

GOP gubernatorial candidate meets with commissioners

Jessica Gomez tells her plans if elected and answers questions

By **BILL BRADSHAW**
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — One of the candidates for Oregon governor in the 2022 election visited the Wallowa County commissioners at their meeting Wednesday, Sept. 15, when Jessica Gomez fielded questions by the commissioners.

Gomez, of Medford, is one of about 10 competing for the Republican nomination in the May 17 Primary Election. The winner will compete in the Nov. 8, 2022, General Election.

Business

Gomez, who with her husband Patrick Kayatta runs a micro-chip-manufacturing company, has two daughters, ages 10 and 7.

The business she and her husband run makes her naturally pro-business. She noted that although she spent her early years in New York, she's lived in Oregon since 1989, other than a return to the East for college.

"That was the height of the spotted owl controversy," she said. "My dad was a cabinet maker and had his own business. It was a struggle for our family."

She recalled Oregon as a state that backed business at one time.

"At that time, Oregon was pro-business," she said. "My goal is to get Oregon back to being pro-business and to build a strong regional economy, not just in the Portland metro area."

She seemed to understand rural Oregon's disaffection with the urban west side of the state's dominance of state government.

"For people here, we have to pay a lot more attention as a



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Jessica Gomez, right, who is running for the Republican nomination for governor during the May 2022 primary, answers questions from the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners at its meeting Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021. Commissioner Susan Roberts listens at left.

state to places outside the Portland metro area," she said. "I will make sure we do that."

Gomez said among her top issues are public safety, education and helping the homeless population.

Education

"We put a lot of money into education and we're not getting back what we should," she said.

Commissioner Susan Roberts agreed.

"We do put a lot of money into education and we're still one of the lowest states," she said.

"We used to be in the top 10," Gomez said.

Roberts wanted to know specifically how Gomez would rectify the problem, if elected.

"A couple of things I have in mind; I want to start a statewide apprenticeship model, starting in high school and getting kids aligned with careers; we need to keep our kids engaged," she said. "Starting in the 11th grade, connecting kids with their local communities, connecting them with jobs in the area and getting them started on that career path, even if they change later."

She also wants improvement at the college level.

"As far as public education, I want to start a universal college credit program so if you earn college at a community college or even in high school, a lot of times when you have to change schools, you're leaving that credit behind," she said, advocating a system in which credits are fully transferable to any public college in the state.

Gomez also advocated for smaller class sizes and lamented the Legislature's elimination of standardized testing.

"I always thought standardized testing was to test the system, not the kids, and the system's failing if the kid can't read," Roberts said.

Climate

Commissioner John Hillock wanted to know if Gomez would strike down current Gov. Kate Brown's climate change programs and redesign them.

"There is a lot to be desired out of some of these environmental programs," Gomez said. "We're

looking at, well, you think about what happens for a landfill in Oregon. It's very challenging for them and it's not designed in a way that I think works, so I would go back to the drawing board and really listen to the people and the businesses that are impacted by this and come up with a solution here. We've got to have something that works well across the state."

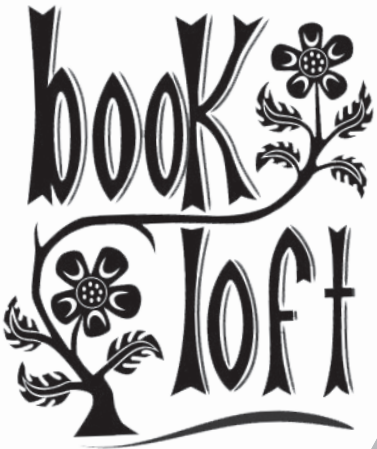
Commissioner Todd Nash, who does much to manage the county's natural resources, asked Gomez about that issue.

"You mentioned the spotted owl and for us, we're far enough east we don't have an owl, but we have salmon and steelhead and other fish like bull trout and others," Nash said. "In order to work with a federal entity like the Forest Service or BLM to better manage our forests and rangelands, how would you do that as a governor?"

"A lot of Oregon is federal lands, and that is part of the challenge that we're facing," Gomez said. "As governor, it's really important that you have advocacy for the federal lands. I would get together with the other governors that this is impacting, such as in Montana and Idaho, where they're worrying about it and go to bat for our states and applying pressure to the federal partners. ... We have got to get back into the forests and start managing them properly."

Gomez said that although she's never held elective office, she does have leadership experience in a wide variety of professional business organizations. She said she believes that experience qualifies her to run as governor.

"We have to have somebody who can make it through the primary and then, make it through the general election," she said.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. It bubbles beneath the surface
6. Nest sight
9. One may lead a military drill: Abbr.
12. Direction indicator
13. Click the wrong button, e.g.
14. One-in-a-million
15. *Simply marvelous
18. Sailors' affirmatives
19. Scottish girl
20. Tiny
21. Nickname for President Arthur
22. Mind reader's "power," for short
23. Fall behind
25. Sea beast of lore
27. Nada
28. O'er there
29. "Are we there ___?"
31. Body of water near a cabin, maybe
34. Unaccompanied
36. Japanese for "eastern capital"
38. What's impossible to boil, in a saying
40. One may be asked to speak
41. Blue ___ (clear forecast)
42. Hairdo
43. Make hazy
45. Stirs in
46. PC panic button
47. Operative
49. Like some cheeks
51. "That makes sense now"
53. Highest point
54. "Wonder Woman" actress Gadot
57. Degr. for writers
58. Scrape (by)
60. Vestige of the past
62. Has
63. *Child who won't touch vegetables, say
65. Melody for a sitarist
66. "___ Persisted" (Chelsea Clinton book)
67. Copy genetically
68. Before, in poetry

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15						16				17	18	
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62						63				64		
65								66			67	
68								69			70	

69. Mars, to Jupiter
70. Helpful tips

CLUES DOWN

1. Scott Joplin's "___ Leaf Rag"
2. Precincts
3. Understand
4. Shoes with Native roots, briefly
5. For some time
6. Cry after seeing a mouse
7. Became too big for one's britches?
8. *Thick, creamy breakfast
9. *Willie Mays' nickname, with "the"
10. Filled with envy
11. Word before "anxiety" or after "stress"
14. Shelving system part
16. Periods with four seasons
17. Notorious Roman emperor
24. *Fond farewell
26. Picnic pests
27. Extreme eagerness
30. Coin flip
31. Come up short
32. Causes for conflict
33. A to B, for one ... or a hint to the word scrambled within each starred clue's answer
35. Twitch chat chuckle
37. "Sure"
39. Loch with a famous monster
44. Like a mansion
48. Palindromic bird sound
50. Public address
52. Rae who created "Awkward Black Girl"
54. Joined a conference call
55. Isn't for us?
56. Old harplike instruments
57. "I want seconds"
59. Sound effect in a canyon
61. Guinea neighbor
64. Doll since 1961



Church Directory

Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph
10 AM Worship
Online AND In Person
 For More Info
 541-432-3102
 JosephUMC.ORG
 Pastor Cherie Dearth

Grace Lutheran Church

409 West Main - Enterprise
SUNDAY WORSHIP
at 9am
 Pastor John B. King Jr
 phone (message): 541-426-4633
 web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449
 We have 'In-person worship' @ 9:00 am
 (Guidelines observed)
 Sunday School at 10:30
 Parking Lot Radio/Facebook @ 9:00
 David Bruce
 Pastor, Enterprise Christian Church

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise
 NE 3rd & Main St
 541-426-3439
 Worship Service
 Sunday 9:30am

Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM
 Worship Service 11:00 AM
 Childrens program during service
 Blog: dancingsforth.blogspot.com
541.398.0597
 Hwy 82, Lostine
 Stephen Kliever, Minister

Summit Church

Sundays at 10 am
 at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise
 Pastor: David Pendleton

 www.summitchurchoregon.org
 Cloverleaf Hall • 668 NW 1st St. • Enterprise, OR 97828

Wallowa Assembly of God

702 West Hwy 82
 Wallowa, Oregon
 541-886-8445
Sunday School • 9:am
Worship Service • 10:am
 Pastor Tim Barton
 Visit Us on

Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson
 Church Office: 541-263-0505
Family Prayer - 9 AM
Sunday School - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:30 AM
 723 College Street, Lostine

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
 P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828
 Church 541-426-3751
 School 541-426-8339
 Pastor David Ballard 503-810-9886
Worship Hour
 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Enterprise Community Congregational Church

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