

The Bulletin

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY bendbulletin.com

ELECTION 2020

Kropf did not disclose \$45K from teachers union



State Rep. Jason Kropf, D-Bend

BY HILLARY BORRUD

The Oregonian

A Bend lawmaker who picked up a long-desired seat for Democrats in 2020 failed to disclose \$45,000 in campaign donations from the statewide teachers union.

Rep. Jason Kropf, a Democrat, was a deputy district attorney when he ran for the seat held by Republican restaurant owner Cheri Helt last year. It was one of the most contentious legislative races in the state. Helt reported spending nearly \$1 million

to hold onto the district where Democrats significantly outnumbered Republicans, and Kropf reported spending \$522,000, according to state campaign finance disclosures. Kropf defeated Helt 60% to 38.9%.

Missing from Kropf's spending total and donor disclosures is \$45,000 worth of campaign advertising purchased or produced on his behalf by the Oregon Education Association, according to state campaign finance disclosures reviewed by The Oregonian. The news organization discovered the discrepancy while reviewing the union's political action committee donations to legislative candidates. Most of OEA-PAC's donations to Kropf were for television and radio ads.

Kropf's campaign coordinated with donors to fund his advertising efforts with in-kind expenditures, Federal Communications Commission records show. For example, the ad time buying company Media Analysis purchased time slots from a Bend television station on behalf of Kropf's political action committee, "Jason for Bend." Then

OEA-PAC and other campaign donors paid Kropf's campaign bills from Media Analysis and other vendors.

The only OEA-PAC contribution Kropf disclosed in state filings was a \$500 cash donation.

Under state campaign finance rules, Kropf and his campaign staff were responsible for reporting the union's \$45,000 of in-kind donations at the time they knew of the contributions and received the advertising services. *See Kropf / A4*

EAGLE BROOD



BY RYAN BRENNECKE • The Bulletin

A trio of eaglets pop their heads up as one of their parents lands on a perch above the nest after returning from a short flight along the Deschutes River near Sunriver on Saturday.

Pandemic movers

Study: People left big metros

Moves most common for higher-income earners

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

A new study and data from the U.S. Census Bureau show thousands of people migrated out of the nation's largest metropolitan areas and into smaller ones during the pandemic.

The study found that many of the migrants weren't driven by new jobs or weather — or even a fear of the virus — but a desire to be closer to family and a freedom to make it happen because of remote working. Although the pattern of people moving from larger to smaller cities has been going on for several years, the pandemic exacerbated that trend, said Peter Haslag of Vanderbilt University, who conducted the study on migrant motivations with Daniel Weagley of Georgia Tech. Their paper has not yet been published.

The data adds to understanding of how the pandemic has changed where and how Americans live. The moves were most common among those with higher incomes and more job flexibility. If the trends continue, it could have long-term implications for real estate markets, tax bases and the wealth inequality in cities, according to researchers.

"For us, the question is, is this a temporary blip or is it going to continue?" Haslag said. "If work-from-home really is going to be a factor in job and company decisions, and by allowing work and location to be separate decisions, people are going to be able to optimize their locations, if they have the right jobs."

The Census Bureau data shows that the New York metro area — which was hit early by the new coronavirus — declined by about 108,000 residents, or 0.5%. Roughly 216,000 residents moved out of the metropolitan area, but the natural increase from births and gains in international migration offset the departures. The New York metro area has experienced decelerated growth over the past several years, but last year's decline was a bigger bite of the Big Apple than in 2019, when it lost 60,000 residents.

The nation's next largest metro areas — Los Angeles and Chicago — also experienced greater population declines last year compared to the previous year: around 0.5% last year compared to 0.3% in 2019 for both metros. San Francisco also had a drop of around 0.5% last year compared to a 0.1% gain in 2019.

See Movers / A4

TODAY'S WEATHER



Mostly sunny
High 68, Low 38
Page A10

INDEX

Comics	A7-8	Kid Scoop	A9	Puzzles	A8
Dear Abby	A4	Local/State	A2-3	Sports	A5-6
Horoscope	A4	Nation/World	A10	Weather	A10

The Bulletin
An Independent Newspaper
Monday E-Edition, 10 pages, 1 section



088267102329 1