



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Election board workers prepare ballots for counting on Monday in Astoria.



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky  
Election workers sort through ballots in Salem on Monday in the Marion County clerks office. Oregon's secretary of state says just over half of Oregon's registered voters had cast ballots by Monday morning.



Brian Davies/The Register-Guard  
Robert Graves, back right, and Tom Lesiak, front right, take ballots from passing motorists on the eve of the election in downtown Eugene on Monday. The pair, one a Democrat and the other a Republican, have been working the busiest ballot box in town for more than a decade.

# Election: County voter turnout hit 83 percent in 2012

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county officials, and they had to shift gears to deal with the high volume.

As ballots began to flood the office at the end of October, county clerk staff helped the two election workers on duty sort ballots.

Election workers also began the bulk of their processing and validating work a day earlier than normal, on Thursday. This work continued through Friday, stopped for the weekend, then started up again Monday.

They will continue counting ballots through Tuesday night.

In the last presidential race in 2012, total voter turnout in Clatsop County hit 83 percent with more than 21,000 registered voters and 18,007 ballots cast.

### Other races

Voters in Seaside will weigh a \$99.7 million bond to move three schools out of the tsunami inundation zone. In Cannon Beach, voters will decide whether to ban retail sales

of marijuana. And in Warrenton, voters will determine whether to require double-majority voter approval to dispose of city assets valued at \$100,000 or more.

In Astoria, east side voters will chose between Bruce Jones, a former U.S. Coast Guard commander, and Cory Pederson, a music teacher, for City Council.

Pam Ackley, a real-estate broker appointed to the Warrenton City Commission in 2015, is facing Ryan Lampi, a construction project manager.

Don Johnson, the Seaside City Council president, is up against Tom Horning, a geologist.

In Gearhart, Matt Brown, a golf pro, and Bob Shortman, a property manager, are running for mayor.

Three candidates have thrown in their names for two councilor-at-large positions in Cannon Beach: Herb Florer, Brandon Ogilvie and Nancy McCarthy.

ers to leave the comfort of their couch or bed on election night this year. A new website will allow anyone to track and follow election results as they unfold.

This new centralized website was launched by the Secretary of State in partnership with county elections officials across Oregon. It replaces an old state elections results website and includes individual election results pages for each county. Go to <http://bit.ly/2egAW87>. Results will be posted beginning at 8 tonight.

### Countdown

No need for Clatsop County vot-



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky  
Marion County clerk Bill Burgess stands Monday next to shelves laden with ballots whose results have been digitally recorded in Salem.



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard  
Election official Linda Read carries ballots through the processing center at the Lane County Election Headquarters in Eugene on Monday.



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin  
John Hawkins collects a ballot from a driver at the drive-by drop site located at the corner of Wall Street and Lafayette Avenue in Bend on Monday.

# Pool: Aquatic Center is subsidized by the city

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### Expensive sport

Parents pay \$60 a month in swim club dues and \$40 a month for youth passes at the Aquatic Center, in addition to a USA Swimming annual registration fee, an annual club registration fee, and swim meet entry fees. The Dolphins have 19 swimmers, down from about 50 in years past, and typically use three lanes for training.

Wingard said the swim club, which has a four-decade history in Astoria, expects to pay its fair share. But he called the rental fees unreasonable and said there would be consequences for the club.

"The first is we fold," he said.

An alternative would be to rent one lane, instead of three, which would limit training opportunities.

"We feel that the value of competitive swim club is too great to be lost," Wingard said. "So we're going to do everything that we can to avoid ceasing operations."

Jeff Smith, whose daughter

**'Parks and Recreation needs to patch up its sinking ship. This is not the way to do it.'**

Zetty Nemlowill  
Astoria city councilor

is on the swim club, said the club is a community treasure.

"Please let us try to find a compromise that will allow both the AAC and NCSC to thrive and fulfill their mutual missions," he said of the Aquatic Center and the swim club. "The fee proposal put before you this evening does not make that possible."

### Subsidized by city

The Aquatic Center, like other parks programs, is subsidized by the city. The Parks and Recreation Department is under pressure to contain costs and could face significant cuts in the coming months.

While the lane rental fees would not cover costs, Cosby said, "I think the \$5 per lane, per hour is a step in the right direction to a reasonable subsidy."

The City Council, though, did not impose the rental fees on the swim club. Councilors voted unanimously for a 60-day moratorium to discuss discount options for young swimmers at the club and the high school.

City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill said the swimmers "are some of our best customers at the Aquatic Center. And so I don't see any reason why it's fair to start charging lane rental fees for North Coast Swim Club."

"Parks and Recreation needs to patch up its sinking ship," she said. "This is not the way to do it."

Mayor Arline LaMear said the rental fees appear excessive on top of what parents are already paying. "Cities have to subsidize pools," she said. "But I don't think it should be on the back of these parents."



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The North Coast Swim Club was shocked by a city plan to enforce lane rental fees at the Astoria Aquatic Center.

# Smithart: Port has also been looking at some type of legal action against Smithart

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Smithart signed a confession of judgment on his \$119,918 debt that allows the city to go to court to collect without a trial if he defaults. He had agreed to pay \$150 a week from June through September and \$100 a week from October through May.

The City Council last April had authorized Henningsgaard to sue Smithart, but there was some skepticism about whether the businessman, who is involved with the Arc Arcade downtown, has assets to cover the debt. The pay-

ment plan was seen as a way to recover at least some of the back taxes.

The city is concerned that letting Smithart off would set a precedent for other hoteliers who fail to pay room taxes.

Smithart could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Port of Astoria has also been looking at some type of legal action against Smithart for his debt to the Port.

The civil cases arose after Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis decided last year not to prosecute Smithart on criminal charges. Prosecution was considered diffi-

cult because the state would have had to prove Smithart intended to defraud the city and the Port.

Smithart was pushed out as operator of the Riverwalk Inn last year by the Port, which owns the property. He had struggled to make payments since taking over the former Red Lion in 2012.

Attorney William Orr and developer Chester Trabucco were chosen as the short-term operators of the Riverwalk Inn while the Port weighs a long-term redevelopment plan for land near the West End Mooring Basin.

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