

Oregon Republican Senators Sue to Run for Re-election



The Oregon Senate is seen during a vote at the state capitol in Salem Oregon (AP News Photo)

Unexcused Absences Playing a Big Part

AP- Five Republican state senators in Oregon are suing to be allowed to run for reelection next year even though they accumulated a large number of unexcused absences during a walkout aimed at blocking votes on abortion rights and gun safety.

Oregon voters passed a constitutional amendment last year that says any lawmaker who accrues

10 or more unexcused absences during a legislative session is blocked from seeking reelection, after Republicans used the tactic repeatedly in previous years. The senators say a vagary in the way the law is written means they can seek another term, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

The amendment says a lawmaker is not allowed to run “for the term following the election after the member’s current term is completed.” Since a senator’s term ends in January while elections are held in November, they argue the penalty doesn’t take effect immediately, but instead, after they’ve served another term. Senate Republican Minority Leader Tim Knopp and four other sen-

ators filed the lawsuit on Friday against Oregon Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade. The other four are Sens. Daniel Bonham, Suzanne Weber, Lynn Findley and Dennis Linthicum.

The lawmakers hope to convince the Oregon Court of Appeals that voters were misled about the language in Measure 113 when they passed the law. Ten conservative state senators racked up enough unexcused absences to violate Measure 113 during a six-week walkout earlier this year.

The boycott raised doubts about whether the Legislature would be able to pass a new budget. But lawmakers reached a deal which brought Republicans back to the Capitol in exchange for Demo-

cratic concessions on measures covering abortion, transgender health care and gun rights.

The walkout was the longest in state history and the second-longest in the United States. Griffin-Valade's office didn't immediately return an email message seeking comment on

Saturday. Earlier this month, Griffen-Valade, who is the state elections chief, issued a news release saying the 10 state senators can't run for reelection in 2024. She made the announcement to clear up confusion over how reelection rules would affect the senators.

New Ownership for Albina Arts Center

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dent. "The Albina Arts Center has the potential to be our home base in the neighborhood where PassinArt was born" Foster added. "It will bring the next generations forward by doing what we have been doing since 1982."

POIC + RAHS and PassinArt participated in a competitive, rigorous, community-led grant process - facilitated by Oregon Community Foundation – which began in early May 2023 and was preceded by a nearly year-long engagement to create a vision for the future of this vital community hub.

“The process for envisioning the future for Albina Arts Center began well over a year ago and involved the authentic engagement of many key Black community

elders and leaders from the arts, business, and nonprofit sectors,” said Karis Stoudamire-Phillips, Vice President, DEI & Community Initiatives, Moda Health. Mrs. Stoudamire-Phillips served as volunteer leader on the steering committee that architected the process for visioning the future Albina Arts Center as well as the Albina Arts Selection Committee. “By seeking out and listening to Black community leaders and organizations, we have yielded a very positive outcome for the historic Albina community. This highly collaborative and transparent process has set up future generations of Black Portlanders for successful opportunities.”

The Albina Arts Selection Committee – comprised of community, business and arts leaders from Portland's Black com-

munity – carefully evaluated applicants and submitted a recommendation to Oregon Community Foundation Board of Directors in early August 2023.

“The Albina Arts Center engagement, visioning and selection process serves as a great example of what is born out of the deep experience and expertise within the Black community,” said Stephen Green, Executive Director, Business for a Better Portland; Founder, Greener Pastures NW; and member of the Albina Arts Center Selection Committee. “When we bring all voices into the room to and truly listen to many different perspectives, we are able to create spaces that reflect our collective vision and serve the Black community in authentic and meaningful ways.”



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5:00 – 7:00 pm

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Prime firms please scan the QR to register for your table.




Certified firms do not need to register.

For event questions:
Amy James Neel
 Planning & Capital Construction
amyjamesneel@pcc.edu