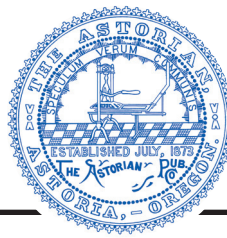


# OPINION



# the Astorian

editor@dailyastorian.com

Founded in 1873

**KARI BORGEN**  
Publisher

**DERRICK DePLEDGE**  
Editor

**SHANNON ARLINT**  
Circulation Manager

**JOHN D. BRUIJN**  
Production Manager

**CARL EARL**  
Systems Manager

## GUEST COLUMN

# ‘Recalcitrant Nine’ hope for influence

**C**ongressman Kurt Schrader wants to slow a massive budget bill pushed by his fellow Democrats.

Schrader, of Canby, represents the 5th Congressional District and casts himself as a centrist. He supported the U.S. House’s infrastructure bill put together by 4th District U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, a progressive Democrat from Springfield. However, the U.S. Senate passed its own infrastructure bill, instead of handling the House version.



**DICK HUGHES**

Many Democrats want to tie the fate of the politically dicey budget measure —

which will include the various social priorities of progressives — to the more popular and somewhat bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Not so fast, say Schrader and eight other moderate Democrats, whom I’ll dub the “Recalcitrant Nine” for the sake of this column.

This comes down to numbers. Oh, and politics.

The Recalcitrant Nine threaten to vote against the \$3.5 trillion budget resolution. They demand that the House first pass the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, sending it to President Joe Biden for his signature.

“Folks back home are starting to get very concerned about how much money we’re spending,” Schrader told Bloomberg Government. “And I think that’s a legitimate concern.”

However, progressives fear the budget measure could fail in the House unless linked to the infrastructure bill. House Republicans need only a handful of Democratic defections to defeat a measure.

The budget bill, which already faces staunch Republican opposition, is expected to cover such progressive priorities as prescription drug costs, child care and climate change. It’s being developed as a budget reconciliation measure, which is a way to prevent Republican senators from blocking passage through a filibuster.

A majority of the Congressional Progressive Caucus reportedly said they would vote against the infrastructure bill in the House unless budget reconciliation happens first.

The Recalcitrant Nine have written to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a pro-



Evan Vucci/AP Photo

President Joe Biden arrives to speak about infrastructure spending in Wisconsin in June.

## THE RECALCITRANT NINE THREATEN TO VOTE AGAINST THE \$3.5 TRILLION BUDGET RESOLUTION.

gressive Democrat from San Francisco, saying: “Some have suggested that we hold off on considering the Senate infrastructure bill for months — until the reconciliation process is completed. We disagree. With the livelihoods of hard-working American families at stake, we simply can’t afford months of unnecessary delays and risk squandering this once-in-a-century, bipartisan infrastructure package. ...

“We will not consider voting for a budget resolution until the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passes the House and is signed into law.”

Pelosi and Democratic leaders appear unfazed, planning a House vote for next week on the reconciliation process.

As The Hill reported, “Balancing the differing priorities of moderates and progressives is a major challenge for Pelosi as she seeks to pass the infrastructure bill and a social spending bill — both of which further President Biden’s economic agenda.”

As for DeFazio, he noted in a telephone town hall with 4th District constituents on Thursday that he has been working with the Biden administration and the Senate to pass a long-overdue infrastructure bill.

He lauded the “Buy America” provisions, saying, “This is going to create one heckuva lot of jobs over the next five years.”

**Miserable leadership:** During the town hall, DeFazio blasted Oregon’s delays in providing pandemic-related rental assistance, saying the state has handled that program as miserably as it did unemployment benefits.

**Oregon’s next governor:** A poll conducted Aug. 4 to Aug. 7 suggests Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum would be Democrats’ preferred candidate for governor next year.

She was favored by 16.4% of registered Democrats and likely voters. The surprise is that Yamhill County Commissioner Casey Kulla came in second at 14.3%, ahead of Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek, 9.2%; State Treasurer Tobias Read, 6.2%; and Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle, 4.4%.

Before anyone gets too excited about who’s ahead, 41.6% of respondents said they were undecided, and 7.9% said they’d favor a Republican.

I offer a couple of caveats. First, of course, is that lots will happen before the Democratic and Republican primary elections next May. Second, McKelvey Consulting conducted the poll by text message, with 661 people replying to the poll via text.

Dick Hughes has been covering the Oregon political scene since 1976.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lessons of Afghanistan

**I**n 1521, during Ferdinand Magellan’s circumnavigation, he died in the Philippines because he was convinced by an island leader to take his powerful ship and firearms against a neighboring island tribe, promising their devotion.

This was an example of staying out of foreign wars. George Washington departed his presidency advising to stay out of foreign wars. President Dwight Eisenhower, and former general of the Army during World War II, warned against the military-industrial complex, who promote foreign wars. Do I need to mention Vietnam as another example?

These are just a few examples of why we should stay away from the involvement in foreign wars. Young people are always told to look to the past if they want to know the future. The future will be Afghanistan won’t be our last foreign war, because our so-called leaders don’t know their history; how sad.

GARRY GITZEN  
Wheeler

### I say ‘no’

**T**he way I see it: A sales tax of 5% in Cannon Beach on prepared food is to fund the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District’s and City Hall’s new buildings. How did this come about?

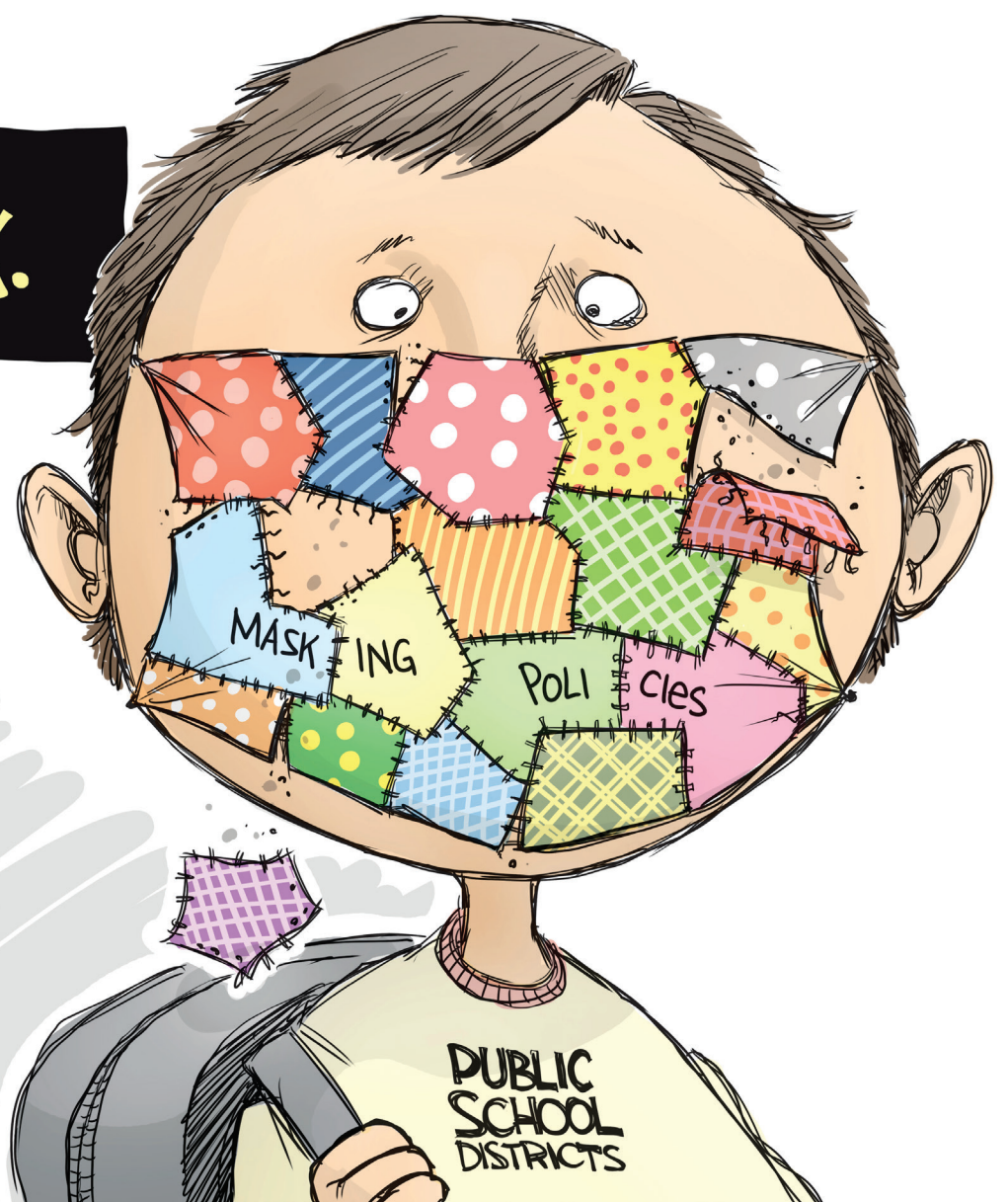
The fire district began by asking for the sales tax of 5% from the City Council. A couple of weeks after, the city announced it had decided to take 2% of that 5% to build a new City Hall and police department. The City Council quickly tried to approve the sales tax amongst themselves.

It was stalled at the last moment by the many citizens of Cannon Beach voicing public opposition against the sales tax at a council meeting.

The fire district can ask for an operation levy that would be tax deductible to state and federal income tax for every-



JOHN COLE  
ESTHETICS, TRIZINE  
SCRANTON, PA.



one who pays for it. The fire district has a plan on how to use the money. No one wants to lose the services of the tireless first responders. I support them.

On the other hand, the city has no plans for a building, no place to put the building, no budget for the building, and would like to put their 2% into the general fund, which the city can use on anything they want.

I say “no” to the 5% sales tax vote. We should wait on the city until they get

their plan put together. Where there is no heart, there is no feeling.

PAUL NOFIELD  
Cannon Beach

### Closer to the truth

**O**n Aug. 17, The Astorian printed a remarkable hate-filled screed, “Existential threat,” against a past president. The remarkable thing is, that if

you change the names around, Joe Biden for Donald Trump and DNC for GOP, it actually comes closer to the truth.

The letter writer should take off the hate-filled blinders, and look at what is actually happening. He should also check the definition of his bugaboo word, fascism. One party rule. It is the unfolding disaster we have now. It is the real existential threat to America.

ROBERT LIDDYCOAT  
Seaside