions, the lumber unions. That sort of thing. And it's about 75 percent suburban now. And the suburbs are the swing element in American politics."

Nansen Malin is the Pacific County Chairman for the Washington Republicans. She says the race in the third district is a toss-up between the parties.

Nansen Malin: "With Baird stepping out, it's really anyone's guess. A Republican is actually just as likely to win if not more likely due to the mood of the country."

In Washington's open primary system, Democrats, Republicans and Independents compete together in a single primary race. The top two vote getters advance to the General Election in November. But leaders in both major parties expect one Democrat and one Republican to advance.

And Republican Malin says Denny Heck is clearly the Democrat to beat.

Nansen Malin: "And we assume it will be Heck on the Democrat side"

Three Republicans are vying to make it into the November race. State legislator Jaime Herrera has raised the most money — about \$375,000, as of the latest Federal Election Commission Filing. Her main message is limiting federal spending.

Jaime Herrera: "I have time and again voted to rein in out of control spending. And that's what this election is about. In the state Legislature I've earned recognition for unwillingness to spend more of people's hard-earned money or to increase their taxes."

Herrera's served in the state Legislature for three years. And she's getting national recognition as one of many up-and-coming Republican women competing in the mid-term election.

Republican Financial advisor David Castillo points out he's the only candidate who decided to run before current Congressman Baird said he wouldn't seek re-election. Castillo says concern over the deficit is what got him into the race.

David Castillo: "The Federal role with regard to state funding is extremely limited. I think Medicaid obviously is an area where the federal government can be involved. But with regard to a whole host of issues, I think the federal government is spending money and giving money to the states it has no business spending."

Castillo worked in the Veterans Administration and the Department of Homeland Security under President Bush. He's raised about \$240,000, according to his filings.

And finally there's David Hedrick. He's raised less money — about \$40,000 as of the last FEC filing. Hedrick says the Federal government should limit itself to defense and border security. He says programs like Medicaid violate the Constitution.

David Hedrick: "Those programs at a Federal level, I don't see a constitutional justification for. Now can we get rid of them overnight, no, and I don't think anyone would try to. You can have systems like this. It simply means they are run at a state and local level."

Even given an energized base, the Republican who emerges from the primary will face a tough opponent in the general. Democratic contender Denny Heck has raised about \$600,000 according to FEC filings. And he's loaned his campaign another \$350,000. Heck spent many years in the state Legislature, and was an early investor in video streaming technology.

He says his top priority is creating jobs in the district.

Denny Heck: "The single most important thing that can happen to the nation as a whole is to get credit flowing. We have a credit crunch. Small businesses need access to credit. The most important thing we can do locally is rebuild the Columbia River Crossing (<http://www.columbiarivercrossing.org/>)."

The candidates all agree that the current narrow I-5 bridge across the Columbia has put a damper on economic development in the region.

Herrera says she's often been stuck in traffic on the bridge:

Jaime Herrera: "We need it to be fixed, we need it to be able to move freight and people, and we need it to be safe."

But the candidates disagree on how to fund the multi-billion dollar project. Hedrick thinks the state of Oregon should foot most of the bill. Herrera and Castillo both oppose tolls. They want the project to be primarily federally funded.

Castillo says the states could share some of the cost:

David Castillo: "Use the bonding capacity of Washington and Oregon to get it done in conjunction with the federal dollars that need to be pat of this. I mean come on, it's an interstate highway. I believe the federal government is ultimately responsible."

Heck says he wants to minimize tolls, but that they're a necessary evil.

Two final candidates are competing in the open primary. Democrat Cheryl Crist of Olympia is a former teacher and a military mom.

She's running on a platform of cutting defense spending, and getting out of the war in Afghanistan.

Cheryl Crist: "I'm having a wonderful time getting out there educating people and asking them to send me to Congress so we can bring our spending back into balance and work on things people need back at home."

Crist has raised about \$10,000.

Norma Jean Stevens of Ocean Park is running as an Independent. She's brand new to politics and isn't actively fundraising for the race.

She says she leans conservative but supports abortion rights.

Jean Stevens: "I don't have a fancy education, but I consider myself life educated. And I think I'm real close to what the average American is looking for in a representative. Someone who is like them."

It's a crowded race, but Meryl Osborn a 90-year-old Vancouver resident is planning to read up on all the candidates. He says he hasn't missed an election since he was old enough to vote.

Meryl Osborn: "What I am wanting is some honest individual that will stick with what they are campaigning on. That's the main thing. If I can believe them, I'll stick with them."

The Washington primary is August 17th.

© 2010 OPB

Share this article

 [E-mail \(/email_article/opb/10689/?height=360&width=450\)](mailto:mailto:email_article/opb/10689/?height=360&width=450) |  [facebook \(http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://news.opb.org/article/six-candidates-vie-washingtons-wide-open-house-seat&t=Six%20Candidates%20Vie%20For%20Washington%27s%20Wide-Open%20House%20Seat\)](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=http://news.opb.org/article/six-candidates-vie-washingtons-wide-open-house-seat&t=Six%20Candidates%20Vie%20For%20Washington%27s%20Wide-Open%20House%20Seat) |  [del.icio.us \(http://del.icio.us/post\)](http://del.icio.us/post) |  [digg \(http://digg.com/submit?phase=2&url=http://news.opb.org/article/six-candidates-vie-washingtons-wide-open-house-seat/&title=Six%20Candidates%20Vie%20For%20Washington%27s%20Wide-Open%20House%20Seat&bodytext=%3Cp%3E%3Cp%3EA%20Democrat%20has%20represented%20the%20third%20Congressional%20District%20for%20most%20of%20the%20last%2050%20years.%20But%20changing%20demographics%20have%20steadily%20turned%20the%20district%20more%20Republican.%3C/p%3E%3C/p%3E\)](http://digg.com/submit?phase=2&url=http://news.opb.org/article/six-candidates-vie-washingtons-wide-open-house-seat/&title=Six%20Candidates%20Vie%20For%20Washington%27s%20Wide-Open%20House%20Seat&bodytext=%3Cp%3E%3Cp%3EA%20Democrat%20has%20represented%20the%20third%20Congressional%20District%20for%20most%20of%20the%20last%2050%20years.%20But%20changing%20demographics%20have%20steadily%20turned%20the%20district%20more%20Republican.%3C/p%3E%3C/p%3E) |  [newsvine \(javascript:void\(0\)\)](javascript:void(0))

Discuss

You must be logged in to post.

[Login \(/accounts/login/redirect//article/10689-six-candidates-vie-washingtons-wide-open-house-seat/\)](/accounts/login/redirect//article/10689-six-candidates-vie-washingtons-wide-open-house-seat/) or [register \(/accounts/register/\)](/accounts/register/) to set up an account.

Related articles

- [Washington House Dems To Wait On Simpson Decision \(/article/10436-washington-house-democrats-wait-simpson-decision\)](/article/10436-washington-house-democrats-wait-simpson-decision)
- [GOP Launches Domestic Violence TV Ad Against Rep. Geoff Simpson \(/article/10315-gop-launches-domestic-violence-tv-ad-against-rep-geoff-simpson\)](/article/10315-gop-launches-domestic-violence-tv-ad-against-rep-geoff-simpson)
- [Dudley Fails To Win Oregon Right To Life Endorsement \(/article/10313-dudley-fails-win-endorsement-pro-life-group\)](/article/10313-dudley-fails-win-endorsement-pro-life-group)

More in:

- [Politics> Elections \(/topic/elections\)](/topic/elections)

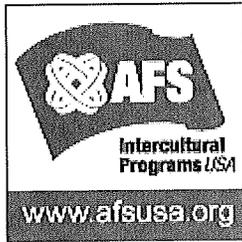
THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR:



(<http://sponsors.opb.org/sponsors/www/delivery/ck.php?>

[oparams=2 bannerid=142 zoneid=2 cb=983910401d oadest=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.artistsrep.org%2F](http://sponsors.opb.org/sponsors/www/delivery/ck.php?oparams=2&bannerid=142&zoneid=2&cb=983910401d&oadest=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.artistsrep.org%2F))

OPB THANKS OUR SPONSORS:



Become a sponsor (<http://www.opb.org/support/partners/>)

© 2010, Oregon Public Broadcasting (<http://www.opb.org>).

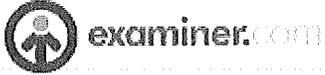
[Search \(/search/\)](#) · [Inside OPB \(/insideopb/\)](#) · [Report Reception Problems](#)
<http://www.opb.org/insideopb/contactus/reception.php> · [Privacy Policy](#) (<http://www.opb.org/privacypolicy.php>) · [Terms of Use](#) (<http://www.opb.org/termsfuse.php>) · [Contact Us](#) (<http://www.opb.org/insideopb/contactus/>) · [Pressroom](#)
<http://pressroom.opb.org/>) · [Employment](#) (<http://www.opb.org/insideopb/careers/>) · [Community](#)
<http://www.opb.org/community/>) · [Audio Streams](#) (<http://www.opb.org/programs/streams/>) · [RSS Feeds](#)
<http://www.opb.org/insideopb/rssfeeds.php/>)

(<http://www.pbs.org/cgi-registry/qolocal?station=KOPB&site=index.html>)

http://www.npr.org/stations/force/force_localization.php?station=KOPB_FM&url=http://www.npr.org/

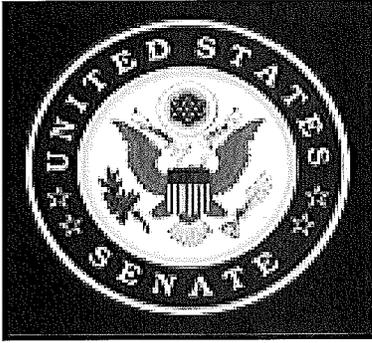
<http://www.pri.org/> WORLD SERVICE (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice>)

<http://americanpublicmedia.publicradio.org/>



The 2010 Washington State U.S. Senate Primary Race offers party diversity and then some

August 9, 8:31 PM · Sherry Erickson - Snohomish County Elections 2010 Examiner



Everett, Washington -- The Primary election race for Washington State's U.S. Senator position offers fifteen candidates for Snohomish County voters to choose from during this 2010 season. Six candidates prefer the Republican Party, five candidates affiliate to the Democratic Party, two candidates claim either the Centrist or Reform Parties, and two candidates have no preference whatsoever. Of this group two candidate names listed on the ballot do not publicly connect the voter to a birth name, but selected a gimmick title instead. Statistically speaking, the Snohomish County Auditor's office has stated that *if any candidate receives a majority of votes in the Primary, his/her name appears alone and unopposed on the General Election ballot. If no candidate receives a majority of votes in the Primary, then the top two candidates will appear on the General Election ballot in the order of most votes received.* (RCW 29A.36.170) There is no doubt with so many candidates to choose from it will be a tight race, so in all probability the General Election will list the top two candidates on the next voting ballot.

So, how will voters make their choice? According to *Time Magazine* during the 2008 elections, voters decide by selecting a candidate based on character issues rather than experience or leadership. Although the voting public did not have a collective say in the latest Supreme Court Justice seated on the bench, this example may offer insight to voting tendencies favoring character rather than experience. Michael Troy, a political commentator connected to both the *Washington Post* and *Washington Times* newspapers as well as a former campaign staffer had this to say:

In the age of television, most people are able to size up the candidates by seeing them in action. Many want a leader that exhibits attributes they think are positive, such as decisiveness, courage, integrity, etc. Others vote on key issues that are important to them and where there is a clear difference, such as taxes, abortion, gun control, etc.

Another important issue is incumbency. Many voters are willing to reelect ...who has done a reasonable job, even if they did not like everything, because the devil you know is better than the one you don't.

For the Snohomish County residents preparing to narrow down the Senate race listing of candidates, the following matrix was compiled from information published online in the Primary Voters Pamphlet and shows the candidate's top priority – the campaign element he or she has listed first in their written statements.

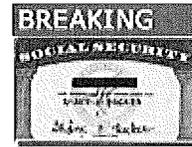
TOPIC

CANDIDATE – summarized viewpoint

Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mike The Mover – personal and national debt ➤ Paul Akers – create/manufacture jobs ➤ Patty Murray – job security ➤ Dino Rossi – job creation and debt control ➤ Charles Allen – rebuild manufacturing
---------	---

Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mohammad H. Said – legalizing marijuana
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Goodspaceguy – space colonization ➤ James (Skip) Mercer – energy independence
Government Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clint Didier – physical responsibility ➤ Schalk Leonard – improving America’s character ➤ Bob Burr – restoring the people’s voice ➤ William Edward Chovil – restoring historical foundations for America ➤ Charles Allen – presidential ethics
TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Norma D. Gruber– no summary filed with the County. ➤ Mike Latimer – no summary filed with the County.

Copyright 2010 Examiner.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



Kirkland: Get Out Of Debt Now
 The Bankers Don't Want You To Know About THESE Debt Secrets.

@Debt Stimulus Relief
 @New Laws Allow You To Remove Up To 75% Of Your Debt....



Author



Sherry Erickson is an Examiner from Seattle. You can see Sherry's articles at:
["http://www.Examiner.com/x-60975-Snohomish-County-Elections-2010-Examiner"](http://www.Examiner.com/x-60975-Snohomish-County-Elections-2010-Examiner)



Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Can the right wing woo the middle?

Just how conservative do you have to be to win the GOP nomination?

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Just how conservative do you have to be? This is the question torturing the Republican Party in primary election races around the nation. We have one in our own neighborhood in the form of the U.S. House race in southwest Washington.

In Washington state's top-two system, it's possible for two candidates from the same party to advance to the November ballot. But most likely this time in the Third District race, there will be one of each.

Two Democrats, three Republicans and an independent from the Long Beach Peninsula are on the Aug. 17 primary ballot, making for a six-way contest. In theory, someone might receive as little as 16.7 percent of primary votes and still be one of the top two who get to move forward.

The Democratic Party race has been relatively low-key, with U.S. Rep. Brian Baird's choice - moderate political insider Denny Heck - vying with Olympia businesswoman Cheryl Crist. Based on a healthy campaign war chest and the support of the Democratic establishment, Heck is likely to have a lock on one of the two general election ballot spots.

It's harder to predict who will advance to November representing the conservative side of the political spectrum. Although everyone has a shot, including independent Norma Jean Stevens of Ocean Park and Republican David Hedrick of Camas, most observers think the choice will come down to Olympia financial advisor David Castillo versus state Rep. Jaime Herrera from Camas.

In any normal year, Herrera would clearly be the conservative candidate. She was unanimously endorsed at the Republican Party's Pacific County Convention. As a lawmaker, she's been consistently anti-tax and has hewed to the GOP party line. She has a good reputation when it comes to constituent service - helping resolve her constituents' issues with agencies. A mature 31-year-old, she's the sort of rising star who might have already wrapped the nomination up in a less ideological-riven year.

Lacking a legislative record, Castillo is working hard to come off as even more conservative. For example, one of his key supporters, state Sen. Don Benton, attacked Herrera's record, basically because she along with others voted on the same side as Democrats on several legislative issues.

Castillo may be a perfectly smart and secretly reasonable guy, but in this race and others around the country, one has to wonder how candidates who are trying so hard to be "righter than right" will appeal to a mostly moderate voting public in November.

It is fine and dandy to be conservative, but don't we need lawmakers who are able to work with opponents for the common good? Implacable opposition and deadlock are no way to run a great country.

Related Links

Strange Bedfellows

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattlepolitics/archives/218610.asp>

Wash. state Senate: The Eastside front

An advancing Democratic tide in recent years has inundated once-safe Republican legislative districts in suburban King County, and even seen two GOP state senators cross the aisle.

The tide may ebb this year.

Results from Tuesday's primary indicate five close State Senate races which could tilt the Legislature's upper chamber to the right. Races to watch include:

- With retirement of a Democratic state senator, the 32nd District in north King and south Snohomish Counties is up for grabs.

State Rep. Maralyn Chase, one of Olympia's "greenest" Democratic lawmakers, was taking just over 47 percent of the total vote. A fellow Democrat, ex-Rep. Patty Butler, had 12.5 percent.

Republicans are high on their nominee, Kenmore Mayor David Baker, who is at just over 40 percent of the vote in the latest primary returns. And Chase is a particular target for the right-tilting editorial page of the Seattle Times.

- In the 41st District, appointed Democratic Sen. Randy Gorton trails Republican Steve Litzow by a tiny margin (50.38 percent to 49.62 percent), an indication that peaceful Mercer Island will be a political battleground this fall.
- Returns from the 45th District show Republican-turned-Democratic State Sen. Eric Oemig running behind challenger Andy Hill by a wider margin. Hill is at 51.26 percent of the vote to Oemig's 48.74.
- Democratic State Sen. Claudia Kauffman is running substantially behind opponent Joe Fain in the 47th District of southeast King County. Kauffman is taking only 45.11 percent of the primary vote to 54.89 for Fain.

Fain was given a rating of "Outstanding," to Kauffman's "Very Good," when the Municipal League evaluated candidates last month.

- Incumbent Sen. Rodney Tom, a Democrat who advocates fiscal restraint, is faring better in the 48th District. Tom is taking 52.35 percent to 47.65 for his Republican challenger Gregg Bennett.

The five Senate races will go down to the wire in November. Republicans are seeking to reclaim what was once theirs. Democrats are hoping to hold on, using a formula of progressive social and environmental policies coupled with wariness toward spending and taxes.

The latest returns indicate one Democrat in the State Senate may lose her seat in the primary.

State Sen. Jean Berkey trails fellow Democrat Nick Harper in the 38th District of Snohomish County. Harper has a lead of slightly more than 200 votes. Unions as well as such groups as FUSE, Washington Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club put resources behind Harper, claiming the district needed a more progressive and proactive legislator.

Posted by **Joel Connelly** at August 18, 2010 5:38 p.m.

· [Return to Wash. state Senate: The Eastside front](#)

Political Junkie with Ken Rudin

Washington's 'Top Two' Primary Favors Murray, Rossi In Senate Race

Categories: On The Ballot

01:16 pm

August 17, 2010

by KEN RUDIN

For those inhabitants of the Beltway, Washington state was always that *other* Washington.

The other Washington was also long known for its *other* kind of primary system, often described as a "blanket" primary, where all candidates, regardless of party, would appear on the same ballot, and the top finishers of each party would advance to the general election.

That system was thrown out by the courts in 2003 and replaced, ultimately, by the system that is being used today, known as the "top two" primary. Once again, all candidates appear on the same ballot. But the top two finishers — even if they are from the same party — advance to November.

And that should help the frontrunners in this year's Washington Senate race. **Patty Murray**, a Democrat first elected in 1992, is seeking a fourth term. She is all but assured of finishing on top in today's primary. And finishing second — and thus Murray's opponent in November — is likely to be **Dino Rossi**, a Republican who came this close to winning the governorship in 2004; he lost to Christine Gregoire by 129 votes out of 2.8 million cast. (A rematch in 2008 was not nearly as close.)

President Obama is campaigning for Murray today in Seattle.

In this year of the Tea Party, at a time when many Republicans are running further to the right than they normally would in the wake of a conservative backlash against the establishment, an establishment candidate like Rossi might be in some difficulty in the primary against **Clint Didier**. Didier is a former NFL player who has taken Tea Party-like stands on most issues and has the backing of **Sarah Palin**. But unless a large number of Murray supporters decide to create some mischief and vote for Didier today, the "top two" format will allow Rossi to advance to November. And so he is spending less time on Didier and more on Murray, who until Rossi belatedly

got in the race in May had not been thought of as vulnerable. Now polls indicate a tough race.

A recent AP story by Curt Woodward about how Rossi "has moved noticeably to the right in recent weeks" has been widely distributed by Democrats. Obama carried the state in 2008 with 58 percent of the vote.

Having all candidates run on the same ballot in the primary can sometimes tell us about what is in store for November. Go back to 1994, the year of the last Republican sweep of Congress. House Speaker **Tom Foley** (D) received just 35 percent of the vote against three Republicans in the blanket primary; he lost the general election to **George Nethercutt**. Also that year, House Democratic incumbents **Maria Cantwell**, **Jolene Unsoeld** and **Jay Inslee** all finished with 44 percent of the vote or less in the primary, and all were defeated in November.

Similarly, in 2000, when GOP Sen. **Slade Gorton** received under 44 percent of the vote in that year's blanket primary, it sent a signal that he was in trouble for the general; as it was, he lost to a comebacking Cantwell.

So it will be interesting to see the percentages Murray and Rossi reach today.

(A good piece on the primary yesterday by NPR's **Martin Kaste** on *All Things Considered*. You can listen to it here, thanks to our friends at **The Two Way**.)

One House race of note: Rep. **Brian Baird** (D) of the Third District (Vancouver) is retiring after 12 years. It's one of the seats Republicans need to win if they are going to take back the House this year. The GOP frontrunner is state Rep. **Jaime Herrera**, and the Democratic nominee is likely to be former state House majority leader **Denny Heck**. While the district twice went to **George W. Bush** by narrow margins, Obama carried it more comfortably in 2008.

Polls close at 8 p.m. Pacific time (11 p.m. Eastern)/

Tags: Patty Murray, Clint Didier, Dino Rossi, 2010 Senate race: Washington

comments

Discussions for this story are now closed. Please see the [Community FAQ](#) for more information.