

AuCoin

SENATE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEMOCRATS SLAM REPUBLICAN RADIO AD TACTIC AIMED AT DEFEATING AUCOIN IN TUESDAY'S DEMOCRATIC SENATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Leading Democrats from across the state Thursday denounced the Oregon Republican Party's \$42,000 negative radio advertising campaign aimed at influencing Democratic primary voters in hopes of defeating Les AuCoin in Tuesday's primary election.

AuCoin, calling the Republican tactic "a smear campaign aimed at defeating me so that Bob Packwood can face Harry Lonsdale in November," said that the Republican Party's tactics "are reminiscent of Watergate-style politics --- and that's not the kind of politics Oregonians will tolerate."

AuCoin's campaign also filed a complaint with the Federal Elections Commission today charging the state Republicans Party violated Federal campaign laws in their the negative ad campaign.

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio said that "the Republicans are using their money to choose our nominee. They've taken a poll and cynically decided Harry Lonsdale is the weaker candidate and the one they want to run against."

Former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt said that "it sure makes you wonder why the Republicans are so afraid of Les. Where did they get the money to advertise in the Democratic primary, just to pick an opponent they want?"

State Senate Majority Leader Bill Bradbury called it an "unprecedented interference by the Republicans into the Democratic Party primary," and that Oregon Republicans "haven't found a way to protect Bob Packwood from the Oregon Citizens Alliance, so they're going all out to try and protect him from Les AuCoin."

State Rep. Mike Burton said that "the Republicans are trying to take choices away from Democratic voters. I'm surprised Craig Berkman is trying to subvert the campaign laws this way."

Berkman, state Republican Party chairman, said that the ad campaign's intent is to ensure that Bob Packwood faces Lonsdale in the general election. "We'd (Packwood) rather run against Lonsdale than AuCoin" Berkman has repeatedly --- and publicly --- admitted.

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Paid for by the Les AuCoin for Senate Committee, P.O. Box 641, Beaverton, OR 97075. Clint Cook, Treasurer.

State Sen. John Kitzhaber said that the fact that the Republicans are "spending their own dollars in a Democratic primary indicates a lack a lack of confidence in their own candidate."

State Sen. Frank Roberts said that "if Harry Lonsdale were the Democrat he says he is, then he would denounce this himself. Harry should refuse this help by the Republican Party. It's an attempt to split the Democratic Party."

U.S. Rep. Mike Kopetski said that the ad "is a sickening piece of innuendo, making outrageous implications about Les. I believe Oregon Democrats will be too smart to be influenced by those whose ideas of decency in campaigning is Willie Horton."

Gerry Cogan, Oregon Democratic National Committeeman, said that "the Republicans are so bankrupt within their own party that they're now trying to undermine the Democratic Party."

Former U.S. Sen. Maurine Neuberger said that "I've known Les AuCoin for years and he always plays by the rules. The outcome of this election should be decided by Democrats, not by Republicans."