

Gilliam sheds light on residency issue

To the editor:

A couple of letters ran in your paper last Saturday that tried to question my residency. They were based on bogus blogs and the old fashioned nasty rumor-mill.

More than nine years ago I chose to live in Silverton. I raised and co-parented my daughters here and they both graduated from the Silver Falls School District.

I'm a proud homeowner and an Oregon income and property tax payer right here in our district. I am remarried and my wife spends half her time in Seattle co-parenting her school-aged son and half the time here.

Just like any family, we have our own unique set of circumstances. We don't hide our logistical challenges but we do relish our private family time together.

It's true that a kook from my party filed a formal complaint when I first became your representative.

The Secretary of State knows exactly where I live and he ruled in a matter of days that the complaint had no merit and he affirmed the obvious - that I am a legal voter, resident and State Representative.

Welcome to politics — dirty tricksters are always there — but despite this nutty and rare minority I have found the vast majority of my district is made up of hardworking wonderful people from all points of view.

This next session of the Oregon Legislature will be tougher because times are tougher. I'm working to protect your pocketbook and stretch precious tax dollars as far as possible on priorities that help our citizens and solve problems that are of the greatest need.

My top priorities include funding K-12 early in the session, public safety, Oregon Project Independence for seniors and a viable energy plan for using hydrogen power to strengthen our vast northwest hydroelectric grid. I am interested in hearing from your readers about other issues as well.

But most important is the fact that we must live within our means.

I live here and my opponent does, too, and I still want to believe that he shares my concern about issues over dirty politics. Perhaps the only residency question that readers should be worried about relates to my opponent's future home — because it seems to me he's trying to join Jeff Merkley and the rest of the Portland to Eugene legislative crowd on Mars.

That's where they apparently believe that you can tax your way out of high gas and grocery costs instead of promoting business growth and job creation.

VIC GILLIAM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE