

# 15<sup>th</sup> annual Taxpayer Awards

We honor the heroic and scandalous acts in Oregon politics



*Tax hero against government abuse*

## REP. WHISNANT WINS THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD

**State Representative Gene Whisnant.** For creating the legislation behind the nationally recognized government transparency website where the public can see how much government brings in and where it spends their tax dollars. Whisnant is also recognized for his budget investigations into \$300 million in potential vacant state employee positions and problems with the half-billion education ELL & poverty program funds.

## GOVERNMENT WASTE AWARD

**\$650,000 to pay people not to leave.** Cover Oregon offered as much as \$650,000 to 160 employees not to leave the failed website project.

Runner-ups include: \$24,000 for a sex-ed speech when University of Oregon paid controversial speaker Dan Savage to give a single speech which included insightful topics (such as people who like to make love in gorilla suits). \$940,000 in Portland rate dollars to build an exorbitant "Water House" -- later sold off for \$395,000.

## GOLDEN SCHNOZ AWARD

(Where government sticks its nose where it doesn't belong)

**Ban on beer at self-checkout:** Senator Floyd Proszanski tried to ban beer and wine sales at self-check out stores.

## EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARD:

**Nigel Jacquiss of Willamette Week** for investigating and reporting over the Kitzhaber scandal.



*Overachiever in corruption*

## KITZHABER WINS WORST POLITICAL FIGURE AWARD -- AGAIN!

**Former Gov. John Kitzhaber:** For employing his fiancé as a public official while she received money from lobby interest groups and then proceeded to try to destroy email evidence which contributed to his history making resignation.

Runner-ups: Bruce Goldberg -- Cover Oregon Director behind ¼ billion Cover Oregon flop. Resigned and re-hired as \$14,000 a month consultant. Carole Smith -- Portland School Board president: Received a 28% pay raise, yet Portland schools had 4th worst attendance and they fell to the nation's worst graduation rate under her tenure.

## BUREAUCRATIC BUNGLER AWARD

**\$15 million software glitch.** About \$15 million was wasted by Employment Dept. on new failed software.

## GOVERNMENT INNOVATION AWARD:

**Baker City.** The city raised \$30,000 by selling surplus and outdated city property on eBay.



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