

Trump wins Electoral College, Oregon objects

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon's seven Electoral College members cast their votes Monday morning at the Oregon State Capitol for Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Frank J. Dixon, an elector and chairman of the Democratic Party of Oregon, said during Monday's vote on the Oregon Senate floor that he spoke for all the electors when he voiced objection to the electoral process.

"I just want to, on behalf of the entire elector group here today, object to this process to preserve the record to allow further inquiry of the electoral process given the interference by the Russian government in our election process," Dixon said.

Amid cheering from the gallery, Atkins called public attendees to order.

Dixon then added: "And to preserve for the record our objection, this process does not honor the principle of one person, one vote."

The Constitution

Under the U.S. Constitution, the winner of the presidential election is the candidate who wins the majority of electoral votes, not the winner of the popular vote. Each state has a number of electors that corresponds to the number of members in its Congressional delegation, and it is those electors who are chosen by the popular vote.

Generally, the winner of the popular vote in any state is awarded all of the state's electors. All of Oregon's seven votes went to Clinton.

Groups gathered in state capitols across the country Monday to urge Republican Party electors to not cast votes for Donald J. Trump, who finished with 304 votes to Clinton's 227, but lost the popular vote Nov. 8 by about 2 million votes. That effort



Anna Reed/Statesman-Journal

Electoral college members and Oregon Secretary of State Jeane Atkins, third from front left, stand for a photo at the state Capitol in Salem Monday. All seven of Oregon's presidential electoral votes went to Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.



LEFT: Protesters rallied at the Oregon State Capitol against the casting of electoral votes Monday for Donald Trump, the winner of the majority of electoral votes nationwide on Nov. 8. Oregon's seven electoral votes were cast for Hillary Clinton, who won the popular vote in Oregon. Leon Coleman, 86, of Beaverton, one of the state's electors, holds up his oath of office certificate after Monday's electoral college vote in the Oregon Capitol.



Photos by Claire Withycombe/EO Media Group

was largely unsuccessful, with only two Texas electors bolting Trump. Four electors in Washington and four in the District of Columbia pledged

to Clinton voted instead for other candidates.

Democrats and others on the left have since criticized the Electoral College system, saying it undermines the principle of one vote for each individual and that the system, laid out by the U.S. Constitution, is antiquated.

Atkins said this year's election was "historic"

'Historic'

In remarks before votes were cast, Oregon Secretary of State Jeane Atkins said this year's election was "historic"

and that the election process came under "unprecedented challenge and criticism."

"This has continued into the post-election period," Atkins said. "The nation has been roiled by a significantly greater debate than usual over the appropriateness of the Electoral College process in our modern age and over the obligations of those chosen as electors."

Atkins voiced confidence in the state's voting system and Oregon's election results.

Dixon said after the ceremony that he and the party intended to "get their foot in the door" to preserve the possibility of further inquiry when it came to possible Russian interference in the election, and to take a closer look at "legal issues involved" in the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection clause.

"I'm not a Constitutional scholar," Dixon said. "I don't know what the outcome would be of any legal challenge, but it's simply, if we can preserve the record rather than remaining silent, and just say, state our objection, it may be a way to allow further inquiry ... it's nothing more than that at this stage."

Despite Trump's likely victory and the Democratic Party of Oregon's objections, Dixon said that he hoped that he and his fellow electors were "preserving democracy" by participating in the Electoral College process.

"... We're, hopefully, preserving democracy by following in the requirements of the Constitution, what we pledged to do," Dixon said. "I think there's a purpose in and of itself, to participate."

Protesters stood outside the Oregon Capitol before the ceremony holding signs and singing songs.

Martha Perkins, who came up to Salem for the protest from Corvallis, said she was aware that Oregon's electors pledged to vote for Hillary Clinton, but that she was there at the Capitol as an act of "national solidarity."

Warrenton: 'It's kind of heartbreaking'

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Mike Moha, financial manager for Warrenton-Hammond School District, estimated at least \$15,000 was gathered between toys and cash donations.

Donations streamed in from individuals, businesses, churches, nonprofits, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program and others. One notable was Lily Duncan, a 10-year-old from a local U.S. Coast Guard family who held a hot chocolate and cookie stand fundraiser for Warrenton's toy drive instead of her birthday party.

Morrow said Astoria Wishing Tree's Coordinator Barbara Roberts taught her how to manage such a toy drive, while donating two pallets of books.

Of the 120 families seeking gifts for Christmas, Morrow said 80 were taken. With piles of leftover donated toys at Warrenton Grade School and more than \$3,500 in cash donations, Morrow said the group will shop for the rest. Morrow said the leftover toys will be available for teachers needing classroom prizes, and for future toy drives.

Christmas of necessity

Jenna Allen, a teacher at the grade school, was among the donors surprised by some families asking for toiletries, food or other basic living needs.

"It's kind of heartbreaking when that's their Christmas list," she said. "There's no toys, just necessities."

Allen's class adopted a family for the toy drive. Her own family adopted a couple more.

Staci Miethe, manager of the Seaside Outlet Center and coach of the Warrenton High School softball team, brought several of her players to wrap presents. Miethe has been adopting families for Christmas for at least 15 years.

"In recent years, more people have been willing to step up and ask for help," Miethe said. The Seaside Outlet Cen-



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Debbie Morrow, head of nonprofit Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids Inc., said the leftover gift donations will be used by teachers as classroom prizes and for future toy drives.

'We had one family ask us not to buy them clothes, because they were living in a car.'

Staci Miethe

manager of the Seaside Outlet Center and coach of the Warrenton High School softball team

ter also adopts families. Miethe said some families ask for consumables such as gift cards instead of objects. "We had one family ask us not to buy them clothes, because they were living in a car."

Asked why she's been adopting families for so long, Miethe said she wants to help kids hold onto the magical aspects of Christmas through the kindness of others. "My hope is that they believe a little longer."

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Raid: More charges could be coming as investigation goes on

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They also found a number of items reported stolen in local thefts and burglaries. The items have been returned to their owners or are in the process of being returned, according to the Sheriff's Office.

In a statement Monday, the Sheriff's Office announced it had arrested five people in connection with the search warrants: Conrad "Gus" Weirup, 37, for second-degree robbery, third-degree assault, unlawful use of a weapon, and for frequenting a place where drugs are used or sold; Clarissa Moore, 28, on a post-prison violation warrant and for frequenting a place where drugs are used or sold; Daniel Greenfield, 28, for second-

degree robbery, third-degree assault and for frequenting a place where drugs are used or sold; Dakota Weirup, 29, for possession of a controlled substance and for frequenting a place where drugs are used or sold; and Duane "DJ" Jeremiah Scovill, 42, for second-degree robbery, third-degree assault, coercion and on a first-degree theft arrest warrant.

More charges could be added as the investigation continues.

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