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**OUR VIEW**

# Richardson for Secretary of State

It is likely that Democrats will continue to dominate Oregon politics after the results of November's election are tabulated.

Governor Kate Brown is likely to win her first election for the top seat in state government. The Senate and House are favored to remain in Democratic control.

If that's the case — with one party having its hands on almost all the levers of power — then it is important that voters find a way to provide some check on that power. Voters can do that by electing Republican Dennis Richardson for Secretary of State.

Richardson, you may remember, was defeated by soon-to-be-disgraced Gov. John Kitzhaber in 2014. He has spent a decade in the Oregon legislature, rising to speaker pro tem and a powerful co-chair of the joint Ways and Means Committee.

Richardson has a history of straightforward conservative votes, a willingness to engage a Democratic majority and conduct a statewide campaign in opposition to them. As Secretary of State, Richardson would be able to concentrate solely on the fiscal impacts of legislative decisions, support reorganization of poor-performing state offices and increase transparency and accountability.

In regards to major state government failures in recent years

— Cover Oregon and the Columbia River Crossing come to mind — having a Secretary of State in charge of the audits division that was at some level not in lockstep with the governor's office would have been helpful for taxpayers.

Perhaps those debacles may well have debacled, and hundreds of millions of tax dollars would still have been flushed down the toilet. But with a member of an opposite party as Secretary of State, Oregonians would have had a more thorough and transparent accounting of why the mistakes happened and responsible decision-makers held accountable. That would give Oregonians more confidence that similar mistakes wouldn't happen again.

Richardson's main competitor, Democrat Brad Avakian, is looking to use the position as a stepping stone to higher statewide office. He would look to expand the office of Secretary of State, and would likely be to the left of the governor's office on many issues. While that may be delightful for some parts of Oregon, it doesn't sound so good out here on the wide prairies.

Because he would be in charge of the audits division and be one of the few Republicans within the upper echelon of state government, we support Richardson for Secretary of State.

**It is important that voters find a way to provide a check on Democratic Party power in Oregon.**

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

**YOUR VIEWS**

## Trump an embarrassment to men everywhere

On behalf of mature men everywhere — and by "mature men," I mean those of us who have learned that masculine strength must be tempered with empathy if it is to protect and serve the common good — I would like to apologize to all women for letting Donald Trump masquerade as one of us.

During Sunday's town hall debate, Trump dismissed the vile words he spoke in that leaked "Access Hollywood" tape as "just locker room talk," implying that all post-pubescent heterosexual men talk that way with each other behind closed doors, and we all feel that way about the women around us, and we would all just grab them by the genitals if we thought we could get away with it.

Mature men do not, and would not, talk or act this way. But I understand now that women may never feel completely safe around us men, because you can never be totally sure whether they are mature men or developmentally-stunted predators like Trump. And that grieves me.

To my fellow men — mature men — I would just like to point out that Trump is deflecting criticism of his puerile, indefensible behavior by attempting to pass himself off as the avatar of red-blooded American masculinity. This cannot go unchallenged, for it is a grave insult to our collective manhood. Men can and should be better than this. We cannot allow him to represent us in any public capacity, let alone the highest office in the land. I urge you to vote accordingly.

To Trump himself, I say: If you think you're such a tough guy with such great stamina, then pick the time and place, you son of a Klansman. I'm calling you out under the Marquess of Queensberry Rules. Let's see whether you can box for your honor half as well as you can "wrestle" for spectacle. If your doctor says you're too old and frail, then I will settle for fighting any of your equally disreputable sons.

Dave Wahler  
La Grande

## EOTEC deserves criticism, should be able to accept it

I just get irritated when the *East Oregonian* lets George Anderson attack people on their opinions of EOTEC. This man has such thin skin he needs to take off his suit coat, roll up his sleeves and get out into the sunlight and help his skin get thicker. George is the self-appointed attack dog for the EOTEC board. Rick Rohde has his right to voice his opinion.

Although I agree about the EOTEC need and hope it prospers, I disagree with George's statements. You see, we have had the land in Hermiston on Airport Road for decades due to land swap deals from public entity to public entity. There was no intention to find an alternative in Milton-Freewater or another location. The \$8 million is a phony number used and has no merit, due to the fact that the land already set aside would be used eventually as intended. We would not have lost the fairgrounds at all, just a lot of the public's confidence, and trust, coming from the end result of this project

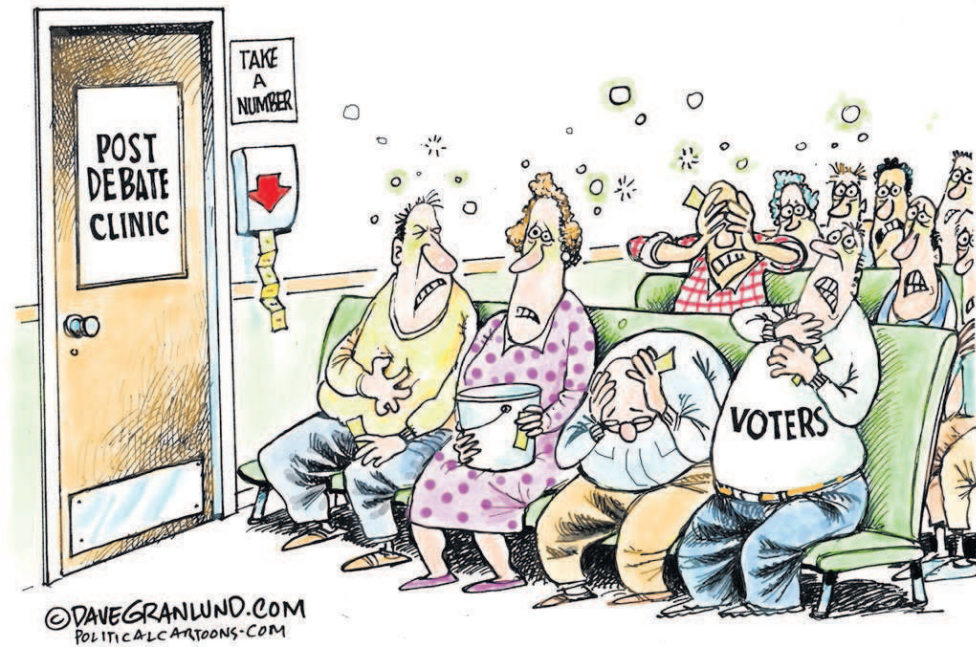
EOTEC was brought in without a lot of foresight. You see, the fairgrounds were supposed to get done first, but it was decided by a few and not the rest of us, the many, to build EOTEC first. You see, George, since numerous taxpayer funding grants were received, Mr. Rohde as a taxpayer should be able to voice his opinion. Not just your opinion.

EOTEC was poorly designed, poorly implemented by the board, and did not give the proper oversight that they should have diligently done when mostly with taxpayer money (state grants, city tax money, county tax money, and motel owners' tax money) was used. The Frew management company was mismanaging the project and was not truthful to the board and taxpayers on several instances. They should have been fired from the project — but no, they kept them on for this last phase.

So again, George is defending lack of oversight, mismanagement and a deadline that is over a year late. Nice! Goes to show you that cronyism is still alive and well.

Perry W. Hawkins  
Hermiston

**OTHER VIEWS**



## Trump bounces back in debate

**S**T. LOUIS — You can make a good argument that Donald Trump won the second presidential debate with Hillary Clinton. You could also argue that no one won. But it's probably beyond dispute that Trump's performance will shut down Republican defections from his struggling campaign, at least for now.

Say you were a Republican lawmaker contemplating breaking with Trump. You didn't do it Saturday, when several GOP officials jumped, because you wanted to see how Trump would do in the debate Sunday night. Now you've seen it — a more aggressive, hard-hitting and focused effort than Trump's losing performance in Debate One — and you're probably not going to abandon Trump now.

Contrary to expectations, the debate did not begin with a punch-in-the-gut question about Trump's lewd video. Instead, an audience member approached the issue in the softest, most indirect way, asking both Trump and Clinton whether they feel they are "modeling appropriate and positive behavior for today's youth?"

Neither candidate actually answered the question, but Trump did a far better job than Clinton of pivoting to issues — the issues he wanted to talk about, including Obamacare, terrorism and the trade deficit. In the first debate Sept. 26, Trump didn't seem to know what a pivot was. The second debate marked the moment he learned that basic debate maneuver.

After the opening, co-moderator Anderson Cooper administered the punch-in-the-gut video question. "You bragged that you have sexually assaulted women," Cooper said to Trump. "Do you understand that?"

Trump dismissed the video repeatedly as "locker room talk," apologizing and saying he was embarrassed by it. And then Trump pivoted again, this time suggesting the video was a minor issue compared to the threat posed by Islamic State.

Clinton had her say, arguing that the video was not an aberration but the essence of Trump. "I think it's clear to anyone who heard it that it represents exactly who he is," she said.

With both sides having spoken, was the Trump video portion of the debate over? Not at all. The other moderator, Martha Raddatz, took her turn at the question, and that's when Trump brought up the Bill Clinton women.

Shortly before the debate began, Juanita Broadrick, Kathleen Willey and Paula Jones were escorted by Trump aides into the hall. They took prominent seats in the Trump section, but they were well out of Hillary Clinton's line of sight. If Clinton had to rely only on what she could see, she wouldn't have known they were there.

Which raises a question: What was the point? Before the debate, a number of Trump supporters, like Newt Gingrich, thought bringing in the Bill Clinton victims was a dumb idea. But Trump not only met with them before the debate, he posted them in the



BYRON YORK  
Comment

audience. To what end? After the debate, I asked Trump spokesman Jason Miller whether the women's presence had any effect in the room.

"Who knows?" Miller answered. "Then why do it?"

"Because Juanita Broadrick and Kathleen Willey and the other woman had their voices stomped out for far too long," Miller answered. "Hillary Clinton has been a part of that. So has the media. What we're simply doing is giving them the opportunity to have their story told."

When the sex portion of the show was finally over, the debate moved on to Clinton's emails, and then to what used to be known as actual issues: Obamacare, Trump's call for a temporary ban on immigration from some terrorist-affected countries, Syria, political transparency, taxes.

## Trump effectively used each issue to slam Clinton and the Obama administration.

Trump didn't display any more policy depth than he has in the past — it is astonishing, for example, that he seems to have learned nothing more about a replacement for Obamacare since the GOP primaries. But overall, he effectively used each issue to slam Clinton and the Obama administration, arguing that he would be able to get things done where they failed. Clinton was on the defensive for much of the debate's last hour.

The bottom line was that Trump weathered the sex portion of the debate — a development which would have seemed like a miracle just 36 hours earlier — and showed strength in the policy sections. Beforehand, many observers would have predicted Clinton would crush Trump in both.

Then Trump scored well on Obamacare, and then on taxes, and then did OK on foreign policy. Finally, he scored well at the end with an actual compliment of Clinton's tenaciousness.

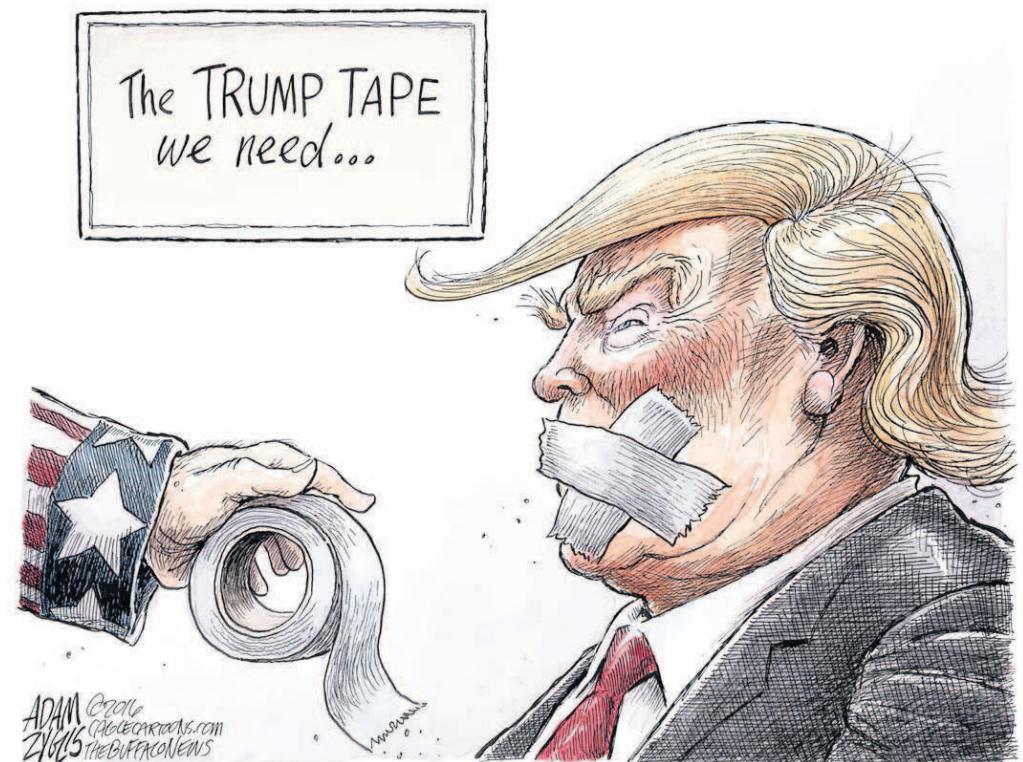
And so Trump won, perhaps, or certainly didn't lose. What does that mean? Well, if a campaign has one foot in the grave, simply not dying is a big win.

But if Trump thinks the debate will push the lewd tape problem into the past, he'll soon find that's not the case. And of course, any new revelations — and there were lots of rumors on Sunday — could start the whole Republican panic-and-bolt cycle again, with more GOP lawmakers heading for the exits.

But that's for the days ahead. The bottom line Sunday is that Trump was in an enormously difficult and pressure-filled spot. If he lost badly to Clinton, the significant but manageable number of Republican defections from his campaign might have turned into a stampede. Instead, Trump held things together.

No, that's not expanding the Trump electorate. It's not converting independent voters. But for a man with his back against the wall, Sunday night's debate was a welcome change in fortune.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.



**LETTERS POLICY**

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