

Oregon State Legislature: Dave McCall hopes to unseat Bill Post to represent Keizer area

Natalie Pate, Salem Statesman Journal | Published 6:00 a.m. PT Oct. 12, 2018 | Updated 11:17 a.m. PT Oct. 12, 2018



(Photo: Statesman Journal)

A previous version of this story incorrectly stated funding for Dave McCall's campaign. The Keizer Chamber of Commerce did not contribute to the campaign.

Dave McCall and Bill Post are almost the same age, they were both born in California and they both want strong representation for their Keizer-area community in the Oregon State Legislature.

But Democratic challenger [McCall](https://friendsofdavemccall.nationbuilder.com/) (<https://friendsofdavemccall.nationbuilder.com/>) believes he can do a better job than Republican incumbent Post at serving the constituents of House District 25.

[Post](http://billpost.us/about/) (<http://billpost.us/about/>) has represented the 25th district — which includes Keizer, St. Paul, Newberg and parts of rural Marion and Yamhill counties — in the Oregon House for two terms.

As of Thursday, Oct. 11, Post's campaign had received about \$50,288 in contributions, according to [campaign finance filings](https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/publicAccountSummary.do?filerId=16583) (<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/publicAccountSummary.do?filerId=16583>).

Nearly 100 individual donors have given donations ranging from \$15-\$1,000, the biggest of which are from Ken Austin of Newberg at \$1,000, Rich Duncan of Keizer at \$500 and Dick Withnell of Salem at \$500.

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The Oregon Right to Life PAC, Oregonians for Affordable Housing, Oregon Realtors Association and the Oregon Farm Bureau Political Action Committee are among the list of donors for Post's campaign.

He's also received out-of-state contributions from pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies including PhRMA, Monsanto and Alkermes.

If re-elected, he said he wants to complete some "unfinished business" and work on more agricultural legislation for the rural areas he represents.

"One thing I've learned, one term is not enough," Post told the Statesman Journal. "You barely figure out where the meeting rooms are."

MORE: [Gov. Kate Brown, Rep. Knute Buehler split on education strategies \(/story/news/politics/2018/09/13/oregon-education-knute-buehler-kate-brown-governor-candidates/1185292002/\)](https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/politics/2018/09/13/oregon-education-knute-buehler-kate-brown-governor-candidates/1185292002/)

McCall said Post does a good job of listening to and speaking with his constituents but argues he hasn't done anything to actually help them. He went so far as to say he doesn't understand why people are paying Post to sit and do nothing, critiquing Post's "No bills, Bill" motto.

"He's just sitting in a seat," McCall said. "We can have an automatic robot just push a 'no' button."

Though McCall has never held an elected position, he believes he can provide more "effective representation" and said he would focus on education funding, clean energy and strengthening local businesses if elected.

As of Thursday, McCall's campaign had received about \$13,784 in contributions, according to [filings \(https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/publicAccountSummary.do?filerId=18997\)](https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/publicAccountSummary.do?filerId=18997).

The vast majority is coming from McCall himself. Records show he gave \$3,500 to his campaign and also loaned it an additional \$7,600.

McCall has received a series of contributions at \$100 and under. He hasn't received any out-of-state money.

McCall focuses on business, ed, energy

McCall has lived in Keizer for 20 years. Originally from California, he made the jump from Redding to Salem in 1996 when he began working for an Oregon armored car service.

He stayed with the company until his position was eliminated in 2012 due to a change of company ownership. McCall then decided to go back to school and began earning a bachelor's degree in political science from Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

It wasn't until April of last year that he decided to run for elected office.

McCall said he didn't like "what had been happening (in) the 25th district," referring to Post's representation, or, as he said, the "lack of it."

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State Rep. candidate Dave McCall, for House District 25 in Keizer. Photographed at the Statesman Journal in Salem on Monday, Oct. 8, 2018. (Photo: MICHAELA ROMÁN / Statesman Journal)

One of McCall's largest issues with Post's leadership centers around the way Post handled concerns brought to his attention before a public forum last year.

McCall claimed Post was not able to provide answers to questions about the state budget and transportation package being discussed at the time.

"This tells me he's lazy or he's just not willing to research answers," McCall said. "He blames others for failures."

In response, Post said he has clearly expressed the reasons he's voted the way he has, including when voting 'no' on the transportation package and 'no' on multiple budget bills last year.

When it comes to communicating these things to constituents, he added that he sends out a letter right after each session to all voters in the district with a summary of the session.

That goes out in addition to his social media posts and YouTube videos, monthly columns in local newspapers and his monthly newsletter from the Capitol and one from his campaign.

Post has vocalized his values on limited government, saying on his [campaign website \(http://billpost.us/values/\)](http://billpost.us/values/), he wants there to be "less lawmakers and more law reducers."

"I am not in office to create more laws but to keep those in the Oregon Legislature on the task that they have: create a budget and go home," Post wrote. "Best case scenario, reduce the number of laws they have created over the last 20 years."

McCall said a good representative does more than just vote; they're also the conduit between the citizens of a district and what the government is doing.

"They're like an information officer or central clearinghouse of information," he said.

In response, Post refers voters to the [Oregon State Legislature's information system \(https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/\)](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/), or OLIS, to see the bills he's introduced. In the [2018 regular session \(https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2018R1/2018-02-05#\)](https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2018R1/2018-02-05#), Post was the chief sponsor on two bills and a sponsor on another dozen.

If elected, McCall plans to focus on three key issues — education funding, supporting small businesses and clean energy.

For education, he'd like to "find a better way of funding our schools," saying the current state of education is unacceptable and it's the state's duty to provide higher-quality education.

"We can pour money into it when there's a crisis, but if you don't do anything to alleviate the causes of the crisis, it's just gonna continue a few years down the road," he said.

For businesses, McCall wants to work on preventing large, national businesses from coming in and "crushing" small, 'ma and pop' shops. He'd like to relieve what burdens they can from small businesses so they can compete with companies with far more resources, he said.

"They're our bread and butter," he said. "Let's help them thrive."

For clean energy, he wants Oregon to invest in renewable sources of energy, including wind, solar and wave energy.

"It would create more high-paying jobs, create a clean environment and create revenue we could desperately use in things like our schools and infrastructure," he said. "That's a win-win-win."

As for statewide measures on the November ballot, McCall does not support ballot measures 103-106, which include the so-called sanctuary removal measure 105 and measure 106, which would restrict public dollars used to pay for certain abortions.

He does, however, support measure 102, which would lift a state constitutional ban on ownership of affordable housing units using municipal bonds for construction.

MORE: [Should Oregon taxpayers' money be used for abortions? \(/story/news/politics/2018/10/09/oregon-election-ballot-measure-106-taxpayer-money-abortion/1436937002/\)](https://www.oregonlive.com/news/politics/2018/10/09/oregon-election-ballot-measure-106-taxpayer-money-abortion/1436937002/)

Post wants to complete unfinished business, focus on ag

Post moved to Oregon from Southern California in the summer of 1970, when he was 9 years old.

Though he wasn't born here, Post considers himself an Oregonian, sharing the same deep love for the state that his father and grandparents did before him.

"It's one of the greatest places on God's green earth," Post said.

Post has lived all over the state, as well as Hawaii, throughout his childhood and adult life. He earned his bachelor's degree in history from Southern Oregon State College and has more than 35 years of broadcast-related experience from his radio career.

In addition to the [two terms \(https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/post\)](https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/post) as State Representative for House District 25, Post has also served one term as the Vice Chair of Congressional District 5 for the Oregon Republican Party. He currently sits on the economic development and trade, judiciary, and veterans and emergency preparedness interim committees for the House.



Bill Post (Photo: Statesman Journal file, Statesman Journal file)

Post got into politics when then-House Rep. Kim Thatcher, R-Keizer, ran for Senate in 2014 and the party reached out to him. They asked, "Are you ready to put your money where your mouth is?"

"That was pretty hard to say no to," Post said. "It's one thing to be on the radio and blah, blah, blah all day long, it's another to give up your career and go for the legislature."

Post described Oregon's legislature as unique — "a citizen's legislature." He wants it to stay that way.

And while Post said he doesn't really have any additional political aspirations, he thinks he could do more with more time.

A third term would allow him to work on "unfinished business" from past terms, he said, and to possibly serve on new committees that cover topics he's passionate about.

Post is proud of the work he's done, saying the bills he's successfully seen passed and signed into law so far all removed red tape and restrictions, many of which specifically targeted small businesses and agriculture.

If re-elected, Post would like to take a second run at a [bill he co-sponsored in 2017 \(https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Measures/Overview/HB2128\)](https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Measures/Overview/HB2128) that would allow Sudafed and other Sudafed products to be sold behind the counter, rather than requiring a prescription.

Post said the bill lost momentum after law enforcement and district attorneys spoke against it.

"They were wrong, but not in what they care about," he said. "They remember the bad old days."

But since meth users are now turning to other sources, Post said, he sees the previous laws as only harming Oregon's "most vulnerable people" and "punishing people who don't have money."

MORE: [Bill would require Oregon schools to teach about the Holocaust, other genocides \(https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/education/2018/09/25/bill-oregon-high-schools-teach-holocaust-genocides/1412568002/\)](https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/education/2018/09/25/bill-oregon-high-schools-teach-holocaust-genocides/1412568002/)

Post also wants to propose a guaranteed assistance program that helps people who are falling through the cracks — making a little too much or too little for state assistance but still not able to buy the basics such as food and diapers.

As for state measures on the November ballot, Post's stances are 'yes' across the board for all five.

Issues over tweet

Post's campaign received some heat after he retweeted a meme about Judge Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The tweet included the hashtag "#JusticeBrettKavanaugh" and multiple people argued it was attacking survivors of sexual assault. Post said the tweet has since been removed (<https://twitter.com/BillPostOregon/status/1050240273714827265>) due to the number of violent threats he received.

McCall said he heard from a lot of people after the meme was shared, saying "that's not good for an elected official to behave that way."

"I don't go after people because they disagree with me," McCall said. "I respect my neighbors, I respect the people I live within my community. I see no reason to degrade them."

Post said he posted the meme out of excitement over the confirmation and that it was taken out of context.

"Was the meme funny? Yes. Was it a little 'over the top' like 'kicking dirt on someone who's down already?' Yes." Post said in an email to the Statesman Journal.

"I have consistently pushed for increased penalties for sex trafficking, child porn, sexual assault and more while in office," he wrote. "I am not in any way making fun of abuse victims, that's the furthest thing from my mind."

Contact reporter Natalie Pate at npate@StatesmanJournal.com, 503-399-6745 or follow her on Twitter [@Nataliempate](https://twitter.com/Nataliempate) (<https://www.twitter.com/nataliempate>) or Facebook at www.facebook.com/nataliepatejournalist (<https://www.facebook.com/nataliepatejournalist>).

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House District 25

Bill Post

Party: Republican

Age: 57

Occupation: Media consultant/broadcaster, Legislator

Work experience: Over 35 years of broadcast-related experience

Political experience: One term as Vice Chair of Congressional District 5 for the Oregon Republican Party and two terms as State Representative for House District 25

Education: Bachelor of Science in History from Southern Oregon State College

Family: Wife and one adult son

Campaign cash on hand: \$19,269.39 as of Oct. 11

Website: www.billpost.us (<http://billpost.us/>)

Campaign contact: Email repbill@billpost.us or call 971-273-7990

Dave McCall

Party: Democrat

Age: 56

Occupation: Retired

Work experience: Manager, armed security professional

Political experience: None/first campaign

Education: Associate of Arts in administration of justice, Shasta College. Study political science at Western Oregon University.

Family: Mother in Salem

Campaign cash on hand: \$487.71 as of Oct. 11

Website: [Friendsofdavemccall.com](https://friendsofdavemccall.com) (<https://friendsofdavemccall.nationbuilder.com/>)

Other campaign contact info: Email davidnmccall@gmail.com

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