

# Kitzhaber flees Media Interview over tough questions



KATU-2 News spent weeks trying to secure an interview with Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber to ask questions on one of the biggest news stories of 2013 -- the \$200 million waste spent on the failed Cover Oregon website which failed to enroll a single person months after its debut. Kitzhaber defended himself by saying he had no idea that the website was going to be a disaster until right before the launch. KATU-2 News provided a 2012 email from then State Representative Patrick Sheehan, a computer expert. He warned Kitzhaber of problems in the website 10 months before the site imploded. Kitzhaber denied seeing the email. After that question, Kitzhaber aides intervened to cut the meeting short, making the interview last about four minutes. In media circles, Kitzhaber is known for not conducting interviews. *(Katu-TV 1-9-14)*

Since the website meltdown in October, 2013, the Chief Information Officer for the website resigned in December and the Executive Director of Cover Oregon resigned in January.

## Did the Legislature really fix PERS?

Two PERS bills helped to reduce the PERS unfunded liability by about \$5 billion. However, even with those savings the unfunded liability is still \$11 billion. And PERS rate reductions through a process called "collaring" are illusionary because they just spread the debt into the future

making current payments smaller but not really solving anything. One example of how the savings translated was done by researcher Dan Lucas who noted that Salem-Keizer School district went from a PERS cost of 31% to 27% per payroll. The average in the private sector is 3.7%. Stepping back one realizes the politicians saved enough in government pension costs to get through the 2014 election but will have to deal with a majority of the problems in the long term until they make bigger changes.

## Good Ideas in the February Session

Both State Representative **Jason Conger** and **Dennis Richardson** are calling for the state to close down the Cover Oregon website after it was learned that we spent \$200 million on the website disaster and became a national embarrassment. Conger's plan allows Oregonians to enroll directly through insurance companies.

## 9 new Oregon Laws for 2014

1. Minimum wage to increase to \$9.10 an hour.
2. Maximum fine for driving with cell-phone raised to \$500.
3. Tobacco taxes up 13-cents to \$1.31 a pack.
4. Illegal to smoke in a vehicle if a minor is present.
5. Illegal to tether a dog if dog is harmed.
6. Illegal to engage in rodeo event called "horse roping".
7. Limits on photo studios offering movies or keepsake photos of ultrasound images.
8. Illegal for minors to use a tanning bed.
9. Allows Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to be added to the list of conditions for use of medical marijuana.

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Taxpayer Association of Oregon  
P.O. box 23573, Tigard, OR, 97281

## We have created captions for actual Cover Oregon ads in light of their \$200 million website meltdown

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|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Long live Oregonians.</b></p>      | <p><b>LONG LIVE OREGONIANS!</b></p>                   | <p><b>COVER OREGON</b><br/>GET HEALTH INSURANCE AT COVEROREGON.COM</p> <p><b>OREGONIANS LIVE LONG</b></p> |  |
| <p><b>Taxpayers will get soaked!</b></p> | <p><b>People stuck in the bowels of Obamacare</b></p> | <p><b>Kitzhaber's plan: Cross your fingers &amp; hope it works</b></p>                                    | <p><b>Oversight staff happily have their heads in the clouds</b></p> |