

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Sen. Findley faces potential recall

BY STEVEN MITCHELL

Blue Mountain Eagle

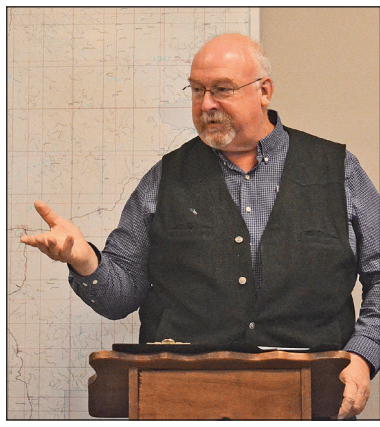
State Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, faces a potential recall effort.

Chief petitioner Patrick A. Kopke-Hales of Mount Vernon filed a prospective recall petition with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office on Monday.

Kopke-Hales wrote in his justification that Findley had acted "against the values and principles of the constituents he represents" for supporting Senate Bill 865, and for not walking out to prevent the passage of Senate Bill 554 on gun control legislation.

Findley — who represents Senate District 30 covering all of Baker, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Malheur and Wheeler counties and parts of Deschutes, Lake and Wasco counties — said he was in the final days of the legislative session and that there is too much going on right now to be "distracted" by "something else." Kopke-Hales declined to comment.

Kopke-Hales wrote in the prospective petition that Findley betrayed the "will of the people" by introducing Senate Bill 865. The proposed legislation would have prevented elected officials at the state level — including governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, labor commissioner,



Blue Mountain Eagle file photo
Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, represents Jefferson County and parts of Deschutes.

state lawmaker, supreme court judge or appeals court judge — from serving as an elected officer on the state central committee of a political party.

Senate Republicans have since pulled back on the bill.

Senate Bill 554 sets storage requirements for firearms and bans holders of concealed handgun licenses from bringing them into the Oregon Capitol and Portland International Airport passenger terminal.

Kopke-Hales wrote that Findley "facilitated the passing" of SB 554 by not walking out of the session to prevent Democrats from having the

required quorum to approve the bill in the Senate, where it passed 16-7. Findley voted against it. It was signed two weeks ago by Gov. Kate Brown.

Findley said SB 865 was a bill constituents requested he introduce that has since been withdrawn.

Findley said he had been questioned on SB 554 and that he chose to stay in session and fight the bill's passage.

"I chose to stand and fight and put stuff on the record," he said, "and by staying in the session, I was able to work hard for the constituents. And that's what I'm supposed to do."

Aaron Fiedler, press secretary with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, said Kopke-Hales must collect and submit at least 8,289 valid signatures from active electors in Senate District 30 no later than 5 p.m. Sept. 13. He said the recall becomes void if there are not enough signatures submitted by the deadline.

If at least 8,289 signatures are submitted, the Elections Division will have 10 days to complete the signature verification process.

Fiedler said the petition is not approved to circulate yet. The Elections Division is waiting on Kopke-Hales to submit printed examples of cover and signature sheets and create a petition committee.

Brown vetoes \$200M in education funding

BY HILLARY BORRUD

The Oregonian

Oregon lawmakers who want to spend \$9.3 billion on schools over the next two years will have to find a big chunk of funding in the remaining days of the legislative session, after Gov. Kate Brown used a line-item veto to cut their appropriation from a savings account created to serve as a buffer against economic downturns.

With huge revenue windfalls predicted in the current and next biennium, plus \$2.6 billion from the latest round of federal COVID aid, finding the money won't be difficult.

Brown notified Democratic leaders in the House and Senate of her line-item veto Tuesday. It was the governor's second veto this session, after she vetoed a motorcycle lane splitting bill.

The governor's latest veto was not surprising. In mid-May, Brown raised concerns about lawmakers' plan in a fiery letter in which she also questioned why they were boosting unrestricted school funding by hundreds of millions of dollars without making changes to reduce the opportunity gap for students historically inequitably served by schools, including low-in-

come children and students of color.

In her letter Tuesday, Brown said that taking \$200 million from the education stability fund would likely violate the Oregon Constitution because the state is doing well financially. She encouraged lawmakers to use other money to raise the state school fund for 2021-2023 from \$9.1 billion to \$9.3 billion.

The reserve account lawmakers wanted to tap is known as the education stability fund, and the governor noted in her letter that "the Oregon Constitution sets forth the limited circumstances in which the Legislature can access the principal in the (fund) — namely when the state is experiencing an economic downturn or facing some other emergency affecting school budgets."

The Legislature already withdrew \$400 million from the education fund during a special session last summer and as of mid-May the balance stood at \$415 million, according to state economist Josh Lehner. Lawmakers did not use the withdrawal to increase the current \$9 billion state school fund but rather to backfill anticipated declines in revenue including from income taxes.

TODAY

Today is Thursday, June 17, the 168th day of 2021. There are 197 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **June 17, 1994**, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was later acquitted in a criminal trial but held liable in a civil trial.)

In **1775**, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

In **1885**, the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York Harbor.

In **1972**, President Richard Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside the Democratic headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex.

In **2015**, nine people were shot to death in a historic African American church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Ten years ago: A Saudi woman defiantly drove through Riyadh in the first forays of a challenge to Saudi Arabia's male-only driving rules.

Five years ago: Thousands of fans said farewell to "The Voice" singer

Christina Grimmie at services in New Jersey, a week after the 22-year-old was shot to death in Florida.

One year ago: City commissioners in Portland voted to cut \$16 million from the police budget

Today's Birthdays: Singer Barry Manilow is 78. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is 78. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 70. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 67. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 61. Actor Greg Kinnear is 58. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 51. Latin pop singer Paulina Rubio is 50. Tennis player Venus Williams is 41. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 34.

— Associated Press



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