

# Many Oregon colleges to require COVID-19 boosters

By MEERAH POWELL  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

PORTLAND — The University of Portland announced Tuesday, Jan. 4, that it will require COVID-19 booster shots for students, staff and faculty.

The Portland university joins other schools that have made the shift to requiring boosters in the past few weeks including the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Southern Oregon University.

Other private institutions such as Willamette University, Lewis & Clark College and Pacific University have booster requirements.

Along with the booster requirement, the University of Portland will also start the first week of its new term online as an additional precaution against COVID-19 spread.

Eastern Oregon University officials have not instituted COVID-19 booster shot requirements.

“Our current vaccination requirement does not include boosters,” Tim Seydel, EOU’s vice president for university advancement, said Tuesday, Jan. 4. “We are evaluating the use of boosters and reviewing recommendations from the CDC, OHA and public health officials.”

The school instituted a vaccination mandate in October that requires all of EOU’s on-campus staff and students to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or to have an approved exemption.

# Kristof: Intent should dictate residency ruling

Governor hopeful has been voting in New York

By JIM REDDEN  
Oregon Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — Lawyers for former New York Times columnist Nick Kristof have submitted a 15-page letter to the Oregon Secretary of State’s Office asserting Kristof is legally qualified to run for governor this year.

The office, which regulates elections in the state, is questioning Kristof’s qualifications, in large part because he registered to vote in New York while working at the Times. The Oregon Constitution requires that candidates for governor be a resident of the state for at least three years before their election, or no later than November 2019 in Kristof’s case.

“Mr. Kristof is an Oregon resident and has been for his entire adult life,” said the letter from Misha Isaak and Jeremy Carp, of the Perkins Coie law firm, dated Monday, Jan. 3. Among other things, the letter cited a 1974 Marion County Circuit Court case that found where a candidate votes does not determine residency. The Portland Tribune first reported on the case on Dec. 28, 2021.

Kristof filed as a Democrat for governor on Dec. 20. The next day an election compliance specialist sent him a letter that said, in part, “We typically determine whether candidates meet residency requirements by checking their voter registration records, but your Oregon voter registration record has insufficient information. In addition, it has come to our attention that



Kristyna Wentz-Graff/Oregon Public Broadcasting, File  
**Nick Kristof speaks with the media, answering questions about his campaign for Oregon governor, on Oct. 27, 2021, at the First Presbyterian Church of Portland.**

you voted in New York State as recently as 2020.”

In their response, Isaak and Carp noted that many people have multiple residences, sometimes in different states, but that Kristof has always considered Oregon his home, even when going to college or working out of state. Among other things, the letter said Kristof has returned to his family farm in Yamhill every summer over the past three decades, built an addition large enough for his growing family there in 1994, and purchased three nearby parcels of land between 1993 and 2020. The letter said Kristof also has called Oregon his home in numerous columns and interviews

beginning in 1982.

According to the letter, there has been only one Oregon court case that considered the question of whether voter registration determines residency. It took place in 1974 after former Oregon Secretary of State Clay Myers ruled then-Clatsop County state Rep. Bill Wyatt off the ballot because he had registered to vote in Lane County while attending the University of Oregon in Eugene. Wyatt challenged the decision in court.

Marion County Judge Jena Schlegel disagreed with Myers, ruling that “the question of domicile is largely one of intent” and Wyatt “by his testimony maintained his ties

with Clatsop County and never made an affirmative decision to change his domicile elsewhere. Continuous physical presence (within the district) is not required.”

Myers did not appeal the ruling.

“Thus, today, the Marion County Circuit Court decision is the only judicial decision to address the significance of registration and voting in evaluating an Oregon candidate’s residency. That decision squarely resolves the issue in favor of Mr. Kristof’s position,” the letter reads.

In their letter, Isaak and Carp also said that residency requirements are historically rooted in racism, especially in Oregon: “They applied originally both to voting and serving in elected

office and were adopted by powerful white elites to keep themselves in power and to exclude from political participation people of color, ‘foreigners,’ and other disempowered newcomers.”

Also included in the letter was an independent opinion from retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice R. William Riggs that Kristof is qualified to run for governor.

Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan must now decide whether to keep Kristof’s name off the May 17 primary election ballot. If she does, Kristof’s lawyers likely will file a legal challenge, just as Wyatt did 47 years ago.

Kristof already has raised more than \$2.5 million from more than 5,500 donors.

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