

# OPINION

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## OUR VIEW

# More pressing issues for Oregon

Of all the issues worthy of Oregon legislators' immediate attention, a narrow tax break for businesses would rank far, far down the list.

Yet that tax break is why Gov. Kate Brown is ordering the Legislature to convene on May 21. Having signed state legislation that takes a potential tax break away from many businesses, Brown now wants to grant one to roughly 9,000 sole proprietorships.

In Pendleton last week, Brown said that she thinks "very strongly that Oregon's small businesses need tax fairness and they need it now. They can't wait until 2019."

The governor, who just happens to be running for re-election this year, recently had a self-realization: "We have an obvious inequity in Oregon's tax system that is prejudiced against thousands of small Oregon businesses, and a simple change can fix it. I'm simply not willing to let these Main Street businesses — entrepreneurs, mom and pops, and start-ups — go through another tax



Molly J. Smith/Statesman-Journal

Gov. Kate Brown spoke to the media after the 2018 legislative session came to an end.

year with unfair tax treatment as compared to their larger competitors."

Thus, Brown wants a one-day special legislative session on May 21, although it might last longer.

That tax break might be worthwhile, although the details have been sketchy. But we wonder why Brown can't let the

tax break wait for the 2019 Legislature, yet she is leaving a slew of more-important issues hanging.

Brown is not calling a special session to make Oregon's unstable tax system better align with the state's economic and educational priorities.

She is not calling a special session to

address our substance-abuse epidemic flowing from opioids, alcohol and other drugs.

She is not calling a special session to confront the well-chronicled deficiencies in the state's child welfare program.

She is not calling a special session to complete needed reforms in the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System.

She is not calling a special session to tackle the widespread shortage of affordable housing across Oregon.

She is not even calling a special session to devise a new, public-supported plan for replacing the nearly obsolete Interstate 5 bridges in Portland.

And she certainly is not calling a special session to address many of the issues that have divided rural and urban Oregon.

Choose any of the above or add your own topic, and it likely would matter more to Oregonians — including legislators and business people — than Brown's plan for a May 21 special session.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Feeding deer is wrong

Did someone fall asleep at the wheel when a photo of a couple feeding deer was included in the May 4 edition? I am fairly certain an ordinance was passed against feeding wildlife, but even if I'm mistaken, it is wrong on so many other levels.

By promoting the feeding of wild animals you are endangering them, because they multiply faster (notice most of the does have twins every year?), which will eventually either lead to nature implementing a disease to control their population, or their predators (cougars) will follow their prey into town (note current cougar sightings), not to mention the greater their number the more likely they will meet with an automobile, also not a good ending.

Next time you are tempted to publish an "oh so cute" picture of people breaking the law, please think twice.

MARY SCHNASE  
Astoria

### Vote Orr for House and Wev for commissioner

Many thanks to all who are working for and to the many candidates who want to provide us with their leadership. We have many to choose in this important primary election. Good democracy happens when we take part in it.

I want John Orr, House District 32, and Pam Wev, Clatsop County Commissioner Position 3, to get elected because they know the issues, are ethical, incredibly smart and are not subsidized by outside money and managers.

They are progressive in wanting to get the best use from the budgets they would have to work within. They understand the real meanings of "fair pay" and "fair play" when decisions need to be made.

Please be the responsible citizen and cast your votes. Ballots are due by May 15 for this primary election.

SARA MEYER  
Astoria

### Vote Kujala, Roscoe for county commissioner

The election for Clatsop County Commission offers voters an important opportunity to elect two people with deep roots in the community, coupled with service and a vision for the future. Mark Kujala, District 1 candidate, and Peter Roscoe, District 2 candidate, both fit that bill.

Mark and Peter have a record of involvement with volunteer groups, local government service and business ownership. We have worked with them, and know how responsible and engaging they are. At this point in their lives they also have the time and expertise to serve the citizens of our districts.

We are casting our vote for Mark Kujala, because we live in District 1. We encourage others to do the same. This will give us a strong voice on the commission. Mark understands how government works, based on years of experience on the Warrenton City Commission and as mayor of Warrenton.

We also encourage voters in District 2 to vote for Peter Roscoe. He knows, and has served our community for many years within government and volunteer organizations. As a



retired business owner, he brings an important perspective to the commission.

MIKE and MARIAN SODERBERG  
Astoria

### Vote Orr for state representative

"Follow the money," as the saying goes, and then vote for John Orr as our next state representative. John's campaign has been funded by small contributions, and supported by people who actually live here.

He remains free to do his own research, and take his own positions for the future of Clatsop County and our voters. He will not be daunted by the pressures of Wall Street timber companies, Portland-based groups, or the fossil fuel companies that want to use the Columbia River as a watery highway to other countries.

John has background in social service issues, having represented children in the court system. He has worked with North Coast land conservancy groups; he's an experienced lawyer and a jazz musician, to boot. He is articulate, and can hold his own. Among those he has worked with, he is known as a man of integrity who likes doing his research, is bright and cares about his community.

John is ready to contribute in this way, and has his political feet securely on our ground. If you haven't voted yet, do so for John Orr.

JAN MITCHELL  
Astoria

### Sullivan doing job she was elected for

We are writing to offer support of our friend and coworker, Clatsop County Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan. We know Kathleen in her role as a dogged, diligent and loyal employee in her full-time job; and have

seen the evidence of these traits in her elected position as county commissioner.

She is a fiery and committed asker of important questions and supporter of causes. Kathleen, we can attest, spends most of her few free hours attending community events, listening to her constituents. She advocates for those in need, and — quite literally — exhaustively researches the best ways in which to achieve the best results.

As taxpaying citizens of this county, we are honored that fellow citizens such as Kathleen Sullivan lend their time and energy to working out the highly technical details of what makes Clatsop County the place in which we love to live.

While we understand every elected official arrives at their position for different reasons, and with different life experience, we believe Commissioner Sullivan is an exemplary commissioner, one willing to ask tough questions when they need to be answered, and to do the work that needs to be done. In short, willing and able to do her job: the job she was elected to do.

SALLY LACKAFF  
ERIN HULTI  
Astoria

### What kind of government are you running?

I have been a government employee most of my life, since I was 17 years old; U.S. Army, and a city, county, and state official for over 30 years in Clatsop County.

I'm not sure what's actually going on in the county government but I can say this, the county manager is in charge of managing county affairs, such as county employees and all functions of the county, and is answerable to the elected official, not the other way around.

Just to state that he's not attending a commission meeting because of some hostilities is grounds for termination ("Clatsop County

manager strikes back over commissioner comments," The Daily Astorian, April 26). From where I stand, the only persons in a hostile environment are Lianne Thompson and her counterpart, Kathleen Sullivan. Meeting closed.

What kind of government are you running when a rebuttal is not permitted? Don't we voters have a right to hear both sides?

JIM BRIEN  
Seaside

### Thanks for support of tribute concert

Thank you to all those who attended the Pete Seeger 99th Birthday Tribute Concert and Singalong on April 28 at the Performing Arts Center. With a cast of 40 and a full house, we raised the roof with songs of joy and justice, and raised our own spirits in the process, for a gift of net proceeds of over \$3,000 to the PAC.

Thanks to the many volunteers who handled the endless tasks of this event, to KMUN who broadcast the concert live from the PAC, and to the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition and the Oregon Cultural Trust, for funding. Thanks also to the Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for their sponsorship of the concert.

I'd also like to extend a special thank you to The Daily Astorian and Chinook Observer for their excellent coverage of this event. Editor Erick Bengel of Coast Weekend and reporter Patrick Webb published great articles in both papers. Patrick took the time to attend preparatory events, taking photos, interviewing participants, and producing stories which were beyond anything we had hoped for.

This was indeed a spirits-raising event for our community. I am very happy to have had a part in it.

KIT KETCHAM  
Astoria