

SCHOOLS

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such as Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ pride flags, on school district property. A few months after that vote, the school board fired its superintendent without cause.

Fallout from the controversial board decisions led to an unsuccessful but close recall effort against Newberg School Board members Dave Brown and Brian Shannon in January. The election revealed sharp public divide on whether the school board was representing its community, with 52% of voters opposed to the recall and 48% voting in favor.

A large number of respondents cite political influences in their disapproval of their local school board.

“School boards have become too political,” one Yamhill County Republican noted. “They should focus on education, not social justice and political indoctrination.”

A Deschutes County Republican respondent said: “The school board is focused on social issues, culture and indoctrination. They do not take the steps to improve education only making supporting programs that fit their agenda. This is done to the detriment of learning.”

But another Deschutes County survey taker, a Democrat, said her school board was “not doing enough to support POC & LGBT community. Racism, sexism, & homophobia are rampant in Bend & concerns by parents are ignored. ... They talk the talk, but don’t walk the walk.”

In Clackamas County, Cris Waller said her local school board was “taken over by conservatives” in the last election.

“I’ve heard from people I know about what a disheartening time it is to be a school board because of the relentless pressure from right-wing groups,” Waller said when reached by Pamplin Media Group. She said that the same groups that have been taking over school board meetings have been taking over Clackamas County’s board of commissioners.

In Washington County, one woman said voters in her community “managed to keep crazy, fringe characters” off the school board. “However, they are banging at the door to get in with their white-pride, Christian-zealot fervor.”

Kwee Heong Tan, also of Washington County, said his local school board “cares about admin and non-education areas like artificial grass, while textbooks are old, and emphasis on AP subjects are reduced due to lack of teachers.”

While Oregonians are

MORE INFORMATION

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center is committed to the highest level of public opinion research. To help obtain that, the nonprofit is building a large research panel of Oregonians to ensure that all voices are represented in discussions of public policy in a valid and statistically reliable way. Selected panelists earn points for their participation, which can be redeemed for cash or donated to a charity. To learn more, click here.

split on whether they are being served and represented by local school leadership, the survey shows broad support (70% or higher) for an array of taxpayer-funded family support services like tutoring, sports, after-school clubs, children’s health care and youth mental health services.

Even those services that garnered the least support, like culturally inclusive learning materials and required cultural awareness and implicit-bias training for school staff, showed 70% of those polled felt they were valuable.

When it comes to supporting child care and early learning programs, particularly for kids with special needs or disabilities, more than half (56%) of Oregonians say it’s “very important” to offer childcare and learning programs. More than 86% of those polled said it’s somewhat or very important to fund programs for special needs children.

Similarly, 79% said it was somewhat or very important to make child care more affordable for families through additional government funding.

“Women are more likely than men to express strong support for using taxpayer funds to bolster early learning and childhood programs and services,” the OVBC noted in its summary of survey results. “Lower-income residents are also more supportive.”

Still, residents are mixed on how to pay for those services. In Multnomah County, which enacted new tax measures in 2020, and in Portland, specifically, which now has the highest state and local combined income-tax rate in the nation, higher-income earners are feeling the squeeze.

“I currently pay over \$500 per month in property tax. I get a little over \$1,000 from SS. I am raising my grandchildren. Do the math,” one woman in Multnomah County, who identifies as a Democrat with a “somewhat liberal” social ideology, told surveyors. “I cringe at the thought of all these well-meaning projects being proposed, knowing full well it will be property taxes that pay for it.”

MINE

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at Sanger Mine in June of 2021 over a 10-day stretch.

“Sometimes they filmed for an hour and only a minute of the footage appeared in the show,” Candlish said.

He said he learned a great deal about mining over the 10-day period.

“They showed me things like how the configurations of sluice boxes can make a big difference in how much gold you can get,” Candlish said.

Sluices are long, narrow boxes that water passes through when put in a creek or stream. Sluicing is a method of separating and recovering gold from gravel by the use of running water.



Pete Candlish/Contributed Photo

Pete Candlish, right, and crew members of the Discovery show “Gold Rush” pose for a group photo during filming in June 2021.

Mining as therapy

Pete Candlish started mining while with the U.S. Coast Guard 10 years ago in Alaska and does it as a hobby to help him cope with post-traumatic stress syndrome.

“It is great therapy for me. It helps me with physical and mental

healing,” said Candlish, who talks about this during the television show.

The program about Sanger Mine is available to watch on subscription streaming services, including Discovery Plus, and Candlish said he has received a number

McCLOUD

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for Deschutes County is \$693,000, according to Redfin real estate reports. Meanwhile, Multnomah County’s median home value is approximately \$493,000, according to Redfin.

“An issue that pushed me into homelessness was, you know, having not enough opportunities for affordable housing,” McCloud said. “We have to be looking at how we can increase access to affordable housing for all kinds of Oregonians, but especially those that don’t prefer to be homeless, because I think there’s a distinction to be made.”

McCloud said one of his priorities as governor would be to focus on developing affordable housing — including multi-family and single-family homes — by tapping into Oregon’s massive timber industry and building new communities in Oregon in order to address the housing crisis.

“It must be a priority. We, right away, need to be working with the timber industry to end homelessness in Oregon,” he said. “We have the renewable resources to do that, and so, with the localized resource that’s renewable, within our borders, we should be working with the developers to set up new communities of all types, from multi-unit housing to single-family housing and in between.”

According to the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Oregon leads the

nation in producing softwoods and plywood products, with more than 28% of U.S. plywood products being made in the state.

McCloud decided to join the race after being disappointed with the current lineup of gubernatorial candidates.

“Before I was a candidate, I was an Oregon voter who looked across the spectrum of candidates to see the one that I felt would represent not just me and my values, but who was the one that had the ability to unify the state of Oregon,” he said. “And after some time observing and listening, I felt that it was important for me to attempt to take matters into my own hands, rather than sit back and complain about what another candidate is or is not doing, or what they can or cannot do.”

McCloud said he could be the candidate to unify Oregon’s growing political divide between rural Oregonians and those living in the Portland-metro areas. He wants to help heal the rift between Eastern Oregonians who may feel like they have been left out of Oregon’s political process by the Democratic majority in Portland.

“They’ve been neglected. They have not been viewed as

important, and, at the same time, we’re finding that our rural communities are subjected to harmful stereotypes,” he said. “So I think it’s important, as somebody who is going around traveling, talking to people, meeting with them, listening to their stories, that I have an opportunity to stand in the gap and really help clarify and repair some of the perceptions that Oregonians have developed about each other.”

McCloud also levied his status as the first Black Republican gubernatorial candidate in Oregon as a way to help bridge those political divides.

“I have some separa-

tion from the other candidates. In that typical language that’s generally used when we talk about extremist policies, it will not apply to me,” he said. “I think that’s an advantage I have.”

While McCloud has no previous government experience, the decision to run for governor was not taken lightly, he said. “I was with my 13-year-old daughter, and I had finished typing out the filing paperwork,” he said. “And I said to her, ‘Should I do this?’ And she is actually the one that pressed the submit button, and let me know that my family was behind me 100%.”

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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

<p>CLASS “A” WEEDS</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Musk Thistle Plumeless Thistle Turkish Thistle Russian knapweed Common bugloss Meadow knapweed Yellow starthistle (outside the Cove area) Rush skeletonweed Scotch broom Leafy spurge (greater than 1 mile from the Grande Ronde River) King-devil hawkweed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meadow hawkweed Mouse-ear hawkweed Orange hawkweed Yellow hawkweed Hoary cress -- Whitetop (within the Grande Ronde or Wolf Creek drainages) Perennial pepperweed Giant knotweed Japanese knotweed Himalayan knotweed Hybrid or Bohemian knotweed Tansy ragwort Common crupina 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garlic Mustard Dyer’s Woad Yellow toadflax Myrtle spurge (except residential) Velvet leaf Black henbane Common tansy Giant Foxtail Ravenna Grass Viper’s Bugloss Rose Campion (except residential) Mediterranean sage Hoary Alyssum
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CLASS “B” WEEDS

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog Rose Jointed goatgrass Spotted knapweed Diffuse knapweed Yellow starthistle (Little Creek to Rinehart Ln) Oxeye daisy (except residential) Canada thistle Wild carrot — Queen Anne’s Lace Leafy spurge (within 1 mile of Grande 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ronde River) Hoary cress — Whitetop (within Powder River Basin) Dalmatian toadflax Purple loosestrife Buffalo Bur Scotch thistle Sulfur cinquefoil Puncturevine Houndstongue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armenian (Himalayan) blackberry Yellow flag iris Medusahead rye Ventena grass -- North Africa grass, Wiregrass Saltcedar Sweet Briar Rose Bittersweet Nightshade Poison Hemlock
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AGRICULTURAL CLASS “B” WEEDS

Agricultural Class “B” designated weed is a weed of economic importance within agricultural areas of the County, which is both locally abundant and abundant in neighboring counties.

- Common/Wild Sunflowers (within Ag and Right-of Way areas)
- Horseweed — Mares tail
- Catchweed bedstraw
- Kochia
- Quackgrass
- Russian thistle
- Creeping bentgrass (GMO-Roundup resistant)