

Former lawmaker made 'pass-through' donations

Boone described the practice as commonplace

By **ROB DAVIS**
The Oregonian

On paper, two donations to Northwest Oregon political candidates last year came from former state Rep. Deborah Boone, D-Cannon Beach.

She wrote the checks. Her name is listed as the donor.

In reality, Boone told The Oregonian, the money came from donors who asked her to pass it on under her name, creating a set of transactions and reports that may have violated state law.

Boone described the practice as commonplace among legislators.

Alma Whalen, a compliance specialist with the Oregon State Elections Division, said if candidates know the true source of a donation but don't report it, they "would appear to be violating" Oregon's prohibition on contributions in a false name. The same is true for donors if they don't tell recipients where a contribution really came from, Whalen said.

A violation is a felony, punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a \$125,000 fine.

Boone said John Helm, the husband of state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, gave Boone \$2,500 in April with instructions to give it to Tim Josi. The former Tillamook County commissioner was running for Boone's seat at the time.

Asked whether she told Josi the money was actually from Helm, Boone replied: "Yes I did. I asked Helm, 'Is it OK to say who it's from?' He said, 'Yeah.'"

Josi listed the donation in campaign finance disclosures as money from Boone, not Helm.

Josi did not respond to an email and two voice-mails requesting comment.

Helm told The Ore-

gonian he did not recall giving Boone instructions about what to do with the money he contributed to her campaign.

Separately, Boone said she took \$1,000 in April from the Oregon Health Care Association with instructions to give it to Henry Heimuller, a candidate for Columbia County commissioner.

"The money was given to me specifically for that," Boone said.

She said she assumed Heimuller knew where the money really came from. But she said she didn't tell him.

Heimuller told The Oregonian he was unaware of any effort by the health care association to fund his campaign. "I wonder why they wouldn't just send me a check if they wanted to contribute to my campaign? That seems off to me," he said.

The Oregon Health Care Association, which lobbies for senior care companies, denied telling Boone to pass along the contribution. A spokeswoman, Rosie Ward, said no one from her organization "has ever had any conversation with Rep. Boone in regard to any county commission race." The donation was made before an April fundraiser for moderate Democrats, she said, which included Boone.

Boone's account is extraordinary in a state whose campaign finance system emphasizes transparency in place of limiting how much money donors can give.

State records show millions of dollars have moved between Oregon politicians in the past decade in what look like straightforward gestures of support. Lawmakers also routinely give money to committees run by legislative leaders, who

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Deborah Boone, former state representative



then redistribute it to candidates in tough races.

According to Boone, the transactions are not always what they seem. She didn't like the practice of rerouting donations, she said, but found it was common in Salem.

"It's so prevalent," said Boone, who served from 2004 until last month. "I would think if it was illegal, they'd cite you on it."

Boone said she believes the law needs to be tightened to restrict the practice or to make it more obvious to the public.

Boone made her assertions in interviews with The Oregonian. She was explaining why she raised money from donors after announcing her retirement from the Legislature in January 2018.

In the Capitol, the practice is called a "pass-through." Boone said she also engaged in the practice as a donor.

She said she intended to give \$1,000 to Rep. Caddy McKeown, D-Coos Bay, in her race last year. But Boone said Rep. David Gomberg asked her to give the money to him instead, so he could pay fundraising dues owed to his caucus.

Then, Boone said, Gomberg directed the money to McKeown through the House Democratic caucus committee, Future PAC.

"Gomberg said, 'Give me the money, and I'll give it to her,'" Boone said. "I wanted to support her."

Future PAC and Gomberg, D-Otis, denied being involved in a directed pass-through.

Boone gave Gomberg's campaign \$1,000 on June 20, according to cam-

July through October.

"Everybody in the caucus understood Caddy was one of the priorities for Future PAC," Gomberg said. "I absolutely gave them no instructions on how that money was to be spent."

McKeown said in a written statement: "To the best of my knowledge every contribution to my campaign either from an individual, organization or Future PAC was above board based on their trust that I would faithfully represent the people of the South Coast."

One high-profile case involving charges of contribution in a false name came in 2004.

Multnomah County prosecutors alleged Portland developer Tom Moyer made donations to mayoral candidate Jim Francesconi under the names of his granddaughter and his executive assistant, who were also charged.

Charges were dropped against everyone after Moyer, then in his 90s, was found unable to aid and assist in his defense. Francesconi was not accused of any wrongdoing.

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TV SCHEDULE

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings MONDAY

MONDAY EVENING				A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach				FEBRUARY 25					
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2 KATU	2	KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Bachelor (N)				The Good Doctor "Believe" (N)		News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
3 KOMO	4	KOMO 4 News at 6pm (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (N)				The Good Doctor "Believe" (N)		KOMO4News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
5 KING	5	NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Season Premiere" (SP) (N)					The Enemy Within "Pilot" (P) (N)		KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
6 KOIN	6	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Neighborhood (N)	Man Plan (N)	Magnum "Murder Is Never Quiet" (N)		Bull "Forfeiture" (N)		News (N)	(35) Colbert
7 KIRO	7	KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Neighborhood (N)	Man Plan (N)	Magnum "Murder Is Never Quiet" (N)		Bull "Forfeiture" (N)		KIRO News (N)	(35) Colbert
8 KGW	8	KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	The Voice "The Blind Auditions Season Premiere" (SP) (N)				The Enemy Within "Pilot" (P) (N)		News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
9 KRCW	3	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Arrow "Unmasked" (N)		Black Lightning		News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
10 KOPB	10	This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Antiques Roadshow (N)		Ore. Exper. (N)	Ore. Experience	Antiques Rd. "Miami Beach (Hour Two)" (N)		Independent Lens (N)	
12 KPTV	12	6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	The Resident		The Passage		10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
13 KPDX	13	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	8pm Prime News (N)		9pm Prime News (N)		Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game
14 KCPQ	14	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Resident		The Passage		Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons
20 TBS	20	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	American Dad!	Conan (N)	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2
22 KZJL	22	Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29 ESPN	29	NCAA Basketball Kansas State at Kansas (L)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
30 ESPN2	30	(5:00) NCAA Basketball Okl./Iowa (L)		SportsCenter (N)		30 for 30 "Nature Boy"		Unlocking Victory	UFC Countdown "235: Jones vs. Smith"	Unlocking Victory	UFC 235"	UFC Unleashed (N)	
31 NICK	31	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Henry Danger	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows	Out of the Shadows	(16) Noel Fisher, Alan Ritchson.		Friends Pt. 1 of 2	
32 DISN	32	Coop & Cami	Coop & Cami	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Sydney to the Max	Coop & Cami	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Sydney to the Max	Coop & Cami	Andi Mack	Raven's Home
34 FAM	34	(5:20) ** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (05) Johnny Depp.				Shadowhunters "Lost Souls" (N)		** Sweet Home Alabama (02) Candice Bergen, Josh Lucas, Reese Witherspoon.				The 700 Club	
35 FMC	35	(5:50) * The Sandlot 2 (05) James Wilson, Max Lloyd-Jones.		(5:50) Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 (15) Raini Rodriguez, Kevin James.				(45) FXM Presents	* Firestorm (1998, Action) Scott Glenn.	Howie Long.		(45) FXM Presents	
38 LIFE	38	The First 48 "Evil Streak: 50 Caliber"		The First 48: Lost "Lester Street"		R. Kelly "All the Missing Girls"		Surviving R. Kelly "Black Girls Matter" (05) To Be Announced		(05) To Be Announced		(05) To Be Announced	
39 ROOT	39	NAIA Basketball CCC Tournament (L)				MLB Baseball Spring Training Cincinnati Reds vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz.						NAIA Basketball CCC Tournament	
39 F51	39	NCAA Basketball Oklahoma State vs. Oklahoma (L)				PBA Bowling Indianapolis Open		Fair Game		TMZ Sports (N)		Speak for Yourself	
43 SPIKE	43	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops (N)	Cops	Cops	Cops
44 COM	44	Parks and Rec 2/2	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Daily Show (N)	The Other Two
45 HIST	45	American Pickers	American Pickers	"Slam Dunk Junk"		American Pickers "Presidential Picks"		Pickers "Pick Like a Honey Badger" (N)	(05) Pawn Stars (N)	(05) Pawn Stars (N)		(05) Pawn S.	"Pawn It Out of the Park"
46 A&E	46	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol	Biography "The Trump Dynasty: New Frontiers" 1/3				(05) Biography	
47 TLC	47	Yes Dress "Everything Is on the Line"		Say Yes-Dress "A Purple Unicorn"		Counting On "Jinger Has a Baby"		Counting On "Sleepless in Laredo" (N)		Little People "Any Day Now"		Our Twinsane Wedding	
48 DISC	48	Street Outlaws "Runnin' Route 66"		Outlaws "Mile High Mayhem" (N)		Street Outlaws: No Prep Kings (N)		Outlaws:NoPrep Kings Street Outlaws favorites duke it out with newcomers. (N)				Garage Rehab "Low Life Industries"	
49 NGE0	49	Wicked Tuna "Good to the Last Bite"		Egypt Unwrapped		Egypt Unwrapped		China's Megatomb Revealed Uncover the macabre, history-changing secrets.		Egypt Unwrapped		Egypt Unwrapped	
50 TNT	50	Movie	Doctor Strange (2016, Action) Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams, Benedict Cumberbatch.			A.I. Am the Night "Aloha" (N)		I Am the Night "Aloha" (N)		(05) I Am the Night "Aloha"		(10) The Sorcerer's Apprentice	
51 AMC	51	(5:00) *** Live Free or Die Hard (07) Justin Long, Timothy Olyphant, Bruce Willis.		*** The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal, Ian Holm, Dennis Quaid.		*** Deep Impact				(98, Act) Morgan Freeman, Elijah Wood.			
52 USA	52	Nick's "Psych Out"		NCIS "Need to Know"		WWV Monday Night Raw		Baking "Monkey See, Monkey Bake" (N)		Baking "Let's Taco About Baking" (N)		Winner Cake All (N)	
53 FOOD	53	Kids Baking "Bite-Sized Birthday Party"		Kids Baking "Winning Colors"		Baking "Monday See, Monkey Bake" (N)		Baking "Let's Taco About Baking" (N)		Winner Cake All (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family
54 HGTV	54	Love It or List It "Tree House Trouble"		Love It or List It "Master Office Issues"		House Hunters (N) Renovation		Home Town (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters
55 FX	55	(5:00) ** The Wolverine (2013, Action) Will Yun Lee, Tao Okamoto, Hugh Jackman.		*** X-Men: Apocalypse (2016, Action) Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy, Jennifer Lawrence.				Michael Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		X-Men: Apocalypse Jennifer Lawrence.	
57 CNN	57	Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58 FNC	58	Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night Hard news and analysis of the most compelling stories.		Hannity		Hannity		Fox News @ Night	
61 CNBC	61	Deal or No Deal "I'm Dancin' Here!"		Deal or No Deal "It Takes Two"		The Profit "Ben's Garden"		The Profit "The Casery"		The Profit "After the Casery"		Paid Program	Paid Program
63 BRV	63	Vanderpump Rules "Tom and Tommer"		Vanderpump R. "So Vain in Solvang"		VanderpumpR "Return of Crazy Kristen"		Vanderpump Rules "PJs on the PJ" (N)		Vanderpumped (N)		Watch What (N)	Vanderpump Rules
64 TCM	64	Movie	(45) **** Little Caesar (30) Edward G. Robinson.		(15) *** Citizen Kane (1941, Drama) Joseph Cotten, Everett Sloane, Orson Welles.			**** Here Comes Mr. Jordan (41) Robert Montgomery.					
65 SYFY	65	(4:00) Ghost Rider	(25) ** The Last Witch Hunter (2015, Action) Rose Leslie, Elijah Wood, Vin Diesel.		*** The Fifth Element (1997, Sci-Fi) Milla Jovovich, Gary Oldman, Bruce Willis.							Futurama	Futurama
162 RFD	162	American Rancher	Red Steagall	Steve Lantvit	Horse of the West	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Live"		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase	