



OREGON STANDS APART: 2014 POST-ELECTION REPORT

ELECTIONS RESULTS IN BRIEF:

- **Starr Ahead by 64 Votes, Election Not Over**
- **Governor Wins Fourth Term**
- **Voters Narrowly Approve CCC Capital Construction Bond Measure**
- **Top Two Primary Goes Down 2-1**
- **Senate & House Democrats Each Gain Seat**



“The election results demonstrate that Oregon is a flashing blue light in a big red sea.”

*Mike Salsgiver,
AGC Executive Director*

STARR/RILEY RACE NOT OVER



Current Figures: SD 15 – Hillsboro: Bruce Starr (R): 45.6% vs. Chuck Riley (D): 45.4%

AGC and the business community invested—and continues to invest—significant resources in Senate District (SD) 15, which pitted long-time incumbent Sen. Bruce Starr against his 2010 opponent, Chuck Riley. Both candidates spent upwards of \$800,000, with Riley receiving significant out-of-state support. At the time of printing, Starr holds a narrow 64 vote lead out of 34,095 votes cast. An automatic recount is triggered when the margin is less than one fifth of one percent. Senator Starr’s lead is currently within that margin. A recount is projected to take weeks.

This phase of Bruce Starr’s election requires additional significant financial resources to ensure that he is as competitive as possible.

Please contact John Rakowitz, 503-317-1781 or johnr@agc-oregon.org, if you have an interest in making a contribution in this final stage.

KITZHABER SECURES HISTORIC FOURTH TERM



John Kitzhaber (D): 50.3% vs. Dennis Richardson (R): 43.8%

Incumbent Governor John Kitzhaber defeated longtime Oregon House member Dennis Richardson to earn an unprecedented fourth term. After seeing his formerly sizeable lead shrink in the weeks preceding the election, Kitzhaber ultimately pulled out a win over the former Ways and Means co-chair from Central Point. The governor earned 50.4 percent of the vote compared to Richardson's 43.7 percent.

CLACKAMAS VOTERS NARROWLY APPROVE SIGNIFICANT BOND MEASURE



AGC supported Clackamas Community College in their effort to secure a \$90 million investment in capital projects. The measure narrowly passed with 52.2 percent voting "Yes." Possible bond projects include constructing a new industrial technical learning center with labs and classrooms that will benefit programs for skilled trades, manufacturing, and apprenticeships.

"NO" ON TOP TWO PRIMARY INITIATIVE

Many business interests supported Measure 90, a proposal to transition Oregon to a so-called "Open Primary" system. Measure 90 would have created a primary open to all candidates of all parties, with the top two advancing to the general election, regardless of party affiliation. In 2008, over 65 percent of voters voted "No" on a similar measure. This year, after a vigorous opposition campaign was mounted, the measure was defeated by an even greater margin of 68.1 percent.



SENATE DEMOCRATS GAIN A SEAT

Senate Democrats gained one seat. At the time of printing, there are 17 Democrats, 12 Republicans, and Starr's seat is too close to call. That is one vote short of the margin necessary to create a supermajority, allowing for Democrats to unilaterally approve taxes.



KEY RACES:

SD 8 – Albany: Sara Gelser (D): 55.3% vs. Senator Betsy Close (R): 44.2%

County Commissioners appointed Sen. Betsy Close to replace longtime stalwart Frank Morse in 2012. Close's bid for re-election faced difficult odds in a district with a considerable Democratic registration advantage and a recognizable opponent in State Rep. Sara Gelser. The hill proved too steep to overcome and Gelser prevailed by a comfortable margin.

SENATE DEMOCRATS GAIN A SEAT, CON'T

SD 3 – Ashland: Senator Alan Bates (D): 51.9% vs. Dave Dotterer (R): 44.7%

This hotly contested race featured a rematch from 2010 that Bates won by less than 275 votes. In comparison to the 2010 contest that was a surprise, this year's contest featured substantial focus from the Democrats, who considered this a pivotal race after his near defeat in the last cycle. Bates ultimately won following an intense campaign.



SD 11 – Salem/Woodburn: Senator Peter Courtney (D): 53.5% vs. Patty Milne (R): 46%

For the first time in recent memory, Senate President Peter Courtney ran an aggressive campaign in order to turn back the challenge of longtime Marion County Commissioner Patty Milne. This sometimes chippy campaign resulted in Courtney's return to the Capitol, winning by a fairly sizeable margin.

HOUSE D'S GAIN ONE SEAT IN HOUSE: 35–25

With 15 incumbents opting against running for reelection (and another defeated in the primary), more than a quarter of the Oregon House will be new members. Democrats gained one seat, and now enjoy a 35–25 advantage heading into the 2015 Legislative Session. The Republicans lost one seat in the Goss/Evans race in Salem and failed to pick up any others. The Democrats fell one vote shy of a super majority needed to raise taxes on their own.

TARGETED RACES

HD 52 – Hood River: Rep. Mark Johnson (R): 54.2% vs. Stephanie Nystrom (D): 45.5%

Software engineer Stephanie Nystrom mounted a quiet challenge to incumbent Representative Mark Johnson, who had previously retained his seat in 2012 despite facing a sizeable registration disadvantage. The well-respected moderate did it again, winning with over 54 percent of the vote.



HD 54 – Bend: Knute Buehler (R): 58.8% vs. Craig Wilhelm (D): 40.7%

Former Oregon Secretary of State candidate Knute Buehler utilized his experience from that race to run a robust campaign against Craig Wilhelm for this open swing seat in Central Oregon. Buehler cruised to an 18-point victory, which he hopes will dissuade Democrats from targeting this seat in 2016.



CLACKAMAS COUNTY:

HD 51 – Clackamas: Rep. Shemia Fagan (D): 53.1% vs. Jodi Bailey (R): 46.5%

First term incumbent Representative Shemia Fagan and her supporters spent nearly \$700,000 in her campaign against Jodi Bailey in this targeted East Portland district. In the end, Fagan retained her seat with a nearly seven-point victory.

HOUSE D'S GAIN ONE SEAT IN HOUSE, CON'T

CLACKAMAS COUNTY, CON'T:

HD 40 – Oregon City: Rep. Brent Barton (D): 54.8% vs. Steve Newgard (R): 44.7%

In a rematch from the 2012 election in which Barton bested Steve Newgard by only 348 votes, the two faced off again this cycle. The incumbent Barton won this time with 54.8 percent of the votes compared to challenger Newgard's 44.7 percent.

TARGETED, HARD-FOUGHT RACES:

WASHINGTON COUNTY:

HD 30 – Hillsboro: Rep. Joe Gallegos (D): 50.4% vs. Dan Mason (R): 41.1%

One-term incumbent Representative Joe Gallegos easily defended his seat against Dan Mason in this Washington County district that serves as the heart of Oregon's Silicon Forest. Gallegos won with 50.4 percent of the votes while Mason brought home 41.1 percent.

HD 29 – Hillsboro: Susan McLain (D): 53.4% vs. Mark Richman (R): 46.3%

Deputy District Attorney Mark Richman and former Metro Councilor Susan McLain faced off in this open swing seat. In end, McLain defeated Richman by a surprisingly comfortable margin.



SURPRISE OF THE NIGHT:

HD 20 – Salem: Paul Evans (D): 51.7% vs. Kathy Goss (R): 47.8%

Moderate Republican Vicki Berger opted against running for reelection in this dead-even swing seat in Salem. Goss and Evans battled out the election in a sometimes nasty campaign with Evans pulling out the victory.



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