**Bob Tiernan**

**Candidate for Governor**

**Answer to Oregonian Editorial Board Questions**

1. *Name, age (now and if that will change before May 17), education, profession, previous governmental/political experience. Please also email us a jpg photo of yourself.*

ANSWER

**Name: Bob Tiernan**

**Age: 66**

**Occupation: Business Management Consultant, Attorney, Father and Grandfather**

**Occupational Background: Business Executive, Grocery Outlet President, Small Business Owner and Consultant, Commander US Navy, Oregon Republican Party Chairman.**

**Educational Experience: Georgetown University Law School (Masters), Seattle University Law School (JD), Oregon State University (BS), US Navy (courses).**

**Prior Governmental Experience: State Representative 1992-1997**

1. *Explain why you are the right choice to be governor and your priorities if elected. Please note accomplishments or aspects of your record that show you have the experience or approach that Oregon needs now, as well as an ability to bridge partisan and cultural divisions.*

**ANSWER**

**I have the demonstrated leadership, experience and actual accomplishments that Oregon needs to solve its most pressing problems, including:**

* **My experience in business, running multi-million dollar companies and helping turn around by providing leadership and fixing problems, including President of Grocery Outlet.**
* **28 years of military service & leadership- -leading teams and accomplishing objectives, with no excuses. (Commander, US Navy)**
* **Legislative leadership and experience (State Representative from 1992-1997). Chairman of several committees, including the Crime and Corrections committee and the General Government committee ----standing up for Oregonians and making our neighborhoods safer.**
* **My professional experience as an attorney and knowing the importance of the enforcing the rule of law.**
* **Providing the leadership necessary as Chief Petitioner to sponsor and pass several statewide ballot measures ---when the legislature failed to act. (Measure 8, 10, 11 and 17)**
* **My educational Background: Oregon State (BS), Seattle University (JD) and Georgetown Law Masters, (LLM)**

1. *What principles will guide you in navigating Oregon through whatever comes next in the COVID-19 pandemic? What has Oregon gotten right or wrong (e.g. closing schools, mask mandates, vaccine priority) in addressing COVID?*

**My decision making process, balancing harm v. benefit, ability to put together knowledgeable teams, using fact based approaches, listening to different ideas, considering and exploring “unintended consequences” of each major decision and making necessary adjustments as the facts or circumstances change.**

**Oregon should not have closed Schools. The harm it caused our children far outweighed the benefits. Government mandates, such as vaccine mandates, should only come in extreme situations, especially when it denies Oregonians some of their most basic rights.**

1. *The pandemic and relief efforts exposed serious failures in Oregon state government, such as the months-long delays in issuing unemployment insurance and rent assistance, but such shortcomings are not new. How would you ensure state agencies’ competence and instill a culture of accountability?*

**ANSWER**

**Tough question. Accountability and responsibility starts at the top. An organization is only as good as the leadership that runs it. Having experienced, knowledgeable and proven leaders who know how to run large organizations and accomplish goals --- is the key. Recruiting outside managers and department heads with experience from the private sector – or successful leaders from other outside Government Organizations -- would be a big step in the right direction. Agency heads and department heads must have the training, experience and knowledge to achieve results. And Agency heads and elected leaders must be unafraid to hold people accountable.**

1. *The heat waves, wildfires and drought that have marked the past several years show the toll that climate change is already having on Oregon. What can and should Oregon be doing in the face of this global phenomenon?*

**ANSWER**

**Oregon should take steps to help reduce the impact of a warming planet. Reducing and discouraging the use of fossil fuels is important. At the same time, we must be careful of the unintended consequences of Government actions on Oregonians livelihood, pocket books, the ability to heat their homes, earn a living, travel and enjoy their lives. I do not support drastic actions like "Cap and Trade". But I do support helping our environment by taking preventative measures and conservation--- such as encouraging the use of electric vehicles.**

1. *What steps, changes or investments should Oregon make to shore up its educational system, close the achievement gap and better support students who have suffered academically, emotionally and socially during the pandemic?*

**ANSWER**

**Closing schools during the pandemic was a mistake for multiple reasons. I don’t think we can un-ring that bell, though we can learn from that experience.**

**To improve our schools, I believe we need to offer our students and parents more educational choices, such as: Charter schools, home school, trade schools, remote learning and vouchers to help pay for them. Public schools should be supported and be held to high standards. However, giving parents choices for their children, considering their children’s individual learning needs and instilling a "competition" among different learning environments, would help our children achieve the best education possible. Excellence in education I believe is driven by adequate funding and competition**.

1. *Gov. Kate Brown has issued hundreds of commutations, sparking a lawsuit to block additional commutations and criticisms that she has ignored victims’ rights. Do you agree with Gov. Brown’s actions? What is your view of new criminal justice laws passed in recent years by the Legislature?*

ANSWER

**I do not agree with Governor Brown. As former Chairman of the Legislature’s Crime and Corrections committee it runs counter to the rule of law and the fundamentals of our Criminal Justice system, the safety of Oregonians and the rights of victims.**

**As Chief Sponsor to measure 11, the “tough on crime measures”, the voters had already spoken regarding what they thought the sentences should be for serious felonies such as Murder, rape, and robbery. Clemency should be reserved for the extreme exception. I think the legislature has done a poor job protecting Oregonians from crime by making it harder for the police to do their job.**