

Oregon prepares to vote

BALLOTS ARE IN THE MAIL. MIDTERMS HAVE ARRIVED.

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November is upon us once more and that means it is time for the midterm elections.

This year, the stakes are high for both parties on a national level, as the Democrats and Republicans fight for control of both houses of the U.S. Congress. The outcome is likely to have lasting repercussions over the next two years.

Though Oregon will not be voting on our Senate representation this term, a major race to look to is for the state governor. Two major figures have emerged in the race including Democratic incumbent Kate Brown and Republican Knute Buehler.

Recent polls have shown the race to be surprisingly close. The most recent poll, conducted by DHM Research, an opinion research firm based out of Portland, placed the race in Brown's favor by five points, though an earlier poll conducted by Clout Research placed it as close as one point.

Who are these candidates, though? Brown is known to many already, being the current sitting Governor for the state. Previously having served

as Oregon's Secretary of State, Brown took office in 2015 after then Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned when faced with a federal criminal investigation into instances where he had used his office for personal gain. Brown went on to win a special election in 2016.

Since taking office, Brown has advocated for raising the minimum wage, a change that began to take place in July 2017 and recently raised the wage in the Portland Metro area to \$12 an hour, as well as increasing funding for education and protecting legal abortion.

Buehler, who currently serves as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives in the 54th District, is an orthopedic surgeon from Bend. A graduate of Johns Hopkins Medical School, Buehler seeks cross-party support, describing himself as pro-choice and in opposition of additional taxes, believing the state should instead focus on balancing its budget. He is critical of Brown due to the state's low graduation rates.

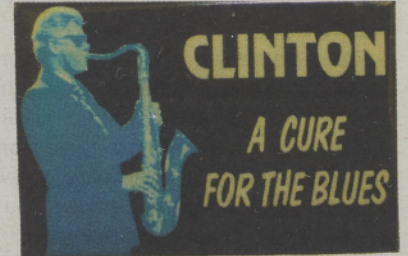
Another race of interest will be the election for U.S. Representative.

District five, which includes most of Clackamas County, has four candidates running for the position.

The incumbent, Kurt Schrader, has held the office since 2009 and will once again represent the Democratic party. His website lists several specific issues of interest, including health care, where he states his support for the Affordable Care Act, though acknowledging some of its faults, protecting endangered salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River, as well as dealing with the wildfires that have recently plagued Oregon.

Representing the Republican Party is Mark Callahan. Having run for a number of offices over the years, including U.S. Senate in 2016, Callahan has listed a number of issues as priorities should he be elected. These include education, stating that he does not believe in federal control over the state education system, foreign policy, gun rights and term limits for congressmen.

The two other candidates running for the office are Dan Souza, the Libertarian candidate, and Marvin



Sandnes, representing the Pacific Green Party.

In addition to those running for office, there are a number of state measures that will be voted on during this election cycle. There are five state measures in total, with a number of local measures as well depending on your city of residence. Of the five state measures, four would amend the state constitution while the fifth seeks to repeal an existing law.

Issues listed in these measures include Measure 105, which would repeal Oregon's sanctuary law, originally passed in 1987, that prohibits local law enforcement resources, including money, personnel or equipment, from being used to enforce federal immigration laws, and

All around the Portland Metro area signs can be found promoting various candidates. A crossroads in Wilsonville, pictured below, sports a number of of these signs, promoting both local candidates as well representatives for the statewide elections.

photo by Ian Van Orden

