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THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022

Founded October 16, 1875

A4

OUR VIEW

Should we have limits on campaign finance?

Oregon is one of only a handful of states that does not have contribution limits for political campaigns. And because of an Oregon Supreme Court decision last week, it's pretty clear Oregon voters will not get a chance to vote this year on a series of proposals.

The court didn't block the campaign finance proposals per se. They can be reintroduced. The court decided to not step into a dispute between Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan and the people backing three campaign finance initiative proposals.

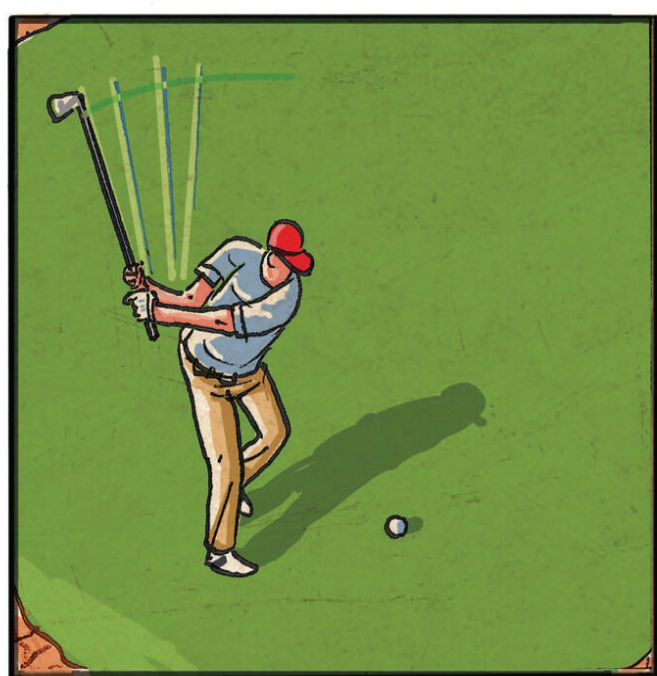
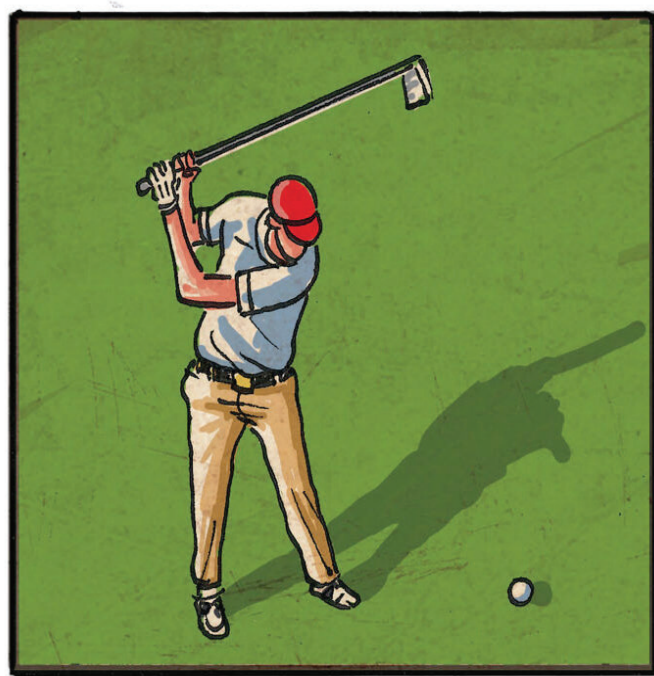
Fagan said the proposals did not comply with the law because they did not meet requirements. She pointed out they did not quote the entire section of the law they sought to change. Initiative backers argued other petitions for the ballot had failed to do that in the past. The Oregon Supreme Court declined to get involved, saying the backers could have given themselves adequate time to make the required changes if they had started their efforts sooner. But that ruling essentially means the backers have run out of time.

Campaign finance proposals will be back. Legislators surely will bring forth some proposals during the 2023 session. Supporters of initiative proposals will try again if the Legislature doesn't act, or even if it does.

The interesting question is what should the limits be? Is \$10 per person per campaign cycle the limit? What about \$100? Or \$1,000? Should unions get to contribute what they want but business groups not? That was one idea that has been proposed in Oregon. And then there are those independent expenditures not directly tied to a candidate. How would Oregon corral those?

When you are looking at candidates for the May primary or in November, you can dive in yourself and look at where their money is coming from. Oregon already has strong laws requiring disclosure of contributions and spending.

Go here: tinyurl.com/ORlookup. Look up your candidate. It's not necessarily the most user-friendly database, but we are sure you can figure it out. Where a candidate gets the money to run is another piece of useful information when thinking about how to vote.



PoliticalCartoons.com

Technology is great, when it works



TAMMY
MALGESINI
INSIDE MY SHOES

Technology baffles me. It's not that I really even want to understand it. I just want it to work right.

In the late fall of 2021, my work computer began having problems. I started receiving warnings that random websites that I often visit for work were unsafe. Initially thinking the problem was the website, I contacted several local agencies to let them know they might want to investigate.

Hopefully, they didn't waste too much time trying to figure out what the problem was. Because as time went on, I came to realize it was my computer and not their website.

I grew up in an analog world — during a time before everyone had cell phones. I learned to type on a manual typewriter. Yeah, yeah, I'm old. My point is, sure technology makes things easier

but back in the day when my typewriter didn't work, I merely had to change the ribbon.

However, in this day and age, I have to sufficiently explain what I'm experiencing, so the tech guy can figure out what the problem is (and hopefully fix it) — just saying my computer isn't working right isn't enough. I learned that taking/sending screenshots that show the problem can be helpful.

Well, after my computer limped along for a couple of months, I finally got a new one. Audra Workman, our office manager, took the time to work with our tech guy to set things up for me.

And it was working great — the key is "was." I think the computer lulled me into a false sense of security and then decided to attack — time to mess with Tammy.

Audra seems to know when I'm having computer problems. I guess it's not that hard to figure out. She says I have a certain "ringtone."

"%@#S!* I don't know what to do #S@%5E& I don't even know why I try %S#@&."

And then magically, Audra is there with a calm voice of reason asking what's

going on. I think she figures that I'm one computer glitch away from going off the deep end. And either she's there to rescue me or take what she wants from my desk area.

Rather than the computer "messing with me" Audra believes the problems started when my second monitor was attached. Well, that finally got fixed with a new cord.

All was going well with my work computer. Next, my personal laptop decided to develop a glitch. My solution was to rip the battery out of it (Audra wasn't at my house to save the day) and then reboot. Luckily, that worked. And then, a couple of hours later, my cell-phone wouldn't let me respond to a text message. Again, I did a reboot and that solved the problem.

I wish all of life's problems were that simple — merely go to sleep and when you wake up, everything is fine.

Tammy Malgesini, the East Oregonian community writer, enjoys spending time with her husband and two German shepherds, as well as entertaining herself with random musings.

YOUR VIEWS

Get to know Oregon's Republican candidates

Attention Oregon citizens it's time to get involved with Oregon's gubernatorial election May 17, 2022.

The Republican candidates running for Oregon governor are the following declared candidates, and I would encourage you to meet these candidates when they visit your county or town. You can get their information online and send them an email with your questions or concerns.

Bridget Barton, political consultant for Third Century Solutions; Raymond Baldwin; Court Boice; Tim McCloud; Bob Tiernan; David Burch; Reed Christensen, former electrical engineer; Christine Drazan, former minority leader of the Oregon House of Representatives (2019-21) and state representative from the 39th District (2019-22); John L. Fosdick III, customer service representative, Army veteran; Jessica Gomez, member of the Business Oregon Commission and Oregon Institute of Technology Board of Trustees; Nick Hess, chief executive officer and entrepreneur; Kerry

McQuisten, mayor of Baker City; Brandon Merritt, business development manager; Bud Pierce, oncologist and nominee for governor in 2016; John Presco, president of Royal Rosamond Press; Stan Pulliam, mayor of Sandy; Amber Richardson, chiropractor; Bill Sizemore, general contractor, tax-reduction advocate and nominee for governor in 1998; Stefan Galen Strek (Stregoi), painter and graphic design artist; Marc Thielman, Alesa School District superintendent.

Kathy Wilson
Pendleton

Why we left Idaho for Oregon

There are several reasons we left Idaho. Both my husband and I grew up in north Idaho and as children, it was idyllic.

Once we became adults and parents, we realized that Idaho was not for us. With a sales tax on everything and an income tax, we were left with budget issues. The schools were substandard and the roads were impossible once you were off the interstate. Part of

Highway 200 in Bonner County actually has cliffs that ice over and the ice hangs over the westbound lane. Once it starts to melt, there are huge ice chunks to dodge and several people have died by going into the Clark Fork River.

The rallying cry during our lives in Idaho was "lets break away from Idaho and form a new state with eastern Washington and western Montana." It was apparent the Legislature in Boise often forgot there was a northern Idaho, or central western Idaho or eastern Idaho as the new laws pertained to the Boise-metro area and other southern Idaho counties.

If anyone wishes to become Idaho citizens by seceding from Oregon, we suggest they talk to rural Idahoans and listen to their concerns about being in Idaho. I doubt if anything would be different from what is here except you would have to pay a sales tax on all you purchase and your roads would disintegrate even further.

As for the schools, well, we pulled our children out and moved to Montana before finding our way to Oregon.

Ed and Melissa Dunn
Irrigon

EDITORIALS

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

LETTERS

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published.

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