

A photograph of a man and a young girl sitting in a canoe on a calm lake. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue jacket and jeans, holding a silver oar. The girl, in the center, is wearing a green jacket, blue jeans, and a bright orange life vest. They are both smiling at the camera. The background features a dense forest of tall evergreen trees under a clear sky. The water in the lake is still, reflecting the surrounding scenery.

The best use of your  
life is to live your life so  
that the use of your life  
outlives your life.

~ Anonymous

**Mark Hass**



## **Mark Hass**

### **Personal**

Mark is married to Tamra Hass, and they have one child, a nine-year-old daughter, Isabelle. Mark works at Cappelli Miles [spring] as a brand strategist. From 1984 to 1999, before entering the legislature, he was a journalist for KATU-Television. Tamra is speech-language pathologist who works primarily with autistic children. She has co-written two books to help parents and teachers deal with autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

### **Education**

M.A. American University, Communications 1982

B.S. University of Oregon, Journalism 1980

### **Public life**

- In 2000, Mark was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in a district that included Beaverton, Aloha, Raleigh Hills, Garden Home and Southwest Portland. He was elected House Whip in 2002 and served as Vice-Chair of the House Revenue Committee until he left the legislature in January of 2007.
- In 2004, the Oregon Business Association awarded him its Balance in Leadership award.
- And in 2005, Mark was appointed to the Northwest Health Foundation. This prestigious organization, founded by Mark Hatfield, awards grants to entities such as nursing programs, medical research and collaborative studies that ultimately promote healthier citizens. The foundation has assets today of more than \$100 million.
- He has also served as a board member of the Beaverton Library Foundation, a foundation which maintains and refurbishes Beaverton's seven-year-old library.
- In 1995, Mark created a scholarship to help Oregon high school graduates who major in journalism. The success of this effort led him to spearhead other scholarship initiatives once he got to the legislature.
- From 1990 to 2003, Mark served on the Tom Dargan Scholarship Committee, which awards grants and scholarships to minority students in broadcasting programs. The scholarships honor Tom Dargan, a pioneer in Oregon Broadcasting circles and the founder of KATU Television.
- Since his election to the legislature in 2000, Mark has served on three separate task forces and special committees to study Oregon's tax system. In 2003, he served with former Gov. Vic Atiyeh, who chaired the panel.

## **Legislative Accomplishments**

### **2001**

HB2421 Signed into law by John Kitzhaber; this measure offers tax incentives for businesses that provide college scholarship programs for their employees. It is administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, where it is known as the "Hass Scholarship Law."

### **2001**

HB3300(Co-sponsor) Signed into law by John Kitzhaber; the referenced based formulary drug bill, as it was known, sought to reduce costs for the Oregon Health Plan. As a co-sponsor, Mark helped shepherd it through his committees and into state law. It has saved millions in prescription drug costs for Oregon taxpayers.

### **2003**

HB2449 Signed into law by Ted Kulongoski; protections for Oregon seniors are stronger today because of this law which raised the penalties for those who prey on elders. The law was prompted by Washington County attorneys who needed more tools to protect seniors in our community. The measure also tripled civil damages that may be sought against unscrupulous insurance vendors and others who victimize senior citizens.

### **2005**

HB2415 Signed into law by Ted Kulongoski; another elder abuse law, this one prohibits abusers from sharing inheritance proceeds from their victims. It stems from a disturbing elder abuse case in the Garden Home neighborhood.

### **2005**

HB3449 Signed into law by Ted Kulongoski; Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been saving lives for years. But until last year, they were not available in Oregon schools or in most public buildings. This legislation removes liability issues and opens the school doors so that they can be used to prevent tragedies like the 2001 heart event that took the life of seven year old Graeme Jones of Beaverton.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Transportation**

Oregon's gasoline tax has increased since 1993, even with a 40 percent jump in population during that time. This has left our counties scrambling to deal with growth and meet their own economic goals. He is hoping the SB 566 study passed in 2007 will set the stage for a major statewide transportation package. This package should include identifiable deliverables so that the public understands what it is buying. It should also include an economic filter to evaluate return on investment.

### **Tax Reform**

No other state is as dependent on one single tax as Oregon is with its income tax. Oregon brings in too much money in the good times and not enough in the bad times. It's in the bad times that our state has a train wreck. Mark served during those times and it is what drives him to change the system in a way that reinstates fairness and stability to our tax code.

### **Willamette River Clean up**

Mark teamed with former legislator Charlie Ringo in 2003 and 2005 to sponsor legislation a series of pollution clean-up efforts for the Willamette. The biggest challenge seems to about funding the Department of Environmental Quality so that its own rules are enforced. One way to attack pollution in the Willamette is to uniformly clean up basins that drain into it, including the Tualatin River.



# Hass is Democrats' pick to replace Deckert

by The Oregonian

Wednesday October 31, 2007

## If selected, the ex-lawmaker wants to work on tax reform and transportation funding

Democrats from Washington County -- and one from Multnomah County - have chosen former legislator Mark Hass as their clear preference to replace state Sen. Ryan Deckert.

More than 50 precinct committee members gathered Monday night in Aloha and gave Hass 12,905 votes; Mike Bohan, an Aloha teacher, 6,746 votes; Betty Bode, a Beaverton city councilor, 4,662 votes; and Shantu Shah, a previous candidate for public office, 839 votes.

Hass, 50, served three terms in the House representing Raleigh Hills. Besides possibly finishing Deckert's term, Hass has officially filed to run for the District 14 seat in the 2008 primary.

He said he wants to get back to work on tax reform, transportation funding and cleaning up the Willamette River.

"Those three issues constitute unfinished business in my eyes and that's why I'm running," he said.

By state law, when a legislator leaves midterm, the party must choose three to five candidates. The names are forwarded to the county commissioners in the affected district. Commissioners from Washington and Multnomah counties will choose Deckert's replacement, with their votes weighted by the number of district Democrats in each county.

The commissioners expect to make their pick in late November, said Philip Bransford, a Washington County spokesman. Despite the support for Hass, other members of the slate said Tuesday they haven't ruled out running in the 2008 primary if they aren't chosen by the commissioners.

"Still looking at that, yeah," said Bode, 60, who was first elected to the Beaverton City Council in 2002 and re-elected in November 2006.

"Possibly," said Shah, 66, a retired electrical engineer who lives in Raleigh Hills. He has run multiple times for public office, including challenging U.S. Rep. David Wu in 2006.

Bohan, 55, of Beaverton said he probably would not run. "I don't believe in challenging a sitting Democrat unless there's some overwhelming

reason," he said. A former systems engineer, he now teaches math at Aloha High School. Former chairman of the Washington County Democrats and current chairman of the 1st Congressional District Democrats, Bohan ran unsuccessfully for state representative in 1990 and 2006.

Senate District 14 covers parts of Beaverton, Aloha and Raleigh Hills. As of Monday, there were 23,896 registered Democrats in the district in Washington County and 1,339 registered Democrats in the district in Multnomah County.

Deckert left his Senate seat this fall to become president of the Oregon Business Association.

Although the Democrats had to endorse a slate, it's not surprising they marked Hass as their clear favorite, said Jim Moore, a political science instructor at Pacific University in Forest Grove. Hass has the political experience, has filed to run and can cash in on his name and face recognition from his days as a TV newsman, Moore said.

Of course, the commissioners could do something completely unexpected, he said.

"It's now totally up to the commissioners," Moore said. "They could pick anybody. They could reject the entire slate."

-- Kathleen Gorman; [kathleengorman@news.oregonian.com](mailto:kathleengorman@news.oregonian.com)



RYAN DECKERT  
State Senator  
District 14  
Washington County

August 20, 2007

Mark Hass  
6390 SW Richey Lane  
Portland, OR 97223

Dear Mark,

Congratulations on your decision to run for the Oregon Senate.

As I prepare for my new assignment in life with the Oregon Business Association, I have been anxious about finding someone to fill this seat who shares our values about education, revenue reform and good government.

I can't think of a better person for this job than Mark Hass.

During your three terms in the Oregon House of Representatives, you got defibrillators in Oregon schools, created the "Hass Scholarship" that helps put more kids into college, and you expanded our elder abuse protections in state law.

Plus, your service came during a deep recession in Oregon. That experience is important as we look at changing our tax code in a way that buffers the state from the inevitable downturns,

Your genuine desire to help others is obvious and it will be obvious to voters in 2008.

Mark, it has been an honor to represent the Beaverton area in the Oregon Senate these past years, an experience I hope you will discover. You would make an excellent State Senator and I will fully support you in your return to Oregon politics with your run for Senate District 14 in 2008.

Please let me know if there is any way I can help you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Ryan Deckert



# TOBIASREAD

*for State Representative*

August 20, 2007

Mark Hass  
6390 SW Richey Lane  
Portland, Oregon 97223

Dear Mark,

Please accept my congratulations and gratitude for entering the race for Oregon's Senate. Your wisdom and experience are sorely needed at this crossroads for our wonderful state.

When I began my campaign for the Oregon House I was convinced we needed to return to our traditions of creativity and innovation. I'm even more convinced of that need today. We've begun that journey, but we continue to need more creativity and more innovative thinking from our legislators.

I know more now about the challenges we face as a state, and I have a deeper appreciation for the talents that we need from our elected leaders. In an era dominated by sound bites instead of sound policy, your thoughtful and collaborative style is well suited for Salem and for the state. We will be well served by your return to the Capitol.

I must also say how much I'm struck by your quiet confidence and the sense that you know what you stand for but also understand that leadership is not measured solely by volume, but by effectiveness. You've proven your effectiveness and you managed to do it while maintaining a sense of humor and a sense of history.

Please share my thanks with your family too. You and I both know that public service is truly a family undertaking, and I appreciate their willingness to share you with the rest of Oregon.

As your campaign accelerates, please know that you have my full support, and that Heidi and I stand ready to do whatever we can to help. I look forward to serving with you in the Oregon legislature.

Best,



RUN MARK RUN!

Tobias Read

Friends of Tobias Read | PO Box 2101 | Beaverton, OR 97075 | 503.672.7323 | [contact@tobiasread.com](mailto:contact@tobiasread.com)

[WWW.TOBIASREAD.COM](http://WWW.TOBIASREAD.COM)



**REP. JEFF BARKER**  
**House District 28**

August 23, 2007

Mark Hass  
6390 SW Richey Lane  
Portland, OR 97223

Dear Mark:

Thank you for offering yourself as a candidate for the Oregon State Senate. I appreciate your willingness to put the needs of the people of Oregon ahead of your own. Public service means personal sacrifice.

As a former three-term Representative in the Oregon House, you understand the complex problems facing Oregonians. You consistently showed your commitment to finding solutions, even when the work is difficult or unpopular. The residents of Senate District 14 need your experience, thoughtfulness and work ethic on their side in Salem.

Your strong ties to our community show you understand the values that we all share: honesty, hard work, and community service.

You have my unequivocal support in this campaign and I am standing by to help in any way I can.

I look forward to seeing you again in Salem. Your level-headed decision-making will be a great boon to the Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Barker". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Jeff" and the last name "Barker" clearly legible.

Rep. Jeff Barker  
House District 28



# The Oregonian

## Why save? There's not a drop of rain in sight

While other states are rebuilding their rainy-day funds, Oregon is preparing to kick back a record \$1.3 billion

Mark Hass, a Beaverton Democrat who will leave the Legislature at year's end, served through good times and the five special sessions when Oregon's tax revenue collapsed and it became the only state in the nation to shut down many of its schools early.

In his last meeting in the Capitol on Thursday, Hass listened as state economists described how tax revenues are flooding into the state, but that the only-in-Oregon kicker law requires the state to send a record \$1.3 billion rebate to corporate and personal taxpayers. As it stands, Oregon won't save a dime of the money.

When Hass finally spoke, he described a farmer who never gets around to fixing the leaky roof in his barn. "He can't fix it in the winter because it's raining," Hass said. "And he doesn't fix it in the summer because it's not leaking."

Oregon is that farmer.

It never seems to be the right time to begin building the rainy-day fund that is desperately needed in a state with the nation's most volatile system of public finance. It is never the right time to truly confront the state's over-reliance on income and capital gains taxes, which deter investment. It is never the right time to lead the way and persuade Oregonians to change their dumb and damaging kicker law.

What is Oregon waiting for? It's seen rain. It was only five years ago that this state watched its revenue collapse faster and deeper than any other state. It was Oregon that became known far and wide as a place that couldn't keep its schools open, or provide life-and-death medications to its poorest citizens, even during what was widely considered to be a mild recession.

Now, of course, there's not a cloud in the sky. What, Oregon worry? Instead of building a rainy-day fund with the revenue that has poured into state coffers, its kicker law requires the state to send personal taxpayers more than \$1 billion next year, and give mostly out-of-state corporations a 61 percent tax cut, to the tune of \$238 million. No state has ever given back more tax money in a single rebate.

That makes no fiscal sense. None. Look around. Every other state in the union is using these good times to sock away money in rainy-day funds or make investments that will strengthen their education systems and better position them when the economy slumps again.

But not this one. Not the very state with the most volatile tax system, the one that closed its schools, kicked tens of thousands off its health plan and laid off so many of its state police that a moviemaker decided that this was the place to come to mock the lack of homeland security on the West Coast.

On Thursday, more than a dozen lawmakers sat at a meeting of the House and Senate revenue committees to hear the latest economic forecast, and see that the expected kickers had ballooned to \$1.3 billion. Hass, the departing lawmaker, was the only one who said out loud that the money should instead be saved in a rainy-day fund.

There is a huge failure of leadership in Oregon on this issue, from Gov. Ted Kulongoski on down. Kulongoski once proposed suspending the personal kicker for several years and building a rainy-day fund, but he's since run from that idea. His Republican opponent, Ron Saxton, says he supports a rainy-day fund and is open to changing the corporate kicker, but wants to use it as a bargaining chip and trade it for cuts in capital gains or estate taxes.

In fact, neither of them has the courage to look Oregonians in the eye and tell them that next year they can have \$1.3 billion in kicker checks, or a substantial rainy-day fund, but not both.

Instead, we keep hearing them and other elected officials and candidates pledge to have a "conversation" with voters and corporate leaders about the kicker. That has become one of the lamest and most meaningless positions in Oregon politics.

These "conversations" never go anywhere. Our leaky roof never gets fixed.

Now it's an election year.

And, of course, there's not a cloud in the Oregon sky.