

# Trump weighs mobilizing National Guard for immigration roundups

By **GARANCE BURKE**  
Associated Press

The Trump administration is considering a proposal to mobilize as many as 100,000 National Guard troops to round up unauthorized immigrants, including millions living nowhere near the Mexico border, according to a draft memo obtained by The Associated Press.

The 11-page document

calls for the unprecedented militarization of immigration enforcement as far north as Portland, Oregon, and as far east as New Orleans, Louisiana.

Four states that border on Mexico are included in the proposal — California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas — but it also encompasses seven states contiguous to those four — Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said the AP report was “100 percent not sure” and “irresponsible.” “There is no effort at all to utilize the National Guard to round up unauthorized immigrants,” he said.

Governors in the 11 states would have a choice whether to have their guard troops participate, according to the memo, written by U.S. Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly,

a retired four-star Marine general.

While National Guard personnel have been used to assist with immigration-related missions on the U.S.-Mexico border before, they have never been used as broadly or as far north.

The memo is addressed to the then-acting heads of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

It would serve as guidance to implement the wide-ranging executive order on immigration and border security that President Donald Trump signed Jan. 25. Such memos are routinely issued to supplement executive orders.

Also dated Jan. 25, the draft memo says participating troops would be authorized “to perform the functions of an immigration officer in relation to the investigation, apprehen-

sion and detention of aliens in the United States.” It describes how the troops would be activated under a revived state-federal partnership program, and states that personnel would be authorized to conduct searches and identify and arrest any unauthorized immigrants.

Requests to the White House and the Department of Homeland Security for comment and a status report on the proposal were not answered.

## Rohne: ‘I believe in the future of the Port’

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Rohne, a second-generation dairy farmer who owns and operates Brownsmead Island Farm with his wife Amanda, was known for his independence during his two terms on the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners. He decided against running for a third term last year.

“I believe in the future of the Port of Astoria,” Rohne said in a release Thursday announcing his candidacy. “It is an important entity which is an economic asset to its supporting communities.

“It is my hope to bring an intelligent and independent approach that will help put the Port on an even keel. With stability can come public trust, and positive working relation-

ships with our community, local, state and national partners. In that sort of stable environment I believe challenges can be dealt with and progress can be made. I would like to be part of creating a bright future for the Port of Astoria.”

Rohne ran unopposed in 2007 for the Clatsop Community College Board of Directors, replacing Laura Harris. He defeated Astoria contractor Cary Johnson and joined the county Board of Commissioners in 2008, running in opposition to a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal on the North Coast. Rohne resigned from the college board in 2014 to focus on the county commission board, where his tenure ended late last year.

“My experience in managing a small business gives me

hands on experience in balancing a budget and investing wisely in projects that will pay off in the future,” Rohne said. “As a parent I have a keen interest in a robust and healthy economy for our county.”

Fulton, who has served on the Port Commission since 2013, could not immediately be reached for comment. He has not yet filed for re-election for Position 2.

### Campbell runs again

James Campbell, an incumbent who served on the Port Commission from 1965 to 1977 and defeated 12-year Commissioner Larry Pfund



James Campbell

for Position 1 in 2013, has filed for re-election.

Still up in the air is who will run to fill Position 5. Incumbent John Raichl who was appointed in 2014 to replace Ric Gerttula after he resigned, has announced he will not seek another term.

“I didn’t really want to step in when I did, but I was asked to help out,” Raichl said. “I’ve been in public life long enough.”

Raichl said he has spent more than 30 years in public office, between stints as sheriff, on the county commission and with other boards. “I want to watch the grass grow.”

## Judges: ‘Have tremendous responsibility’

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Judges say the pay boosts are needed to attract quality young attorneys to serve on the bench.

But the raises would especially benefit the ranks of older judges who are just a few years away from retirement and from collecting Oregon Public Employee Retirement System pensions. The end-of-career pay boosts would sharply increase these judges’ annual PERS payouts, calculations by The Register-Guard show.

Oregon’s judicial salaries remain low compared to other states — they rank around 40th nationally in aggregate, according to 2017 data from the National Center for State Courts.

Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Balmer told lawmakers this week that the new raises would bring Oregon in line with what other Western states pay.

He acknowledged that the request is “a heavy lift” given that the state faces a \$1.8 billion gap between expenses and revenues in its upcoming 2017-19 budget.

“We’re not doing this for the money,” Balmer said. “But (Oregon) needs to pay (judges) appropriately for the kind of work that they do.”

The raises, Balmer said, would help attract “some of the best young lawyers, best young deputy district attorneys, and best young defense lawyers” to Oregon’s bench.

But, at least initially, the healthy pay raises would be a bigger boon for older judges nearing retirement — and a hidden cost to the state. The state has not calculated the potential financial impact on PERS, which is severely underfunded.

The pay and retirement boosts would not apply to the array of other Oregon government judges, such as municipal court judges or administrative law judges.

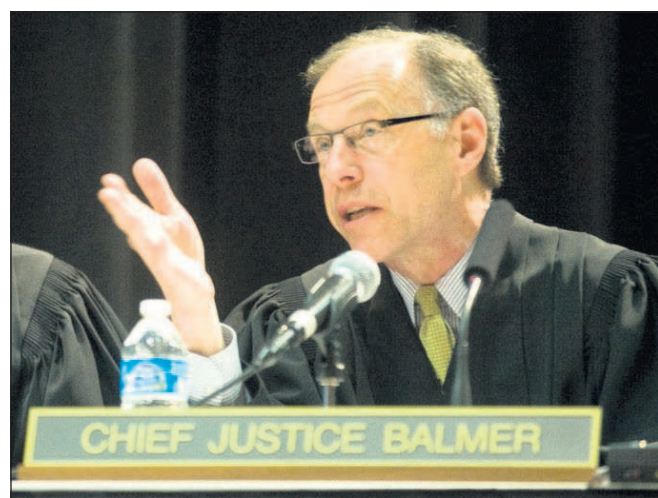
### PERS calculations

Elected state judges in Oregon accumulate pension benefits under PERS at a rate much faster than any other state employee.

Their first 16 years of service are credited at 3.75 percent of salary per year. After that, the rate is 2 percent per year.

By contrast, most state employees hired today receive 1.5 percent of salary in retirement for each year of service.

(As a quirky trade-off for the higher rate, judges must work for 35 days a year for free for their first five years of retirement).



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Chief Justice Thomas Balmer speaks during a pair of actual cases involving endangerment of minors and liability waivers in 2014 at Astoria High School.

Under PERS, the percentage of salary is multiplied by the average of the final three years of salary. So, big late-career pay raises can be pension game changers.

According to Register-Guard calculations, a Supreme Court judge with 25 years on the bench would receive a base starting annual pension of \$105,330, if she retired today.

With the proposed pay increases, a Supreme Court judge with the same 25-year service would receive a base annual pension of \$125,803, if she retired in 4 years’ time, or of \$131,157, if she retired in 7 years.

For a circuit court judge with 25 years in office, retiring today would mean a base pension of \$96,513 a year. If lawmakers pass the raises, retiring in four years would mean a base pension of \$114,783 and in seven years, \$119,222.

Over a 10- to 20-year retirement, those annual \$20,000 to \$30,000 differences mean significant added PERS costs — particularly with the compounding effect of a yearly 2 percent cost-of-living increase on the bulk of those pensions.

### Bigger benefits

Oregon judges’ pensions are typically larger than that formula-produced base benefit as well, records show, thanks to a variable account that judges can use to invest their pension funds in the stock market.

All 11 judges who retired between 2013 and 2016 with at least 20 years’ experience received a starting annual pension above 75 percent of their final salary, according to PERS data, with one as high as 90 percent.

That’s compared to an average starting pension benefit of 54 percent of final salary among all public employees who retired between 1990

and 2014.

That’s due in part to the fact that the judges’ PERS plan wasn’t affected at all by big reforms passed by the Legislature in 1996 and 2003, which have successfully brought down PERS costs for other state workers.

And the impact of the legally upheld 2013 reforms on judges’ retirement was minor, reducing their pension cost-of-living increases for work done after October 2013 only.

### How pensions compare

Balmer acknowledged to lawmakers that the pay raises would help keep older judges on the job longer, although he didn’t specifically mention their PERS accounts.

“We need to increase compensation to keep our aging judges on the bench. ... as we go through the inevitable transition of (the) baby boomer cohort moving on,” Balmer said.

Although the judges’ PERS plan is more generous than most other plans for Oregon government workers, it is in line with judge pensions in other western states, according to a 2013 outside accountant’s report provided by the Oregon Judicial Department.

That report ranked the typical value of an Oregon judge’s pension 13th out of 14 states, far behind those pensions in states like Alaska, California and Nevada, but ahead of Montana’s plan.

But most judges in those states have to contribute a portion of their salary to their retirements — between 3 percent and 11.6 percent. Oregon judges do not.

Asked about the potential increased PERS costs due to the raises, Judicial Department spokesman Phil Lemman said, in a prepared statement: “The cost of paying judges for the value of the work that they do has been part of the legislative con-

versation in every salary increase (the department) has requested in good economic times and bad.”

“Total compensation for Oregon judges remains well below any comparators,” he added.

### Few alarm bells

Once again this year, Oregon lawmakers are considering cost-curbing PERS reforms to deal with the system’s \$22 billion unfunded liability. Because of court rulings, reforms now have to overwhelmingly hit younger public employees.

When discussing reforms, legislators are quick to bemoan past decisions by the PERS board and lawmakers that they believe unsustainably drove up the cost of the system.

But the judges’ request for raises doesn’t appear to be ringing many alarm bells in Salem.

A whopping 62 Republican and Democratic lawmakers — two-thirds of both chambers — have signed a letter of support for the proposal, contained in both Senate Bill 11 and House Bill 2636.

At twin hearings in the House and Senate judiciary committees this week, lawmakers almost universally blessed the pay increases.

“They are absolutely right on with what they’re asking of us,” said Rep. Andy Olson, an Albany Republican.

In a subsequent interview, Olson acknowledged that the potential raise-induced PERS increases represent “a big pension package.” But he said that judges are typically paid less than the private sector and high-ranking government lawyers who argue before them.

“Judges have tremendous responsibility in our system,” Olson added.

Rep. Chris Gorsek, a Troutdale Democrat, also spoke in favor of the raises.

“You do important work and you deserve better compensation,” he told Balmer and his fellow judges.

Only one legislator voiced concerns. New state Sen. Dennis Linthicum, a Klamath Falls Republican, said he felt the automatic cost-of-living raises that the Legislature approved for judges in 2015 was sufficient.

“Everybody is up in arms in my constituent district with regard to the amount of money we’re spending here in Salem,” he said.

Both bills were then approved, on a combined 15-1 vote, and sent to the Legislature’s budget crafting committee.

## Center: ‘We’re really stretched thin’

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### ‘Stretched thin’

The idea to recruit a management company to run the district’s day-to-day operations came from outgoing District CEO Nicole Williams, who has worked for the district since 2013 and was recently hired by Columbia Memorial Hospital. She said she plans to leave the district in early March.

“I think the job has grown to be too much for one person to do,” Williams said.

Encompassing all of Clatsop County except the cities of Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach, the health district oversees the health and rehabilitation center, Clatsop Retirement Village in Astoria and — the latest addition — Clatsop Memory Care Center in Warrenton. It also provides in-home care throughout the community.

In addition, complex new Medicare and Medicaid regulations take up more time and staff members to implement.

“We’re really stretched thin,” Williams said, “and I think, in order to be successful in the future, you have to affiliate somehow with a larger company.”



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Nicole Williams, CEO of Clatsop Care Health District, is resigning in early March to work for Columbia Memorial Hospital.

The district’s basic structure will remain the same, she said. All employees would remain district employees. The district board would remain an elected board, whose job would be to oversee the management company and ensure it is held accountable, she said.

The board has not yet chosen a company, but is looking at Oregon-based firms that specialize in managing nonprofit agencies, particularly in small, rural communities.

## Blaze: ‘It’s just been beautiful the way people want to help’

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Coaster Theatre Executive Director Patrick Lathrop was among those who lost his home.

“I had just left and was shopping in Seaside and got a phone call and came back down,” Lathrop said Wednesday. “I witnessed it. I was very lost — that’s the only thing I can say. I was just so confused, I didn’t know what to do.”

Lathrop said in addition to his own living space, an apartment used by Coaster Theatre for guests artists, rehearsals and meetings was also destroyed in the blaze, which was ruled accidental.

### ‘Loving and caring’

“I’ve only seen good,” church administrator Nancy Giasson said on behalf of Pastor David Robinson and congregants. “It’s just been beautiful the way people want to help.”

Giasson said after the fire “a flood of people, members

and friends of the church” came to the church with offers of assistance.

“Extraordinarily loving and caring — this is the way this community is,” Giasson said. “We care about each other. We’re just happy to serve and to be a flow-through for their gifts.”

The church coordinated with other efforts to establish a fire relief fund. Money will be disbursed equally by those displaced by the fire.

Whatever people give goes 100 percent to the victims, Giasson added.

“I’m still a little loss to be honest,” Lathrop said. “I keep going back to compared to what the women above me lost. I don’t have anything to complain about.”

To donate, visit [www.gofundme.com/3dmw5fc](http://www.gofundme.com/3dmw5fc) or contact Emmas Lindsay at [Dogs Allowed, 503-440-8740](tel:503-440-8740).

To donate to the Cannon Beach Community Church Fire Fund, go to [www.beachcommunity.org](http://www.beachcommunity.org).



Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue  
The interior of the Cannon Beach home after Sunday’s accidental blaze destroyed the apartments.