

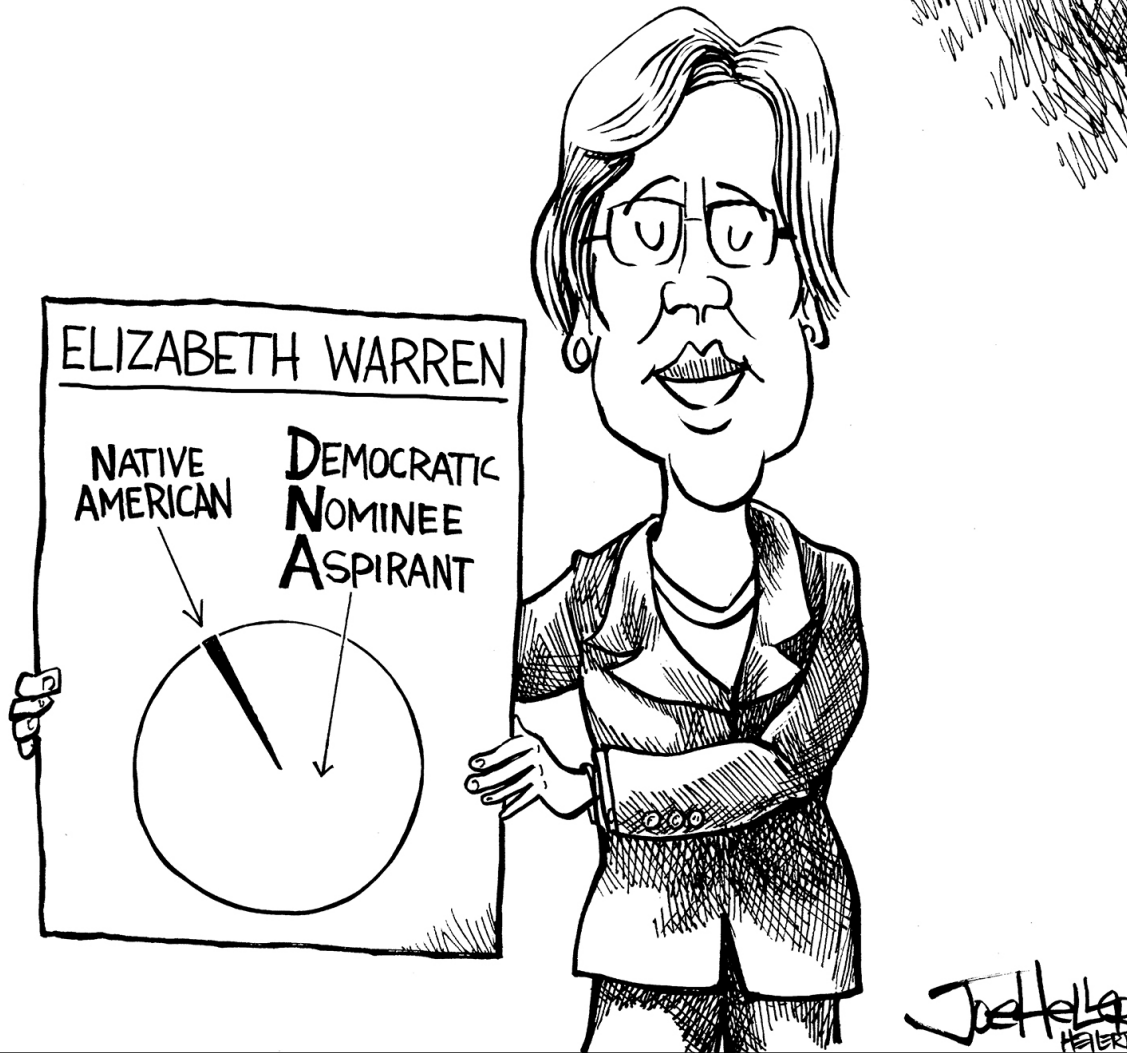
**Siuslaw News**  
P.O. Box 10  
Florence, OR 97439

# Opinion

**The First Amendment**  
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)

## DNA TEST RESULTS



### LETTERS

#### UNBIASED EXCHANGE CAN INFORM, CHANGE MINDS

First, I want to agree 100 percent with Keith R. Kraft on his most pointed opinion piece on Measure 105. ("Arguments Against Measure 105 Don't Hold Water," Oct. 17). I would also add that "illegal" is not a *race*.

Please think of all the ramifications of unfiltered immigration, both illegal and legal. As I was once told, *buy land, they don't make it anymore*. What that means as it pertains to this issue is we have a finite supply, and do you really want to live like they do in China?

I do not.

To Mr. Bob Horney and his Community Voices piece "Behind the Headlines" (Oct. 17) regarding prostate cancer: Thank you. I will be getting the test.

Now to my main point. There was a writer on the opinion page recently that complained, I thought, about those who get published and insinuated that the Siuslaw News editor was biased. I for one will testify this is not so.

The letter writer also proposed that you could look at the title of a letter and then who it came from, and assume the contents. I find this thinking to be very shallow.

First off, Ned Hickson and I could not be more different if we tried. So, if he's biased, it sure wouldn't be *towards* me.

Yes, quite a few of my letters — and the letters of other regular contributors — get published, and I would like to think that's because the opinions are stated succinctly and are thought-provoking.

You can disagree, but you will have to think, not feel.

To throw a monkey wrench into those who would like to pigeonhole me, I present my case for Measure 20-291. My first instinct was to vote "no." Usually, these bond measures are just used to pad the general fund for pet projects, no matter what they say.

But then I read a very good piece in the Siuslaw News outlining the fiscal benefits to our community for doing it now instead of in the future.

I was left thinking how these improvements would have to be done sooner or later, and that doing so sooner would be more fiscally sound.

Then today, I see that the middle and high schools are upgrading their construction classes. This is so important, not only here but all over. There is a great void of classes in the trades.

When I was in high school there was

automotive, wood and metal shops. I took all three and not only used them in my life but enjoyed doing so. Nothing but good can come from having a focus on these occupations.

Everyone will need these services in their life, and it is getting harder to find competent folks in these occupations.

So, don't just feel for the kids but think of how you will be improving their life's. I will be voting "yes" on 20-291.

—Dave Eckhardt  
Florence

#### PROPERTY INCREASE TOO MUCH FOR SCHOOL BOND

Please protect our schools by voting "no" on the new school bond. Last year, the owner of a modest home with an assessed value of \$200,000 paid \$1,323 in taxes to support education at all levels. — with \$150 of those dollars for the local operating levy, which must be periodically renewed with voter approval in order for our schools to function.

If the new construction bond is approved, the owner of that home would have to pay an additional \$400, assuming that the existing bond in fact will have been paid off.

I don't know how many property owners, faced with a 30 percent increase in their property taxes for education, will continue to vote for future operating levies. Those who rent will also pay the additional cost, as property owners pass on all their additional costs in the form of increased rent.

The school district may feel that it needs to replace existing buildings, but to attempt to do this at a cost so high that it jeopardizes approval of future operating levies is extremely short sighted.

—Paul Floto  
Florence

#### SLOW DOWN AND FOLLOW SPEED LIMITS

I wrote you a letter a few months ago regarding the speed limits on Munsel Lake Road.

Speed limit is 35 mph from Highway 101 and is 25 mph starting at Ocean Dunes Drive (golf course) and Munsel Lake Road, and continues through residential area all the way to North Fork Road.

We have had numerous people moving into our area from out of state who do not abide by our speed limit and often laugh at us for trying to help slow them down. We get drivers flipping us off and who are down right disrespectful.

The police have made some what of an effort to police the area, but they are too busy. There are several neighbors who have put many hours into this fight for keeping our neighborhood safe, continuing to send letters to city and county works trying to get solutions.

We had a battery-operated digital speed sign for about three weeks, we just started seeing a difference when it was taken down and placed somewhere else in Lane County. There has been support from ODOT, Florence City Works and ODOT from Eugene, but nothing permanent yet.

Please use common sense and drive safely in our community. We just want awareness of the speed limit and respect of our neighborhood to be recognized as a safe keeping community.

—Pamela Fox  
Florence

#### 'CITY IN MOTION' SHOULD INCLUDE SCHOOLS

I strongly support the new school bonds. Specifically, our Florence students definitely need the vastly improved technology facilities that will be available to them in these new buildings.

I am a retired professor from the University of Oregon. My professional expertise centers on the effective application of computer technologies at all grade levels, K-12, and in all curriculum areas.

Nowadays, adults routinely use computers (including smartphones) throughout their daily lives, at work, at play and so on. Our children need an education that thoroughly integrates such routine use of computer technology in the learning of each subject area they study, and in using this learning to solve problems and accomplish tasks.

That is, they need an education that is appropriate to today's world and the future life they will face as adults.

If Florence is to indeed be a "City in Motion," then it requires a school system with facilities that support our students in their own forward motion into a world that is increasingly digital in all aspects.

The bond funds to build these new facilities will make this possible. For our children's future, I urge support these new technologies in our school by voting "yes."

—David G. Moursund, Ph.D.  
Florence

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## Siuslaw News

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

### POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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