

Good Afternoon,

My name is Kim Schmith.

In 2020 I ran for county commissioner in Jefferson County, where I have lived for decades. All county seats in Jefferson County are nonpartisan.

The State of Oregon's Timeline in the Candidate Guide said we had to file by Tuesday, 5pm and had until Thursday 5pm to upload our candidate statements. When I went to upload it a bit after 5pm on Tuesday I was told, via computer message, I was past the deadline to upload.

I spent days trying to work with the Elections Division, finally getting a hold of, or being kicked up to someone who could explain to me that there were 12 counties that because of their size had their voter's pamphlets grouped along with a couple of other nearby counties. These voter's pamphlets were done by the state, not by the county, and so the date was Tuesday at 5pm.

It took days to just find this out, with nobody at the Elections Division even understanding my questions, and nobody that you are talking to can make the change to correct this issue.

Then in 2022, 2 good candidates had the same thing happen to them in Jefferson County. One was serving as sheriff, but he had been appointed when the previous one retired. He didn't make the Tuesday, 5pm deadline as he went by the "rule book". The other person was Laurie Danzuka. She was the first Native American in Jefferson County to ever run for a County level office. She also missed the deadline date.

It was after I saw this happen to other people. I knew it wasn't just a "me" issue. Then I started bringing it up to anyone who would listen. Thank you, Senator Frederick, for listening.

Please, make the rules the same for all candidates across Oregon.