

Cottage Grove Sentinel
116 N. Sixth St.
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

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)



LETTERS

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR GOWING

As of Friday, Oct. 16, Lane County was put on the Governor's Watch List for COVID-19.

As Mayor, I encourage everyone to follow state guidelines for facial coverings, physical distancing and sanitation.

I do feel Cottage Grove is doing a great job, but we are also affected by the rest of the county. Please encourage those around you to follow these guidelines as well.

With Halloween approaching, I know many are wanting to celebrate in some way. Please remember to keep yourself and those around you safe as we try to get through this.

The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce is hosting a drive-through Trick-or-Treat event on Main Street to provide a safe environment.

For more information, contact the Chamber or Main Street Coordinator.

Thank you.

—Jeff Gowing
Cottage Grove Mayor

KENNETH ROBERTS HAS MY VOTE FOR AT-LARGE SEAT

Cottage Grove City Council At-Large position is up this year. I'm voting Kenneth Roberts and I'll try and explain why I feel he is the most qualified candidate.

Councilor Roberts has the time, energy, dedication and knowledge to serve us. As far as I have experienced, Councilor Roberts responds to citizens politely and promptly and remembers that "they" are the real boss while at the same time valuing their contributions, comments and concerns.

As a prior member of the city budget committee, I was able to see

some of the inside operating practices of city government and what I can tell what we really need are more like-minded folks who conduct themselves as Councilor Roberts has, without agendas or a poor attitude.

We need these types of folks to be seated with him for the council to effectively represent the wishes of the general population of our small city. Until then, he is only one man representing us and that does not work, but it is a start and I for one am not willing to start over with someone who has shown us zero proof in an official public capacity who or what they stand for.

As a matter of fact, whether it be on the radio or in print, his opponent constantly reminds us that she has to research many issues brought to her before taking a stand on the issue.

Far too long have we had folks with business ties, special interests and poor attitudes running this town, while they are supposed to be serving us — as Councilor Roberts does each and every day.

Other candidates have spoken and admitted they don't have the time that Councilor Roberts has, they don't have the experience that Councilor Roberts has and many candidates currently have ties to local government and/or local businesses that could conflict with the needs of the average citizen of Cottage Grove.

Councilor Roberts has spent some time getting to know the ins and outs of our little city, evidenced by discussion I've had with him and with how quickly he responds to his constituents' questions on Facebook and live on the daily local AM radio "Beeper" show.

Councilor Roberts knows that the sewer treatment facility reeks;

he lives downtown and knows the effects of rent increases when developers create mid-income housing in buildings that likely won't withstand a large earthquake.

Councilor Roberts is more like the average local citizen than any other candidate running this election season.

Good Luck, Mr. Roberts — you have my vote, Sir!

—Duane A. Taddei
Cottage Grove

ROBERTS REPRESENTS US ALL

Often the only time we miss someone is when they die or lose an election. In our community, with amazement, it's been easy to see Ken Roberts planting flowers, sweeping sidewalks, pulling weeds — simply because it needs to be done.

He does these things in addition to his other volunteers activities, for which I doubt he receives a simple thank you. It's apparent downtown that we never notice things that get done by him until they haven't been done.

He speaks with pride about his adopted city, and has yet to try to advance an agenda for a developer or business.

Often we've seen people who seek election to further a personal — rather than community-minded — agenda that benefits everyone.

As he has grown knowledgeable with what makes our community work, he seeks to rise to the challenge so our community can be prepared for the future.

Mr. Roberts has shown by example that he will continue to represent our community — both residential and commercial — in ways that will benefit us all.

—Su Rosenthal
Cottage Grove

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Sentinel 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 without documentation will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside The Sentinel 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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Table with 2 columns: Subscription type and Rate. Includes 10 Weeks (\$11.50), One year (\$43.50), Senior 62+ (\$33.00), e-Edition year (\$35.00).

Rates in all other areas of United States: 10 weeks, \$16; 1 year, \$56.50; e-Edition \$35. In foreign countries, postage extra.

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Periodicals postage paid at Cottage Grove, Oregon. Postmaster: Send address changes to P.O. Box 35, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Local Mail Service:

If you don't receive your Cottage Grove Sentinel on the THURSDAY of publication, please let us know. Call 541-942-3325 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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'Yes' on Measure 108 protects children's health

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

When I was invited to join Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's Vaping Public Health Work Group in early 2020, I was honored to have the opportunity to lend my voice and the voice of PeaceHealth to this important process. I have been a member of PeaceHealth's pediatric hospitalist team for more than nine years, and I've seen firsthand the effects of the youth vaping epidemic — an epidemic that jumped 80 percent between 2017 and 2019.

This increase is even more concerning amidst a pandemic as smokers/vapers are more vulnerable to serious cases of COVID-19.

For eight months our group met — discussing the health risks of vaping — and in August we provided

the governor with our public policy recommendations for long-term solutions.

I'm proud to say that the end result of our combined work is something that I believe can provide real pos-

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Dr. Serena Black

Pediatric Hospitalist, PeaceHealth Oregon

itive change for our Oregon communities. Measure 108, which was written by a bi-partisan committee, establishes a 65 percent wholesale tax on nicotine vaping products and increase cigarette taxes by \$2 per pack. Studies show that increasing the vape and tobacco taxes will prevent more than 19,000 people from starting to smoke and nearly 12,000 premature deaths.

And, increasing tobacco taxes lowers healthcare costs for everyone; currently Oregonians pay \$1.5

billion per year for smoking-related healthcare costs.

All money collected from the vape and tobacco taxes will be dedicated to Oregon Health Plan and smoking prevention and cessation programs. OHP provides coverage for more than one million underserved Oregonians, including seniors, families and 400,000 kids.

Tobacco is the number one cause of preventable death in Oregon, leading to nearly 8,000 deaths per year.

Our children are being led down a dangerous path. One in four high schoolers in Oregon are vaping, which leads to a three times greater chance to start smoking.

It's time we act to protect our children and provide them with a healthy future.

That is why I'm voting "yes" on Measure 108.