

Oregon will spare 60,000 voters from inactive status

KRISTENA HANSEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Oregon — where its first-in-the-nation automatic-voter registration system has been hailed as a pioneer in knocking down voter-access barriers — it takes just five years of failing to participate in an election before a registered voter gets knocked from the active voter rolls and no longer receives a ballot in the mail.

Roughly 400,000 registered Oregonian voters have been flagged as inactive at some point in time, a number that this year is expected to grow by another 30,000 who registered during the

2012 general election when President Barack Obama was up for re-election.

For Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, five years isn't long enough. So this year, he's doubling that timeline to 10 years.

Richardson, the state's first Republican secretary of state in more than 30 years and the first Republican to hold a statewide elected office in 14 years, says that will immediately preserve the statuses of those soon-to-be-inactive voters this year. The change will also be applied retroactively, potentially reactivating another 30,000 or so currently inactive voters by leveraging DMV data-

bases that Richardson's agency already uses to administer the so-called Oregon Motor Voter program.

"This change will protect or restore the voting rights of Oregonians serving our country on military deployments, college students and voters frustrated with the political system," said Richardson, who made the announcement during his first press conference April 11 at the state Capitol in Salem.

Oregon's trailblazing Motor Voter law has so far registered more than 314,000 Oregonians since its January 2016 inception. Those new voters, about 12 percent of the 2.6 million registered voters statewide, and overall voter excitement during last year's wild presidential campaign season helped push Oregon voter turnout to over 80 percent in November.

Quakes

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quake and include preparedness steps individuals and families can take to be ready for other, more common disasters like home fires, floods and wildfires.

Dugaw added that children are welcome. In fact, the Red Cross will offer youth preparedness programs, Pillowcase Project and Preparedness Pals for students in kindergarten through 6th grade.

The event is also geared to help businesses with tips and ideas.

"Encourage businesses to seriously consider making this presentation available to their employees and, if possible, their communities as soon as practicable," said James Merryman, president & chief operating officer of OFD Foods.

"The information it provides will help them and their families understand they can take a pos-

itive step by starting to prepare now. They will find some comfort in knowing they can help their family and friends in the event of such as disaster and in knowing you cared enough to bring this important information to their attention."

One feature presenter is a captivating eye witness to one of the most notable global disasters of recent times. Steve Eberlein witnessed the destruction of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami in Sri Lanka, which was caused by an underwater subduction zone earthquake and resulted in the deaths of nearly 300,000 people in 14 countries.

Eberlein's first-hand account of the incident lends perspective to the importance of preparedness.

Dugaw stressed that following the Prepare Out Loud presentation, attendees will understand the steps they can take now to prepare for an earthquake and the central role their actions and voices play in building our community's resilience.

"We know we need to prepare for a disaster, and Prepare Out Loud helps people and organizations know where to start," said Von Summers, community affairs

Prepare Out Loud

What: Silverton preparedness fair

When: Thursday, April 27, 7-8:30 p.m.

Where: Silverton High School, 1456 Pine Street, Silverton, OR 97381

Information and RSVP: www.redcross.org/PrepareOutLoudSilverton

Presentation covers:

* The science and history of the Cascadia Subduction Zone

* Human behavior during disasters

* What to expect during and after a Cascadia earthquake

* How to prepare to quickly locate your loved ones following a disaster

* How much food, water, and supplies you will need to take care of yourself and others

manage for NW Natural. "I came to the presentation knowing I would learn more about the hazards we face in the Pacific Northwest. What I didn't realize is how motivating the topic could be."

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Eclipse

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I don't think it should be this time," Councilor Jason Freiling said.

The push for more campsites in Silverton is part of a bigger story unfolding wherever viewers can experience roughly two minutes of daytime darkness on Aug. 21.

Campsites and hotel rooms in the eclipse's "path of totality" sold out long ago.

For campers, Oregon State Parks last week unveiled 1,000 additional campsites in the path of the eclipse, from the Oregon Coast to the eastern parts of the state.

For Silverton, the Aug. 19-21 weekend is a unique opportunity for local businesses to make money as visitors flow into the area to witness the historic event, said chamber director Stacy Palmer.

Three-night-stay minimums and a cluster of events — the Silverton Fine Arts Festival on Aug. 19 and 20, Total Eclipse of the Garden, and Silverton High School's high-altitude balloon launch for NASA

— could keep crowds in town for days.

"They're making a multi-day commitment for an event that's going to last two minutes on a Monday morning," Palmer said. "This is a one-time opportunity."

With the economic opportunity comes reality that Silverton's infrastructure and public service resources will be strained. Police officer and firefighters are already preparing for extraordinary activity at Silverton Reservoir and in town.

"We are not that excited about this, to be honest, but it is what it is," Police Chief Jeff Fossil said.

Traffic congestion could be partially mitigated by the chamber's planned operation of shuttles in town during the eclipse weekend.

City and business leaders are not done grappling with how best to capitalize on — and deal with — the expected wave of tourists.

"If we get 10,000 visitors who come here and say, 'Oh my God, it was a nightmare, I'm not going back,' we've hurt ourselves more than any kind of financial boon we can make for the weekend," Palmer said.

Church Directory

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
303 N. Church Street Silverton, OR 97381
Phone: (503) 873-8656
Pastor Leah Stolte-Doerfler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Service time 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Available

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA
Free Saturday Lunches
500 N 2nd Street
Silverton, OR 97381
(503) 873-2635
Sunday, Worship 11am
www.trinitysilverton.org
trinitysilverton@gmail.com

Silverton Friends Church
"loving God... loving others"
Pastor Bob Henry
Silverton Christian School
229 Eureka Ave. • 873-5131
silvertonfriends@frontier.com
Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am
Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 am
Full Nursery Care • Youth Group meets Thursday 7:00 pm

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Pastor: Fr. Philip Waibel
575 E. College St. 503-845-2296
Weekday Mass 6:50 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m.
Sunday masses 7:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. (Spanish Mass) at St. Mary Parish. Mass for Holy Rosary Mission at Crooked Finger is at 10:00 a.m.
Confession: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Jose Galvez
Saturday Services
Sabbath School 9:30-10:30 am
Worship Service 10:50 am
1159 Oak Street 873-8568
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