

# Three-way race spawns tsunami of donations

Candidates have raised over \$17.1 million since the beginning of 2021

By GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — A \$100,000 check from a longtime conservative Oregon political donor to Republican Christine Drazan.

One for \$100,000 to Betsy Johnson's insurgent campaign from a construction industry group.

Two liberal political action campaigns top off at the same level in their total giving to Democrat Tina Kotek.

The top candidates for governor continue to pile up stacks of cash in the race to the top of Oregon's political pyramid.

The trio has raised over \$17.1 million since January 2021, on pace to blow past the 2018 record of \$40 million when Democratic Gov. Kate Brown beat Republican former Rep. Knute Buehler.

The primaries are two months past and the general election more than three months away. The latest reports filed with the Oregon Secretary of State show a fluid financial situation.

Kotek and Drazan are coming off a May primary that saw the pair emerge from a combined roster of 34 candidates lured by the first open governor's race since 2010.

Dollar figures can be deceiving. Kotek reports \$500,000 in the bank — 10% of what Johnson has tucked away.

Drazan has over \$300,000 from the Republican Governors Association. Kotek has \$53,000 from the Democratic governors.

Kotek's spokesperson Katie Wertheimer says it's a wrinkle of post-primary financial report timing, not a measure of long-term strength. Little of the recent money shows the reaction to the Supreme Court ruling in late June gutting Roe v. Wade abortion rights in place since 1973.

"We've also seen a huge uptick in interest in volunteering to help Tina win in November," Wertheimer said. "We're confident that we will have the resources to win."

Drazan won the Republican primary with 23% of the vote and now has to rally the splintered factions behind her campaign as GOP standard-bearer. The six-figure national GOP commitment along with sizeable donations from business interests and activist donors is ramping up into late



Ron Cooper/Salem Reporter, File

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Drazan



Johnson



Kotek

summer.

"No statewide GOP candidate in recent history has enjoyed the fundraising success Christine has had," said John Burke, Drazan's communications director. "We're excited to have so many new supporters on board since the primary and we're ready to deliver a historic victory this November."

On the flip side, Johnson's \$9.5 million in contributions is \$1 million more than Kotek and Drazan combined.

It's a formidable amount. But the former Democratic state senator from Columbia County still has to get on the November ballot and build a statewide campaign apparatus from scratch.

"We are in the home stretch of

signature gathering and will far surpass the approximately 25,000 valid signatures we need to secure by Aug. 16 to put Betsy's name on the November ballot," said Jennifer Sitton, Johnson's spokesperson.

While her current money totals may dwarf her competitors, it's a head start to build a bulwark against the likely flood of national party money that will flow into the race after Labor Day.

"We are proud of our fundraising, but know the party institutions are preparing to back up the Brinks trucks to spend it all attacking Betsy," Sitton said.

The 2022 race is already unique in Oregon political history and will mark major shifts no

## GOVERNOR CANDIDATES CAMPAIGN FINANCES

Contributions and expenditures since Jan. 1, 2021. Source: Oregon Secretary of State, as of July 21, 2022. All amounts are rounded down to the nearest dollar.

**Christine Drazan, Republican**  
Raised: \$4,379,148  
Spent: \$3,138,440  
Cash on hand: \$1,320,202

**Betsy Johnson, unaffiliated**  
Raised: \$9,547,057  
Spent: \$5,455,414  
Cash on hand: \$4,621,350

**Tina Kotek, Democrat**  
Raised: \$3,271,424  
Spent: \$2,906,873  
Cash on hand: \$454,195

matter the outcome.

There's no incumbent for the first time in a decade.

Kotek is looking to run the Democratic consecutive win streak in elections for governor to an even dozen. She'd be the first openly lesbian governor in United States history.

Drazan would be the first Republican governor since Vic Atiyeh was reelected in 1982, before half of Oregon residents were even born. She'd be the first Republican woman to hold the office.

Johnson is making the longest shot, a bid to be the second governor since statehood in 1859 that wasn't backed by a major political party. Julius Meier served one term after winning an independent bid in 1930 amid the Great Depression.

# Brown orders state of emergency over heat wave

Union, Wallowa counties included in emergency order

By GARY A. WARNER  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown issued a state of emergency Tuesday, July 26, for most of Oregon "due to extreme high temperatures causing a threat to

life, health and infrastructure."

Temperatures that could range above 100 degrees for the next six days have been forecast across the state.

The order came just over one year from the highest temperatures during the 2021 "heat dome" that set



Brown

records across the state, with several areas recording highs of up to 117 degrees. Multnomah County recorded 69 heat deaths over the three-day peak.

In August 2021, the Oregon Medical Examiner's Office released a report that 96 people had died from hyperthermia — excessive heat exposure — during the late June heat dome event.

The order issued by Brown covers 25 coun-

ties through Sunday, July 31: Columbia, Clackamas, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Washington, Wheeler and Yamhill counties.

Brown ordered the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to

activate the state's Emergency Coordination Center to provide essential protective measures to local government agencies.

"I encourage everyone to take proactive steps to keep themselves and their families safe, including drinking plenty of fluids, taking advantage of cooling centers, and checking in on neighbors, friends and loved ones," Brown said in a statement.

Oregonians who do not have air conditioning in their homes should go to cooling stations that state and local governments created this summer to head off a repeat of last year's health crisis.

To find cooling centers in Oregon, call 211, which will be operating 24/7 during the heat wave, or visit [www.211info.org/summer-and-heat-related-resources](http://www.211info.org/summer-and-heat-related-resources).

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