

## EDITORIAL

# What does it take to run for governor?

If it takes 15 pages to convince somebody you are an Oregon resident, well, it could be the evidence is so overwhelming that there's a lot to say!

It could be that the argument is not so great, so might as well throw everything in there. Or it could just be complicated.

Which brings us to the 15 pages by lawyers for Nicholas Kristof, arguing yes, he is a resident of Oregon and is qualified to run for governor.

Kristof indisputably won the Pulitzer Prize, twice. The first time was for his reporting of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests and a second time for his columns for the New York Times on genocide in Darfur. (You can read the pieces at [tinyurl.com/Kristofchina](http://tinyurl.com/Kristofchina) and [tinyurl.com/KristofinDarfur](http://tinyurl.com/KristofinDarfur). Worth it.)

Kristof indisputably is also Oregon grown, raised in Yamhill. He indisputably owns property there.

Whether he is an Oregon resident may be mostly true or mostly not true. It's mostly argued so he might be governor. He may meet the requirement for "a resident within this state" for a period of "three years next preceding his election." It's not axiomatic. We can't tell you what a court would decide.

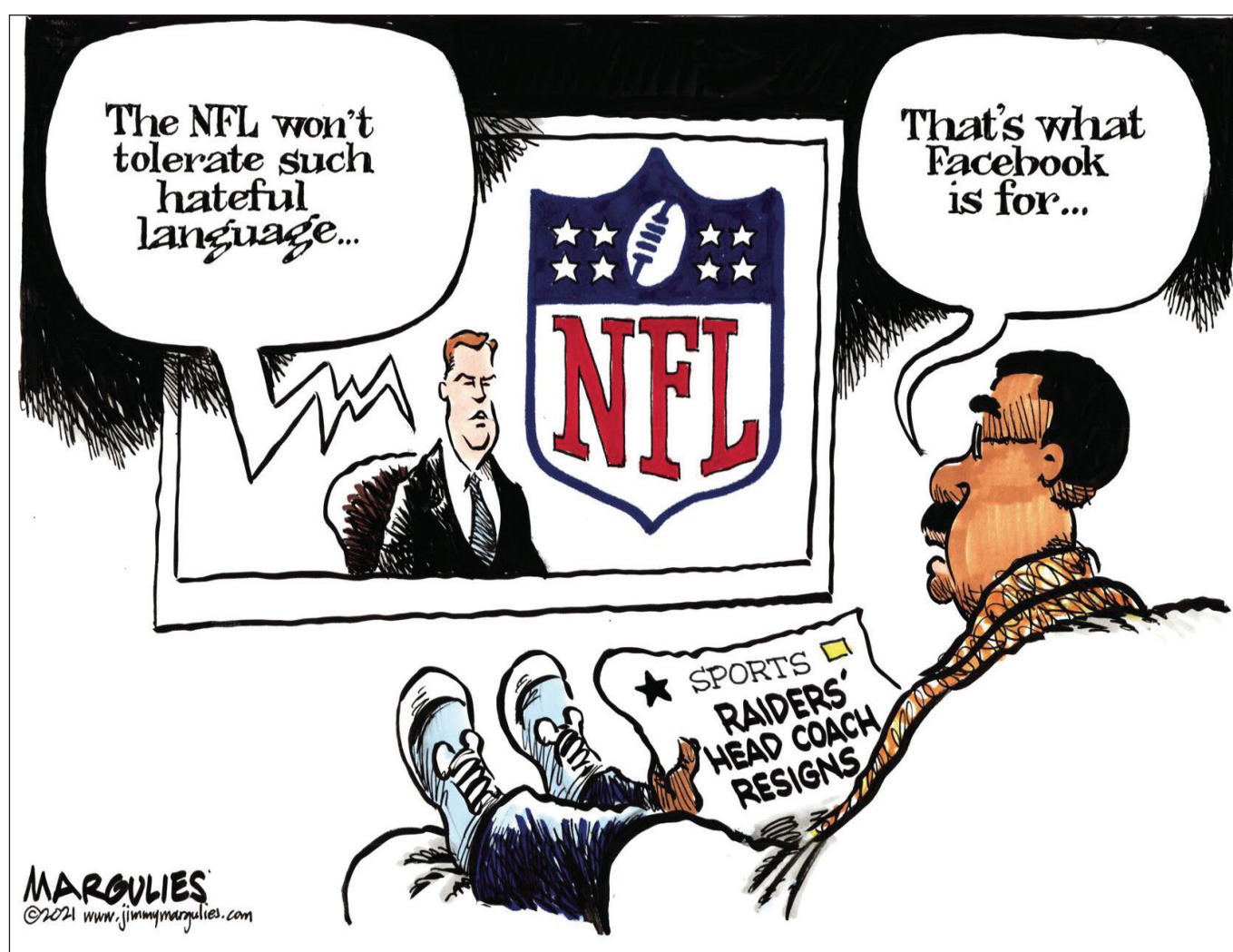
The 15 pages read like a combination of learned treatise, campaign flyer and some odd facts. We learn legal history of the concept of residency. We repeatedly are told Kristof considered Oregon home. He would mention he was "home" in his columns, referring to Oregon. We learn "he made a significant investment to convert his Yamhill family farm from growing cherries to cider apples and wine grapes." His family "keeps personal items like clothing" at the home in Oregon. The family dog's name: Crystal.

It also says in 2000, he registered to vote in New York state. He switched it to Oregon in December 2020. And in New York, you must be a resident of New York to vote in New York. Does that mean he is not a resident of Oregon three years preceding the Nov. 8, 2022 election? Or is voting not enough to determine residency?

We'd like to see him run because he's smart. We would like to hear his vision for Oregon, what policies he would choose to get us there and why we should believe he would be good at governing.

It would be a worse race without him. The Democratic Party primary may be the only part of the race that really matters in the governor's election. And that field is crowded with candidates such as House Speaker Tina Kotek and state Treasurer Tobias Read, and the less well known. Kristof would give voters another choice and we imagine a meaningfully different one.

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## Are Washington's massive spending plans worth the cost?

By RACHEL GRESZLER

There seems to be something for everyone in the massive spending packages now working their way through Congress. And with a price tag of \$4.6 trillion, or \$37,400 per household, offering something for everyone — be it government-paid family leave, monthly child payments, free community college, union dues write-offs, a \$12,500 electric vehicle tax credit or new bike paths — is easy.

Politicians who want to grow government like to talk about how great this grab-bag will be for workers, for families and for the economy. And they promise that only big corporations and really wealthy people will pay higher taxes.

But that's like selling a souped-up Lincoln Navigator to a family that wants a minivan, reasoning that both require the same down payment.

Families deserve to know how much big-government policies will cost them — not only in taxes, but in how those policies will affect their paychecks and the prices they pay for everything from gas and groceries to utilities and child care.

Let's start with taxes, which already consume more of Americans' budgets than food, housing and clothing combined.

President Joe Biden promised that he wouldn't raise taxes on anyone making less than \$400,000, but Congress's official nonpartisan scorekeepers said that his plan would raise taxes on millions of middle-class families.

Beginning in 2023, taxes would rise for nearly 6 million taxpayers that make less than \$100,000. By 2027, more than

half of all families earning between \$75,000 and \$100,000 would pay more in taxes. Taxes would even rise on hundreds of thousands of families making less than \$20,000 a year.

Of course, taxes aren't the only thing that affects families' budgets.

The income that workers earn, and the prices they pay for goods and services, also determine a family's bottom line.

The proposed corporate tax rate of 26.5 percent would put the U.S. at a competitive disadvantage. Even China's Communist Party only levels a 25 percent corporate tax rate.

Corporations seem like an easy target for tax hikes because we tend to think of them in abstract ways — as corporate logos and big buildings. But logos and buildings don't pay taxes. People do.

Across the U.S., companies would be hit with large tax hikes that economists agree would mostly be paid for by employees of those businesses through lower wages, less work and fewer benefits.

If higher taxes and lower incomes weren't bad enough, another squeeze to families' budgets will be higher prices.

After \$6.5 trillion in COVID-19 spending, and the Federal Reserve buying more than half of the massive increase in U.S. debt over the past year, the risks of inflation are high. Another \$4.6 trillion in spending between the \$1.1 trillion infrastructure package and the \$3.5 trillion big government socialist package would further stoke inflation and fiscal crisis risks.

And finally, so-called green energy policies will drastically increase costs

for ordinary Americans, while creating special benefits for wealthy Americans and corporations. For example, the current \$2,500-\$5,000 electronic vehicle (EV) tax credit that overwhelmingly benefits corporations, California residents and individuals with more than \$100,000 of income would be increased to as much as \$12,500, even as ordinary Americans receive zero tax credits — and higher energy bills.

While the Green New Deal is not included whole cloth, one of the deal's sponsors, Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., said that "the Green New Deal is in the DNA" of the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation spending package.

According to an analysis from the Heritage Foundation, the Green New Deal would cost every American \$1,991 per year over the next decade, or nearly \$8,000 per year for a family of four.

Combined, higher taxes, lower incomes, higher prices and added energy costs could cost the typical American household \$100,000 over the next decade.

Compared to \$37,400 per household in new government spending, that's a pretty raw deal for ordinary Americans.

Instead of trying to sell Americans on policies that redistribute workers' earnings and redirect families choices, lawmakers should seek policies that help all Americans achieve rising incomes, and greater freedom to pursue the choices that are best for them.

*Rachel Greszler is a research fellow in economics at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).*

## OTHER VIEWS

## Newsom must stop COVID-19 mixed messages

**Editorial from The Mercury News:**

It's easy to think Gov. Gavin Newsom did the right thing Oct. 1 when he announced a statewide COVID-19 vaccination mandate for school students and staff members.

Give the governor credit for getting the concept right. But closer scrutiny reveals a decidedly mixed message of the kind that Californians have come to expect from Newsom on matters dealing with the coronavirus.

Vaccines save lives and are the effective tool available to fight the pandemic. We support the concept of local, state and federal vaccine mandates.

The governor's reluctance to impose a statewide mandate for younger students until the vaccines have the full approval from the FDA is understandable. But what's keeping Newsom from requiring that staff members must be vaccinated by, say, Dec. 1, since the FDA has already cleared the vaccines for adults? Or students 16-and-older, for that matter, since they, too, have the FDA's stamp of approval.

The governor said that staff members would not have to be vaccinated

until the school term after the vaccines have full approval from the FDA for students grades 7-12 and K-6. Unless vaccine makers get the OK for those two groups by Jan. 1, that means staff may not be required to be vaccinated until at least the fall of 2022. In what world does that make sense?

It mirrors the inconsistency of the governor's July 26 announcement of a vaccine mandate for all state employees and workers in health care and high-risk congregate settings.

"As the state's largest employer, we are leading by example and requiring all state and health care workers to show proof of vaccination or be tested regularly, and we are encouraging local governments and businesses to do the same," Newsom said. "Vaccines are safe — they protect our family, those who truly can't get vaccinated, our children and our economy. Vaccines are the way we end this pandemic."

But when the powerful state prison guards' union protested, the governor caved. His administration resisted the mandate for prison workers, despite more than 50,000 California state pris-

oners testing positive for COVID-19 and 240 inmate deaths. It took a Sept. 27 federal judge's ruling to enforce the state mandate for prison guards. As of Sept. 28, CalMatters reported that fewer than half of California's prison guards had been fully vaccinated.

Newsom's mandate for students also includes a religious and personal belief exemption. California has been down that path before with its vaccine mandate for contagious diseases such as the measles. It took state Sen. Richard Pan's legislation to close loopholes that anti-vaxxers used to skirt the state requirement.

In 2015, California was one of only 20 states to permit a personal belief exemption for philosophical reasons, and 80% of parents who declined MMR vaccines for their kids used that excuse. More than 10,000 kindergarten students used waivers due to parents' personal beliefs to avoid MMR vaccinations.

Vaccine mandates provide the clearest path to a return to normalcy. The governor should back his tough talk with actions that match his words.