

# Unprecedented number of people register for Oregon primary

## Voters want say in party choices

By KRISTENA HANSEN  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A whopping 111,000 Oregonians gave themselves a voice by changing their voter registrations to Democrat and Republican this year ahead of the state's presidential primary.

That figure dwarfs registration change numbers during President Barack Obama's 2008 primary campaign more than threefold.

The bulk of these voters — who previously weren't registered with either party and wouldn't have been able to cast a presidential ballot this month — made the switch in the weeks before the April 26 primary deadline, when

excitement was building over the state's potentially key role in deciding the nominees.

The data, obtained from the Oregon Secretary of State, suggested the May 17 event could have been a record-breaking voter turnout — at least it did until this week.

Things shifted after Tuesday, when Donald Trump became the presumptive GOP nominee: He won Indiana's Republican primary and his two opponents dropped out of the race. Bernie Sanders won the Democratic primary in Indiana, although Hillary Clinton's lead in delegates is seen as almost insurmountable.

So for most of the dozen remaining primaries through June — especially in small states like Oregon, where 102 delegates are up for grabs —

political observers say their impact is now more symbolic than actual.

Oregon's primary, one of four in the next two weeks, could serve as a "petri dish for a national conversation" about the changing dynamics of the two parties heading into the general election, said Jim Moore, professor and director of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation at Pacific University.

"Does the Republican party begin to gather around Donald Trump ... or are we going to see an electorate that's still pretty cranky and fractured over the Trump candidacy?" Moore said. "The Oregon primary on the Democratic side is going to continue to be that conversation about where the party needs to go, but not really with the hope that Bernie

will be the nominee."

How that'll dig into the psyche of voters, and possibly change the record-breaking turnout many were anticipating in Oregon, is unclear, especially for the GOP.

Of the 111,000 voters who joined the two major parties this year — more than three-quarters of whom were previously nonaffiliated — the biggest chunk, about 84,800, went to Democrats.

Moore said they likely lean toward Oregon's "Bernie-mania" electorate, although it's less clear who they support on the Republican side. The only GOP poll, released last week, showed Trump with a double-digit lead in Oregon.

Additionally, 100,900 new Oregon voters were added to the rolls this year through April — up 42 percent from the same time in 2008, when

primary turnout was the highest since then 1970s — and nearly half registered with the two major parties, but mostly Democrats.

Oregon Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins estimates a new "motor voter" law — which automatically signs up drivers to vote when they get a new or renewed license — resulted in half of those new registrations. But she doubts the law had an effect on the party affiliation changes, which means this year's election is drawing attention and interest "like never before," she said.

Even after Tuesday's damper on Oregon's primary, Moore said it's still possible voter turnout could come out strong, at least for Sanders.

"The Republicans are another thing because all of a sudden the drama is gone," he said. "And in fact, if you go in

and vote for somebody other than Trump it's simply a protest vote ... so we don't have a sense as to what that does to Republican turnout."

Campaigning in Oregon is continuing, despite the changes this week.

Bill Clinton made his second Oregon visit on Thursday — Hillary Clinton herself has yet to do so. There was no word from Sanders about a fourth visit.

Trump is paying his first visit Friday evening in Eugene.

"We're still not certain who the (Democratic) nominee is going to be," Daniels said. "So as far as strategy moving forward in the general election, we're just going to have to see how things unfold while also simultaneously planning for what we expect to happen."

# Faster response needed to minimize salmon die-offs

By KEITH RIDLER  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Northwest fisheries managers must respond faster to reduce fish kills of sockeye salmon in the Columbia River Basin if warm-water conditions return, a draft report taking a hard look at last summer's massive die-off says.

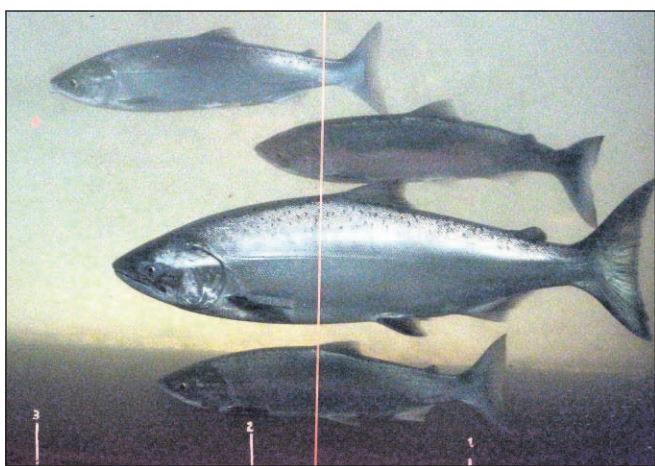
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report released late last month describes conditions and assesses actions of fisheries managers in a year when 90 percent of the 510,000 sockeye salmon that entered the Columbia died.

Endangered Snake River sockeye perished at an even greater rate, with only about 1 percent of the estimated 4,000 fish returning from the Pacific Ocean surviving the 900-mile journey to central Idaho.

"We need to be faster," NOAA's Ritchie Graves said. "There was too much talking and not enough action and experimentation."

In 2015 a rare combination of an extended heat wave coincided with low flows in rivers to push water temperatures above 70 degrees, conditions that had not occurred in the basin since at least the 1950s and can be lethal for cold-water sockeye.

"Should similar events occur frequently, the impact on sockeye salmon populations in the



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Two sockeye salmon swim in the Columbia River with a Chinook salmon, middle, at the Bonneville Dam fish-counting window near North Bonneville, Wash. A draft report released in April taking a hard look at last summer's massive die-off of sockeye salmon in the Columbia River Basin says Northwest fisheries managers must respond faster to mitigate future fish kills if similar warm-water conditions return.

Columbia River basin could be substantial," the report says.

The draft report lists nine actions fisheries managers could do to recognize earlier when a massive die-off is looming and some actions to potentially reduce the die-off.

Among the recommendations is making changes to get real-time reporting of temperatures in fish ladders at dams to provide an early warning. Graves said he'd be surprised if that change isn't accomplished

in the next two years.

The report also said drawing cold water from deep in reservoirs to use in fish ladders could help keep fish moving upstream. That was a problem last year when warm water in some fish ladders caused migrating salmon to stall.

The report says that in 2016 a new, permanent intake structure at Lower Granite Dam will draw water from 60 feet deep and give managers a greater ability to keep water cool.

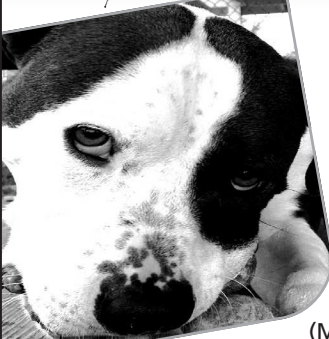
ing by barge of juvenile Snake River sockeye. In 2015, the report said, transported fish with poorer homing skills spent more time in the river. That proved lethal, and none of the returning adults survived the journey upstream to Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River.

However, barging juvenile fish downstream is intended to boost the number of return-

ing adult Snake River sockeye, an endeavor fisheries managers say they are now having to reconsider.


The 58-page report is being reviewed by federal and state managers as well as tribes, with comments from those entities being incorporated into a final report expected early this summer ahead of this year's sockeye run.

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## Pot shops to sell recreational edibles, extracts

Associated Press


EUGENE — Recreational marijuana users will be able to purchase more than just flowers next month.

The Register-Guard reported that starting June 2, medical marijuana dispensaries will be able to sell low-dose edibles and extracts to recreational customers.

The edible products are already available to medical marijuana cardholders in varying dosages. For recreational users, edibles will have to contain no more than 15 milligrams of THC and extracts can have up to 1,000 milligrams of the psychoactive chemical in marijuana.

Dispensary operators say 15 milligrams for a single brownie or cookie is a very low dose.

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