

# Bob- The Man for....

Robert Straub's political career began in 1954 with his election to the Lane County Board of Commissioners.

This stamp was used during his campaign in 1954 in Lane County.

Being a Commissioner in Lane County gave him substantial support to pursue a seat in the Oregon legislature. In 1959 Straub was elected to the Oregon Senate. He served there until 1963. While in the state senate he became an advocate for better management of Oregon's natural resources. His efforts at promoting conservation and preservation of public lands are still appreciated to this day. He was an adamant supporter of the Oregon Beach Bill, and also of the Willamette Greenway Plan, which opened much of the Willamette River up to the public while curbing pollution.

Later, he was persuaded to run for State Treasurer in Oregon. He was elected in 1964 and served two full terms. One of the major achievements during that time was the creation of the Oregon Investment Council. OIC invested public retirement funds in the stock market and has earned the state of Oregon billions in revenue. Through his decisions at managing state dollars, he became widely celebrated for his fiscal conservatism.

Today, he is still the only person in Oregon history to have been nominated by his political party four times to run for Oregon's highest elected office. As State Treasurer he ran in 1966, and 1970 against Tom McCall. 1974 was Bob's chance. He was "The Man for Governor" according to his campaign slogan. He won with the greatest margin in Oregon history at the time.

He believed in individuals, not political parties, when selecting people to serve in his executive cabinet. He appointed more women, more minorities, and more persons with disabilities to head departments and agencies than any governor before him.

He consolidated and restructured where it was needed in departments like the Department of Human Services. Above all else, he kept up his work at preservation and conservation by blocking the proposed Mt. Hood Freeway, and instead helped groups petition for federal grant dollars to be put towards a light rail system in Portland.

In four years, his administration had done much and he was gearing up to mount his fourth and final campaign for governor of Oregon.

The times were changing, campaigns were changing. A foreshadow of 1980 would take place during the campaign of 1978. The economy was down, inflation was rising. Bob Straub would go on to face State Senator Vic Atiyeh again, only this time Atiyeh would have the better hand and defeat the incumbent governor.

After this last race, Bob retired from public service and enjoyed spending time with his family. In the 1990s he revealed that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, to help raise public awareness.

He passed away due to complications from Alzheimer's in November of 2002.