

GERALD J. BIEBERLE
403 N. TOMAHAWK ISLAND DR
PORTLAND, OR 97217
503/286-8807
bieberle@europa.com.

*Leon
Resume to
JM*

LOBBYIST REPORT -- JUNE 8, 1998

BUDGET UPDATE:

Many of you probably attended one of the Department of Human Resources' (DHR) budget briefing sessions. Though I have often criticized DHR's portrayal of this session as an inadequate opportunity for community input, I do believe that it is a good faith community education effort on the part of the Department.

During the session I attended, DHR did a very good job of articulating its 1999 - 2201 agenda, goals and budget priorities, which are:

Agenda

- Community Partnerships
- Service Integration
- Outcomes

Goals

- People are safe.
- People are healthy.
- People are able to support themselves and their families.
- People are able living as independently as possible.

Budget Priorities

- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
 - Build an infrastructure for the delivery of alcohol and other drug services
 - Services for high risk youth
 - Expand alcohol and drug free housing
 - Improve treatment for dually diagnosed
 - Provide treatment for seniors and persons with disabilities
 - Expand Services for Children and Families' Family Support Team Models

- Employment Initiatives
 - Next steps in welfare reform
 - Employment for people with disabilities
 - Employment and education services for people with mental illness

- Safety Net for Kids

- Continuations of Initiatives Started in 1997-99
 - + Provider wages
 - + DD Long Range Plan
 - + Teen pregnancy prevention
 - + Strengthening the child welfare systems
 - + Tobacco reduction

A list of other possible DHR Policy Packages was given out. Attached is the latest revised list of the Policy Packages. Additionally, DHR included a list of Possible Reduction Options. Though some of the more technical adjustments could be adopted (e.g.s., Eliminate inflation adjustment on AFS grants and programs, or delay implementation of SCF's System of Care), I seriously doubt any reductions will be made to existing, established programs.

I was disappointed that DHR wasn't able to share more detailed budget numbers, but maybe, except for "budget junkies" such as myself, it isn't all that important yet.. What will be important is what Reduction Packages the Governor may accept and / or what Policy Packages are accepted.

Currently DHR is busy negotiating with the Department of Administrative Services (DAY) an agreement on its Base Budget; ranking its policy packages; and preparing to submit the DHR Agency Request to DAS. **If you wish to comment on a particular policy package, do it now!**

Soon, but not later than late August, DHR will send its Agency Request to DAS. Starting on, or about September 1, and ending on December 12, the date when the Governor releases his Recommended Budget, there will be a virtual "blackout" on Budget information and numbers. During this period, except for a few strategic leaks, we will not be hearing much about budget particulars.

POLITICAL UPDATE:

To me the most striking impression of the May Primary was the satisfaction and joy expressed by the opposing political poles. Both the conservatives and progressives (liberals) were very happy, while the moderates were clearly distressed. Why? Though the answer isn't readily apparent, it is quite simple. Mostly because of the very low voter turnout, for the most part, when a conservative or a progressive candidate was matched against a moderate, the moderate lost.

As examples, conservatives prevailed over moderates in these primary contests:

Charles Starr defeated Jeannette Hamby (Senate District 5)

Jerry Grisham defeated Ken Baker (Senate District 14)

Cedric Hayden defeated Cleve Dumdi (Senate District 22)

Bill Witt defeated Chuck Carpenter (House District 7)

Note, Hammy, Baker and Carpenter are incumbents. It is almost unheard of for an incumbent to lose, particularly in his or her party's primary. The conservative sweep wasn't complete however ... Rep. Lynn Lundquist and Sen. Verne Duncan, both moderates, fended off more conservative challengers.

Progressives were also pleased with the returns. Not only did their candidates win contested elections (e.g.. Frank Shields victory in Senate District 9), but also because they believe in view of the large number of conservative candidates, they now have a good chance of prevailing in November with comparatively moderate candidates.

Note, there is an alternative analysis which surmises that it was a standoff between the moderates and the conservatives. This analysis maybe also be valid, it depends on who you can identify as a conservative or a moderate.

SIZEMORE FILES BALLOT MEASURE:

Bill Sizemore and the Oregon Taxpayers United have filed their petitions and signatures for Initiative #18 (which prohibits using public funds to collect or assist in the collection of political funds) early with the Secretary of State. If they have enough valid signatures (which they probably do) then the Secretary of State will certify it for a vote in November. If they do not have enough valid signatures, they still have enough time to collect more signatures. Either way, this proposition is almost certain to be on the ballot in November. All of the ramifications of this measure are not yet clear and I will try to discuss it in more detail as part of future reports.