

OUR VIEW

Kristof should focus on 2026

It is time for potential gubernatorial candidate Nick Kristof to abandon his attempt to be placed on the 2022 ballot and set his sights on the next election.

Last week, Kristof, a former New York Times columnist, filed a petition with the Oregon Supreme Court, seeking the justices overturn a decision by Secretary of State Shemia Fagan that he didn't meet the requirements to be on the ballot.

State election officials determined Kristof did not meet the requirement that a candidate must be a resident for three years in the state to run for governor.

Kristof failed to meet the state requirement in other ways, state election officials determined. He voted in New York — where he owns a home — in the November 2020 general election, kept a New York driver's license through December 2020 and paid state taxes past the deadline for a 2022 gubernatorial candidate to create residency in Oregon.

Kristof does own a home in Yamhill, and he's stated he has always considered Oregon his home. But Kristof has spent most of his time in New York — or abroad as part of his work for the Times — and couldn't put together a convincing enough argument to Fagan or election officials to grant him the opportunity to run for governor.

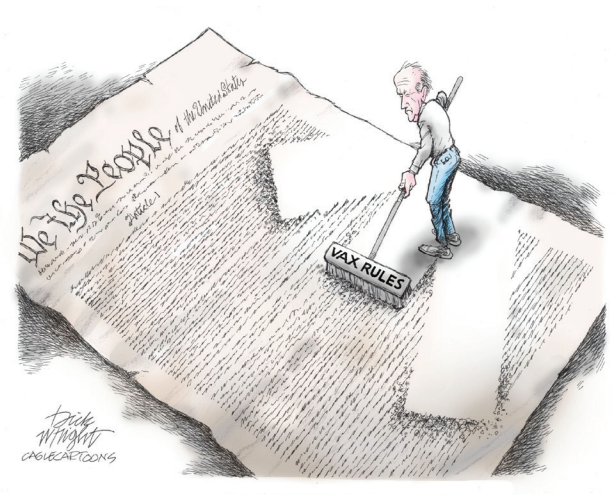
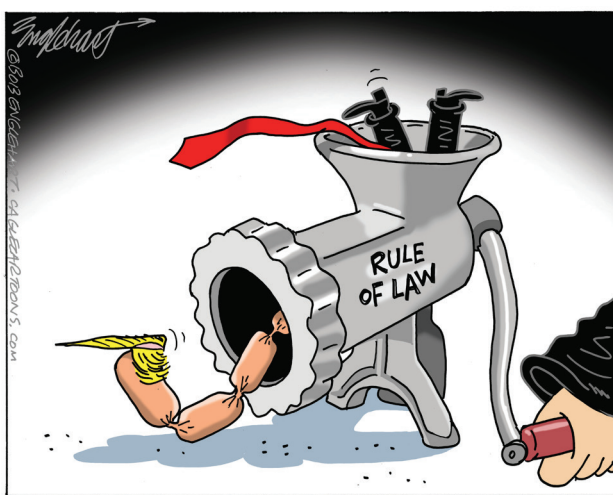
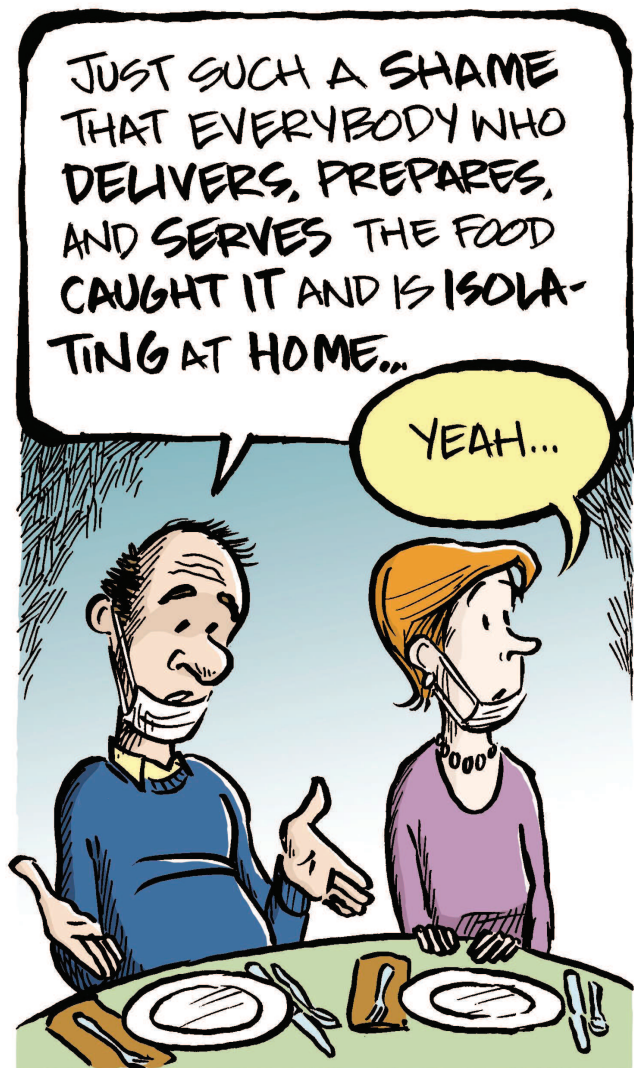
Kristof's legal team asserts that Fagan's move was based on a "novel and untested legal theory" that the former columnist doesn't meet the state residence standard.

Last week, Fagan said members of the state Elections Division told her disqualifying Kristof "wasn't even a close call."

Clearly any voter can and should utilize the legal system to redress a grievance, but it is hard to understand what someone who has not lived in the state long enough to be qualified to run for governor is trying to accomplish. Of course, the easy and obvious answer is Kristof wants on the ballot. That's understandable. Visiting during the summers, though, doesn't count as residency. Swinging into home for a few days or a week doesn't qualify either.

Kristof deserves a lot of credit for his determination and his willingness to be part of the electoral process. Especially in the current American political climate, anyone who chooses to run for office should be lauded.

However, it is time to move on. Kristof should set his sights on the next gubernatorial election and put down firm roots in Oregon.



YOUR VIEWS

Idaho Power continues bullying Oregon property owners

Idaho Power is continuing their bullying of Oregon landowners. The law does not allow a utility to force landowners to enter their property absent a Certificate of Public Convenience, which would allow them to have the court condemn the property to build a transmission line.

The company cannot get a Certificate of Public Convenience until the Oregon Department of Energy issues a final Site Certificate. This has not occurred, and there are multiple contested cases ongoing regarding the transmission line that need to be resolved prior to issuing a Site Certificate.

Stop B2H and numerous private citizens have active contested cases, many of which will likely go to the Oregon Supreme Court for final resolution. The issues are multiple, including a failure to adequately address wildfire risk and invasive weeds, impacts to the Oregon Trail, noise above safe noise standards, impacts to threatened and endangered fish, impacts to wells and springs, and the list goes on and on.

Since day one this out-of-state utility has advertised and told property owners that this transmission line is a "done deal" and there is no point in fighting it. Idaho Power has misled and misinformed citizens to get them to accommodate its demands. Eastern Oregon is not filled with a bunch of sheep that will just bow down and allow themselves to be run over by this out-of-state utility.

Idaho Power is in it for the profit the utility users will be forced to pay

for the development of this unnecessary transmission line. We are in it to protect our environment and quality of life. They have money, but we have heart, and the fight continues.

Irene Gilbert
La Grande

Green energy or greenbacks?

I found the article concerning test drilling for Lithium in Oregon very interesting ("Test drilling OK'd for proposed lithium mine," Dec. 23 edition). Especially given the number of green new deal proposals before Congress. It made me wonder if all these proposals were designed to protect the earth or were there alternative motivating factors.

The Biden administration signed an executive order to strengthen the domestic lithium supply. Oregon Department of Geology and Minerals granted Australian-based company Jindalee Resources a permit to dig 39 test holes. The executive director of Jindalee estimated there could be more than 10 million tons of lithium. At \$15,000 a ton that works out to around \$150 billion from just one mine.

In light of what happened in the Ukraine concerning family members of politicians enriching themselves, I would like to know what politicians own stock in companies dealing in lithium. It appears to be a huge conflict of interest to vote for electric vehicles or renewable energy storage facilities if you own stock in the production and mining of lithium.

Since domestic production of lithium in the United States makes up only 1% of the world supply of lithium, this mine could be a cash

cow for the investor. It just seems the push for green energy may be motivated by a push for greenbacks. I think all politicians should declare if they own any lithium stock in advance of any vote concerning green energy proposals. Just my thoughts.

Joe Mesteth
Hermiston

Fire-prevention logging on MERA will reduce chances of catastrophe

Thank you, Union County Commissioners, for having the integrity to move forward with the restoration and management of MERA.

There appears to be a few folks making a lot of noise about the cleanup and fire-prevention logging that is planned for this area. I applaud the folks involved in the decision making to move forward and reduce the chances of a catastrophic fire in this area. They used the available science and knowledge to do what is best for the land.

Without this courage, this area will eventually burn, causing untold damage to the numerous homes along the base of Mount Emily, polluting our air and leaving the area useless for years to come. Just look at the fires in Western Oregon over the last few years, and go back a few before that and look at parts of Montana and Northern Idaho. This area is ripe for a large fire. Hopefully this will be enough to protect the homes of most of the folks who are complaining the loudest.

Joel Hasse
La Grande

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