

Redistricting compromise lifts Oregon's legislative logjam

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Oregon House has broken its legislative logjam with each party making a concession.

Minority Republicans gained a voice in shaping the redrawing of legislative and congressional district boundaries. The relevant House committee will have Democratic and Republican co-leaders — and the House Republican leader was added to the committee for an even 3-3 split.

In return, majority Democrats can proceed with more than 80 bills, most of them noncontroversial, without having to have them read aloud before final votes. Republicans had refused to waive the bill-reading requirement, which slowed the House to voting on a trickle of bills each day, depending on the length of their texts.

No one was talking about the tacit agreement, which came swiftly Wednesday, April 14, after the House convened more than an hour late for a scheduled evening session. The public session was delayed because of the backstage talks between the parties.

The House resumed its session Thursday morning.

For Democrats, the bipartisan agreement allows the House to proceed with discussion and votes on a backlog of bills, most of them having emerged from committees without dissent.

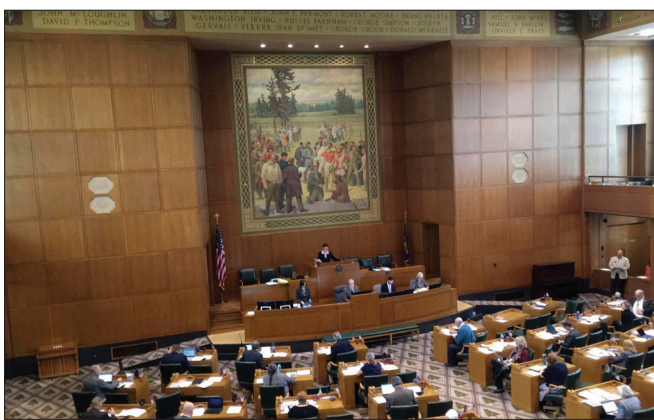
For Republicans, the agreement will result in them and Democrats having to agree on plans that emerge from the House Redistricting Committee to redraw legislative and congressional district lines after the 2020 Census.

The deal does not apply to the Senate, where the counterpart committee has three Democrats and two Republicans.

It is similar to what happened in 2011, when the House was tied at 30 Democrats and 30 Republicans, and the relevant committee was similarly split. That Legislature reached a compromise plan then, the first in a century, that was not challenged in court.

Incentive to get along

As a result of an April 9 Oregon Supreme Court decision, both parties — and both chambers — have an incentive not to stall.



Andrew Selsky/Associated Press, File

In this April 26, 2017, file photo, lawmakers in Oregon's House of Representatives sit in session in Salem. Reaching a surprise deal Wednesday, April 14, 2021, legislative Democrats in Oregon have agreed to relinquish a powerful advantage in redrawing the state's political districts for the next 10 years in exchange for a commitment from Republicans to stop blocking bills with delay tactics.

The court laid out a new timeline for lawmakers to come up with a legislative redistricting plan because census-block data from the federal government will be unavailable until late summer. If lawmakers fail to come up with a plan by the new deadline of Sept. 27, the task will fall to Democratic Secretary of State Shemia Fagan — and she will not be bound by what lawmakers have done.

Republicans would like to avoid having this task fall to a former Democratic senator who has been in the secretary of states' office only a few months. And any plan can be challenged in the Supreme Court, which is the final arbiter.

So which communities might see the biggest change after redistricting?

During briefings in February to House and Senate redistricting committees, a population expert at Portland State University said legislative districts based in Washington County, Deschutes County and those straddling the Multnomah-Clackamas line will have to shrink because their populations have grown beyond the average. Districts based on the coast and most areas east of the Cascades will need to expand boundaries.

That could result in more urban lawmakers, and fewer rural lawmakers, across the state.

The court case last week does not directly involve congressional redistricting, which will be done by a special panel named by the court if lawmakers fail to reach agreement. Unlike legislative redistricting, congressional redistricting is not mentioned in the Oregon Constitution.

Compromise agreement

The end of the House

logjam came in the form of one motion and one announcement at the close of a brief House session Wednesday night.

Republican Rep. Duane Stark of Grants Pass moved to waive the constitutional requirement for all bills to be read in full before a vote on final passage. This motion is usually routine, but it requires a two-thirds majority to suspend the rule — and the 23 Republicans had opposed it on a couple of previous Democratic-led attempts to waive it.

After Stark's motion was approved on a voice vote — it was not recorded — the House moved to adjourn the evening session near its scheduled time of 9 p.m.

Then Speaker Tina Kotek, a Democrat from Portland, announced changes to the House Redistricting Committee. Democratic Rep. Andrea Salinas of Lake Oswego will be joined as co-chairwoman by Republican Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis of Albany.

Also, House Republican Leader Christine Drazan of Canby was added as a member, so there will be three Democrats and three Republicans.

Other members are Democrats Wlnsvey Campos of Aloha and Khanh Pham of Portland, and Republican Daniel Bonham of The Dalles.



Marcio Jose Sanchez/Associated Press, File

In this July 28, 2020, photo, a member of the "Wall of Moms" protest group marches with other demonstrators during a Black Lives Matter protest at the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland. A woman who formed part of a "Wall of Moms" is suing federal authorities for allegedly using excessive force and arresting her without probable cause.

Lawsuit describes night of fear for 'Wall of Moms' protester

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — A lawyer who formed part of a "Wall of Moms" confronting militarized U.S. agents is suing federal authorities, claiming excessive force was used against her and she was arrested without probable cause.

In the lawsuit filed in federal court in Portland, Jennifer Kristiansen also accused an unnamed federal agent of groping her breast and buttocks as he trapped her against a wall, leading her to fear she would be raped.

Named as defendants are Gabriel Russell, regional director of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service, supervisors and 29 ground-level agents who are not named because they wore no name tags.

Spokespersons for the DHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit, filed Monday, April 12.

The lawsuit details how, for one woman seeking to protect Black Lives Matter protesters from militarized agents, one night turned into a traumatic experience.

On July 20, Kristiansen joined over 100 Wall of Moms protesters and walked to the federal courthouse in Portland. It was the third night of Wall of Moms protests, in which women wearing yellow T-shirts and clothing stood in line, arms locked, to support Black Lives Matter protesters who were facing off against federal agents deployed by the Trump administration.

Outside the courthouse, federal officers sent chemical agents and flash bangs into the crowd, then pushed them back with billy clubs. One agent accused Kristiansen, who is 5 feet tall and weighs 100 pounds, of hitting him, the lawsuit says. Kristiansen says she has never struck a law enforcement officer.

"After ascending the

courthouse steps but prior to entering its doors, Defendant John Doe 63 violated Ms. Kristiansen by forcing her face first against the courthouse wall. Ms. Kristiansen was placed in fear for her safety and believed she would be raped when Defendant John Doe 63 molested her while blocking her vision and trapping her against the wall, using his left hand to grab her breast and his right hand to reach up her skirt and grab her buttocks," the lawsuit says.

Kristiansen was taken into the courthouse, searched, interrogated and denied water, food and a blanket while being held overnight and most of the following day in a cell. She was charged with assaulting a federal agent and failing to obey orders.

After a review of video evidence showing that Kristiansen had neither assaulted nor approached an officer, a judge granted a prosecutor's motion to dismiss the charges.

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Union County wants to help YOU control your noxious weeds!
Thanks to the Weed Levy, the Union County Weed Control Department is offering up to a **\$500 reimbursement** for treating noxious weeds on your property. This is a 50/50 Cost Share program for qualified applicants, and applies to many different integrated weed management strategies. Weeds required to be controlled in Union County are listed below. Please call us at 541-805-5399, email bclapp@union-county.org, or go to our website www.unioncountyweedcontrol.org for a cost share application and more info.

State of Oregon Laws & Regulations on Noxious Weeds
Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 569 — Weed Control (excerpts)
569.180 Noxious weeds as public nuisance; policy. In recognition of the imminent and continuous threat to natural resources...noxious weeds are declared to be a public nuisance and shall be detected, controlled and, where feasible, eradicated on all lands in this state.

What is a noxious weed?
A weed is designated noxious when it is considered by a governmental agency to be injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property (Oregon Administrative Law 603-052-1200). Most noxious weeds are non-native plants that are serious pests causing economic loss and harm the environment. Noxious weeds choke out crops, destroy range and pasture lands, clog waterways, affect human and animal health, and threaten native plant communities.

Designation of Noxious Weeds in Union County
CLASS "A" WEEDS
Class "A" designated weed is a **priority noxious weed** designated by the Union County Commissioners as a **target weed species** on which the Weed Control District will comply with a state wide management plan and/or implement a county wide plan for intensive control and monitoring. An "A" rated weed may also be a weed of known economic importance which occurs in small enough infestations to make containment/eradication possible; or one that is not known to occur here, but its presence in neighboring counties make future occurrence here seem imminent.

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Musk Thistle | Meadow hawkweed | Garlic Mustard |
| Plumeless Thistle | Mouse-ear hawkweed | Yellow toadflax |
| Turkish Thistle | Orange hawkweed | Myrtle spurge (except residential) |
| Russian knapweed | Yellow hawkweed | Velvet leaf |
| Common bugloss | Hoary cress -- Whitetop (within the Grande Ronde or Wolf Creek drainages) | Black henbane |
| Meadow knapweed | Perennial pepperweed | Common tansy |
| Yellow starthistle (outside the Cove area) | Giant knotweed | Giant Foxtail |
| Rush skeletonweed | Japanese knotweed | Ravenna Grass |
| Scotch broom | Himalayan knotweed | Viper's Bugloss |
| Leafy spurge (greater than 1 mile from the Grande Ronde River) | Hybrid or Bohemian knotweed | Rose Campion (except residential) |
| King-devil hawkweed | Tansy ragwort | |
| | Common crupina | |

CLASS "B" WEEDS
Class "B" designated weed is a **weed of economic importance**, which is both locally abundant and abundant in neighboring counties.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Dog Rose | Leafy spurge (within 1 mile of Grande Ronde River) | Armenian (Himalayan) blackberry |
| Jointed goatgrass | Hoary cress -- Whitetop | Yellow flag iris |
| Spotted knapweed | Dalmatian toadflax | Medusahead rye |
| Diffuse knapweed | Purple loosestrife | Ventena grass-- North Africa grass, Wiregrass |
| Yellow starthistle | Scotch thistle | Saltcedar |
| Oxeye daisy (except residential) | Sulfur cinquefoil | Sweet Briar Rose |
| Canada thistle | Puncturevine | Bittersweet Nightshade |
| Wild carrot -- Queen Anne's Lace | Houndstongue | |