

Steve Trout

Oregon Elections Division

Public Service Building Suite 501  
255 Capitol St. NE  
Salem OR 97310

Sent via Email to elections.sos@oregon.gov  
April 19, 2018

Dear Mr. Trout:

I submit this complaint against Lou Ogden, candidate for Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, regarding his violation of Oregon law (ORS 260.550). This statute is clear that a candidate cannot falsely present themselves as an incumbent in a race for an open seat. The evidence cited below clearly demonstrates that Mr. Ogden's campaign is demonstrating a pattern of sending misleading signals to Oregon voters that he is the incumbent Labor Commissioner, in violation of the law.

ORS 260.550 states: "(1) No person shall describe a candidate as the incumbent in the office to which the candidate seeks nomination or election in any material, statement or publication supporting the election of the candidate, with knowledge or with reckless disregard that the description is a false statement of material fact."

First, I note that campaign materials produced by Mr. Ogden consistently fail to identify him as a candidate (see attached).

But far more seriously, Mr. Ogden's [television ad](#) (which also appears on Facebook) contains the following statement:

"As the Labor Commissioner, it's my responsibility to make sure..."

By referring to his "responsibility" in the present tense, Mr. Ogden clearly intends to present himself as currently holding this public office. This is done with complete knowledge that this presentation is a falsity.

ORS 260.532, unlike the preceding statute, is enforceable by the Secretary of State's Office and we request that immediate consideration of this complaint be undertaken since continuing to falsely present Mr. Ogden as currently holding the responsibilities of the BOLI commissioner may disadvantage other candidates by perpetrating a fraud before the voters.

Thank you for your time.



Jeanne Atkins  
Chair, Democratic Party of Oregon

CC: Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, via email oregon.sos@oregon.gov

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