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Powerful gathering downtown calls attention to killing of George Floyd

VOTE BY MAIL
Controversy long settled in Oregon

BY GARY A. WARNER
For the Oregon Capital Bureau
Oregon voters love vote by mail. So does the governor and two senators, all Democrats. Plus the secretary of state, a Republican. But one American political leader is dead-set against it — and he lives in the White House.

"The United States cannot have all Mail in Ballots," President Donald Trump wrote on Twitter on May 24. "It will be the greatest Rugged Election in history. People grab them from mailboxes, print thousands of forgeries and 'force' people to sign." Also, forge names. Some absentee OK, when necessary. Trying to use Covid for this Scam!"

Twitter, for the first time, added a warning note to Trump's tweets on voting by mail, with a link to media reports calling Trump's claims unsubstantiated. It said its research staff found "no evidence" of voter fraud tied to mail-in ballots.

But some Republicans have echoed Trump's sentiments.

"The apocalypse has arrived," said Minnesota Republican Party Chair Jennifer Camahan.

A debate over expanding mail-in voting nationwide has been set off by the question of how to hold a national election in November during a pandemic that has killed 100,000 Americans since February.

Currently, 34 other states and the District of Columbia allow absentee ballots. Oregon, along with Washington, Colorado, Utah and Hawaii, hold elections with mail-only voting.

See Vote / A8

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