



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rest assured, our elections are safe, secure

I want to respond to Christine L. Sundt's letter (Aug. 9) and reassure her, and all Oregonians, that they can be confident in our elections.

Despite today's political climate, Oregon's vote-by-mail system remains as safe, secure and effective as it has been for over 20 years.

Each ballot has a unique barcode, which allows voters to track its status every step of the way. Each ballot is authenticated with signature verification. If your signature does not match, you'll be notified — and given the opportunity to correct it.

We have rigorous procedures to ensure the security of our elections. Fraud remains exceedingly rare — less than 1% of ballots cast in the 2016 general election were determined to be fraudulent.

I have long believed that transparency and communication are key to ensuring voters are confident and knowledgeable about our election systems. That's why our website is such a valuable resource. Voters can update their registration, track the status of their ballot, locate the nearest ballot drop site, check upcoming deadlines and more.

I want to personally reassure Ms. Sundt, and all Oregonians, that the Elections Division and county clerks continue to conduct elections with security and integrity.

Bev Clarno, Secretary of State

PS: They all wore masks

On July 10 I was in an automobile accident on Highway 126. My vehicle rolled over twice and started on fire. A number of good Samaritans stopped.

One blessed individual had a fire extinguisher. Able to put out the fire, a young man centered my vehicle on its side, and helped assist me up to the open window and another pulled me out. Others kept me on the ground immobile (not knowing the extent of my injuries) until the fire department and ambulance came some time later due to the distance from the nearest ER services in Florence.

How do I adequately thank these good folks whose names I do not know who stopped, some who risked their lives and others who cared for me? Never adequately. They were selfless and I am here today doing well because of them. I don't even know if they live in the Eugene area but do want to recognize such heroic people who cared so much about a stranger. My heartfelt appreciation to them all, and the two state police officers and Florence Fire and Rescue.

P.S. — They all wore masks.

Joanne Kittel, Yachats

Term limits now

We're all going through hard times, but in November we have a chance to change the mindset of our leaders — it is called term limits!

Other people have written on this same topic but we need to put the highest priority on saying goodbye to all of these men and women who have made a career of doing nothing for the American people except fill their own pockets.

Some of these career politicians, who have led us through 9/11, the 2008 recession and now this pandemic, have sat back and collected all their pay and all their perks without any conscience.

American people have lost their homes, employment and retirements that they worked all their lives for.

Meanwhile our career politicians collect their pay, go on vacations and then when we need their support, they adjourn and go on break?

It is time, no matter what party you belong to, if anyone is up for reelection and has been there for longer than two terms, let's show them what it is like to look for employment and bring in some fresh ideas. If we don't do it, we all know they will never vote for term limits.

Mike Gowins, Springfield

Lessons from the trickster in chief

Amanda Astor's opinion piece (In My Opinion, Aug. 14) talks about "serial litigants" and "forest management obstructionists" working to stop "science-based forestmanagement activities" and the absurdity of taking into account the earth's sixth mass species extinction.

What she is actually referring to are the concerned citizens that don't want public forests logged for the many important ecosystem services they provide, including important wildlife habitat that is being destroyed by clear-cut logging. It's too bad Astor doesn't think the sixth mass species extinction is an important issue, but the most respected scientists have been ringing the alarm bells on this issue for many decades. The No. 1 cause for a species to go extinct is loss of habitat. She exaggerates how long the average National Environmental Policy Act takes to review logging proposals and calls those of us concerned citizens "tricksters" that "game the system." Wow. Looks like she took some lessons from the trickster in chief, Donald Trump. I urge you to discontinue publishing her opinions.

Donald Alexander, Dexter

Shadow of a doubt