

# Three-tier minimum wage plan ready for Senate vote

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A bill to set three different minimum wage rates in the state is headed to the Senate floor this week.

The bill would hike wages to \$14.75 in the Portland metro area, \$12.50 in rural and coastal areas with struggling economies and \$13.50 in the rest of the state by 2022. The rates are based on median income and cost of living in those regions and what it takes to be “self-sufficient” — to pay basic expenses such as food, housing and transportation, said Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, chairman of the Senate Workforce and General Government Committee.

The committee passed the proposal Friday 3-to-2.

“Passing minimum wage is not going to be a silver bullet for problems faced by low-income Oregonians,” Dembrow said.

Dembrow said lawmakers still need to increase the earned income tax credit, address the cost of child care and find ways to increase affordable housing in the state, where prices, particularly in the Portland area, have skyrocketed.

The vote fell along party lines with the committee’s two Republicans, Sens. Tim Knopp

of Bend and Kim Thatcher of Keizer, voting no.

“I really feel the impact of this is going to be negative in many ways,” Knopp said. “I think it is going to hurt the people you’re trying to help.”

He said small businesses would take an economic hit and employees would lose jobs.

The Republicans said they plan to write a minority report and offer an amendment to the bill on the Senate floor. The bill could reach the Senate floor as early as Tuesday, Dembrow said.

Dembrow authored the bill after months of meeting with stakeholders and consulting research on self-sufficiency thresholds for every county in the state, he said. The bill was intended to offer an alternative to ballot initiatives that would raise the minimum to \$15 or \$13.50 statewide and would repeal a ban on municipalities and counties from setting a higher wage.

The first pay bump would start in July, increasing the wage from \$9.25 to \$9.75 statewide.

The minimum gradually will climb to \$14.75 in 2022 in the Portland urban growth boundary, which includes parts of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. It will rise to \$13.50 in Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Deschutes, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine,



Paris Achen/Pamplin Media Group

**A three-tiered minimum wage plan sponsored by Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, chairman of the Senate Workforce and General Government Committee, will get a vote by the full Senate.**

Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, and Yamhill counties, and parts of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties outside Portland’s urban growth boundary.

In rural areas, the minimum will increase to \$12.50. Those areas include Malheur, Lake, Harney, Wheeler, Sherman, Gilliam, Wallowa, Grant, Jefferson, Baker, Union, Crook, Klamath, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Umatilla and Morrow counties.

The Legislative Fiscal Office determined that the cost of rais-

ing minimum wage for the state and local governments is indeterminate because it’s impossible to know how many positions will be affected by the time the increases take effect in the next seven years.

Dembrow’s amendment, first offered Wednesday, nudged out a proposal by Gov. Kate Brown that would have set two minimum wage rates in the state.

No polling has been done in the Senate on Dembrow’s specific proposal, according to Senate President Peter Courtney’s Office. Lindsey O’Brien, spokeswoman for House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, said Kotek supports raising minimum wage but is still reviewing the Senate proposal before taking a stance on it.

*The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

## Cultural Trust pays visits to talk grants

Oregon Cultural Trust Manager Aili Schreiner joins colleagues from the Trust’s Cultural Partners — the Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Heritage, Oregon Humanities and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office — for a meeting in Astoria from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at Columbia Hall, Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave.

Astoria is one of the 12 stops on the “Conversations with Funders” state tour, which encourages cultural nonprofits to apply for close to \$5 million in collective grant funds. Organizations encouraged to attend “Conversations with Funders”

include libraries, arts organizations, museums, cultural centers, historical societies, arts alliances, literary groups and heritage organizations. Registration is not required.

“There are more than 1,450 cultural nonprofits serving Oregonians,” said Schreiner. “We want to make sure they know about the grant funds that are here to support them.”

Among the grant opportunities discussed will be the Cultural Trust’s 2017 Cultural Development Grants; grant guidelines are posted at [www.culturaltrust.org/grants/development-grants](http://www.culturaltrust.org/grants/development-grants). The application deadline is 5 p.m. April 22.

## Annual backyard bird count starts Friday

The 19th annual Great Backyard Bird Count takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Feb. 15. Visitors to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Fort Clatsop, can learn about participating in the count, record bird numbers in the park and make plans to count birds in their own backyards. Binoculars are available for loan within the park during this event.

Along with the actual bird-counting activities, the park has planned four days of bird-related opportunities, including an ongoing Pink Heron Scavenger Hunt, which uses the Netul Trail along the Lewis and Clark River. A Birds of Fort Clatsop display is in the visitor center lobby, and each day Mike Patterson leads a birding walk start-

ing at 9 a.m. in the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center lobby. Dogs are not allowed on these morning walks, and participants should dress for the weather. The walk is wheelchair accessible, although nonmotorized users might need assistance for about 200 yards.

Admission is \$5 per adult and free for youth age 15 and younger. The weekend’s birding events at Fort Clatsop are sponsored by the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and the National Park Service. For information, call the park at 503-861-2471 or go to [www.nps.gov/lewi](http://www.nps.gov/lewi) or Lewis and Clark National Historical Park on Facebook.

For information on the national bird count event, or to submit bird counts from home, go to [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org)

## ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

### Astoria 5-Day Forecast

**Tonight**  
Partly cloudy  
46°

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

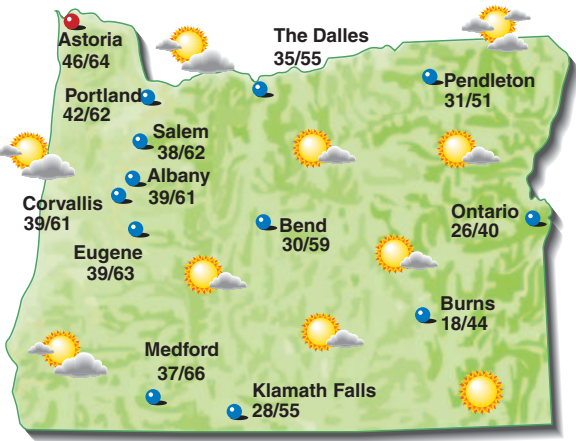
**Tuesday**  
Partly sunny  
64° / 47°

**Wednesday**  
Mostly cloudy, a little rain in the p.m.  
59° / 47°

**Thursday**  
Cloudy  
59° / 48°

**Friday**  
Cloudy, rain  
57° / 46°

### Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

### Almanac

Astoria through Sunday.

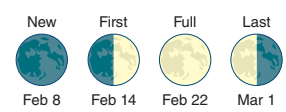
Temperatures	High	Low
High	62°	39°
Low	51°	37°
Normal high	51°	37°
Normal low	37°	37°

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.53"
Normal month to date	1.88"
Year to date	15.28"
Normal year to date	12.08"

### Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	5:30 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday	7:28 a.m.
Moonrise today	7:21 a.m.
Moonset today	6:06 p.m.



### Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: New moon (6:39 a.m.)

### Tomorrow's Tides

Time	High	Time	Low
2:01 a.m.	8.7 ft.	7:49 a.m.	1.9 ft.
1:36 p.m.	9.8 ft.	8:20 p.m.	-0.8 ft.

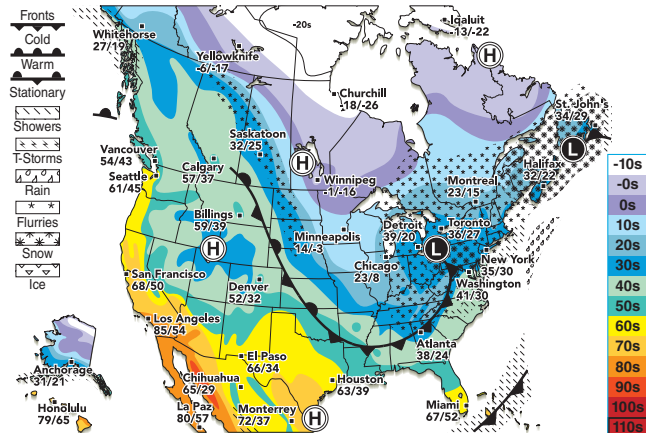
### Regional Cities

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	42	20	s	41	24	s
Bend	58	30	s	59	34	s
Brookings	65	49	s	62	48	pc
Eugene	59	39	s	63	43	s
Ilwaco	62	50	s	61	49	pc
Klamath Falls	55	28	s	55	30	s
Medford	69	37	s	66	40	s
Newport	66	49	s	62	47	pc
North Bend	71	47	s	65	48	pc

### National Cities

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	53	29	r	38	24	sf
Boston	30	22	sn	32	24	sf
Chicago	33	19	sn	23	8	sn
Denver	47	29	s	52	32	s
Des Moines	21	11	sn	20	5	pc
Detroit	44	29	c	39	20	sf
El Paso	62	31	s	66	34	s
Fairbanks	11	-10	pc	6	-9	s
Honolulu	76	63	s	79	65	s
Indianapolis	37	21	sn	29	11	sf
Kansas City	32	20	sn	33	16	pc
Las Vegas	71	45	s	70	45	s
Los Angeles	86	55	s	85	54	s
Memphis	46	28	pc	43	24	s
Miami	67	56	s	67	52	pc
Nashville	44	26	pc	33	19	sf
New Orleans	60	40	s	56	40	s
New York	36	28	sn	35	30	sn
Oklahoma City	51	30	s	55	30	s
Philadelphia	43	31	c	39	32	sn
St. Louis	34	20	sf	28	14	pc
Salt Lake City	39	25	s	38	26	s
San Francisco	69	51	s	68	50	s
Seattle	58	41	s	61	45	pc
Washington, DC	47	36	pc	41	30	sn

### Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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## BIRTH

Jan. 30, 2016

**HARROUN, George and Teresa**, of San Antonio, Texas, a girl, Madeleine Mae Harroun, born at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Older sister is Caitlin Harroun. Grandparents are Dennis and Joanne Bay of Rosburg, Washington. Cynthia Hess of Texas and George Harroun of Pennsylvania. Great-grandmothers are JoAnne Bay of Svensen and Joan Kuhn of Texas.

## DEATH

Feb. 7, 2016

**WALLACE, Prentice**, 90 of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
**Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department**, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.  
**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**ment Board**, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.  
**Warrenton City Commission**, City Hall, 6 p.m., 225 S. Main Ave.

**Warrenton Business Association**, City Hall, 5:30 p.m., 225 S. Main Ave.

**Warrenton-Hammond School Board**, 6:30 p.m. finance committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. regular board meeting, Warrenton High School library, 1700 S.E. Main Ave.

**Wickiup Water District Board**, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Market Road, Svensen.

**TUESDAY**  
**Port of Astoria Commission**, 8 a.m. goal-setting workshop, old Port offices, 422 Gateway Ave.  
**Lewis & Clark Fire Dept-**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District Board**, 10 a.m., OSU Seafood Lab Center, Room 231, 2001 Marine Drive.

## LOTTERIES

**OREGON**  
**Sunday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 3-8-2-9  
4 p.m.: 1-0-2-4  
7 p.m.: 5-9-4-7  
10 p.m.: 5-4-4-2  
**Saturday's Megabucks:** 4-23-24-30-34-48  
Estimated jackpot: \$6.7 million.

**WASHINGTON**  
**Sunday's Daily Game:** 3-4-0  
**Sunday's Keno:** 05-19-21-25-29-32-35-38-41-42-43-44-53-58-60-70-71-72-74-79  
Estimated jackpot: \$136 million.  
**Sunday's Match 4:** 11-21-22-24  
**Saturday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 8-1-7-2

31-38  
Estimated jackpot: \$190,000.  
**Saturday's Keno:** 03-12-13-24-29-33-34-38-39-41-43-46-49-53-55-59-63-69-72-78  
**Saturday's Lotto:** 13-25-26-27-30-44  
Estimated jackpot: \$5.9 million.  
**Saturday's Match 4:** 02-10-20-24  
**Friday's Daily Game:** 7-4-9  
**Friday's Keno:** 02-08-16-17-22-24-25-28-36-39-49-50-59-62-63-65-66-73-78-79  
**Friday's Match 4:** 02-04-09-16  
**Friday's Mega Millions:** 04-06-23-55-75, Mega Ball: 2  
Estimated jackpot: \$71 million.

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