

Editorial

Home Stretch

The very day that most of you in Oregon are reading this column, is the same day the ballots are going into the mail for Oregon's vote-by-mail May Primary Election. And this is a big one for our state!

We have an outstanding candidate for Oregon Labor Commissioner, Republican Lou Ogden, who won't use his office to sue bakery owners, like the outgoing Democrat Brad Avakian did to Melissa and Aaron Klein for refusing to participate in a gay wedding.

Lou is the Tualatin Mayor who brought industrial development to the region generating over a billion dollars of private sector investment and thousands of jobs, and who favors cutting red tape for small business owners throughout the state, recognizing that they are the engine that drives our economy. The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is a non-partisan office, but it would be a big plus to have Ogden join Secretary of State Dennis Richardson as

another Republican holding a statewide office. The entire election for this one is over on May 15, 2018, in the primary. So make sure you cast your ballot for Ogden.

The big elephant in the room is the race for Oregon governor. And the choice has never been clearer. According to a poll just released today, April 24, 2018, Knute Buehler is the front runner with 39.1%, second place Sam Carpenter 24.1%, third place "undecided" at 19.6 %, and fourth place Greg Wooldridge with 11.8%. At the bottom of the pack are Bruce Cuff and Jeff Smith with less than 5.5% between them.

So here it is folks, straight talk. We have got to get this right this time. And by right, let me just say, not left. Not Left in the primary, and not left behind in the General Election because we steered Left in our primary choice. Huh? What am I saying?

Knute Buehler is the weakest candidate we could possibly put up against Kate Brown in the November General Election. Case in point, Knute was

trounced by Brown in their last match-up for Secretary of State in 2012, losing to her statewide by more than 136,000 votes.

Buehler opposes President Trump. Here are just some of the remarks he has posted publicly on his Facebook page "... Trump isn't qualified by experience or temperament to serve as President of the United States. America needs a better choice than this." And "Donald Trump is uninformed, out of touch and has no place as a leader of the Republican Party." How does he plan to win the votes of republicans in Oregon who overwhelmingly support President Trump? And how would he expect to garner support for needed reforms in Oregon from an administration in Washington D.C. with whom he is openly hostile?

Buehler is openly for abortion and is against our constitutional protection against infringement of our Second Amendment. Kevin

Starrett, Executive Director of Oregon Firearms Federation gave Buehler an "F" grade when it comes to protecting the Second Amendment.

A moderate republican cannot win on a statewide basis. If you're not sure, ask Monica Wehby. If a republican in name only (RINO) like Knute cannot hold his base, which he cannot, it doesn't matter how many Dems he picks up in the general, he will not win. And to point out how similar he is to Kate Brown, there is a whole movement of democrats for Buehler, many of whom it's believed re-registered as republican for the primary so Kate has a weaker opponent in November.

And why exactly would democrats vote in November for Knute, the democrat they don't know vs. Kate the democrat they do know? It of course makes no sense.

So that leaves us with a real dilemma. Fourth place Wooldridge, in spite of his big bucks and heavy media push in the home

stretch, is not going to pass Knute. He has less than half the votes in the latest poll of second place conservative Sam Carpenter.

It is time for the conservatives in our party to have a serious reality check. If we don't unite behind the conservative frontrunner Sam Carpenter now, the candidate who has been out on the ground throughout Oregon for the better part of the last year meeting the voters and garnering their support by the hundreds of thousands, we are going to fragment that crucial vote, handing the nomination to the liberal Knute Buehler who will lose badly to Kate Brown in November, again.

It's time to get real and get committed or we will have wasted the best opportunity we've had in a long time to bring down the one-party socialist rule of the democrats in Oregon.

