## **NORTHWEST**

# **Oregon Republicans optimistic** about party's prospects

#### By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE Capital Bureau

SALEM - Apparently buoyed by the victory of President Donald J. Trump and Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, Republicans Oregon convening here Friday and Saturday were optimistic about opportunities for the GOP in the Beaver State.

Richardson's election secured the party's first statewide elected office since 2002, resulting in something of a victory lap vibe at the annual Dorchester Conference.

While Republicans lead a solid majority of state legislatures, Oregon is one of 12 states where Democrats are in charge in both chambers, compared to 32 states where Republicans have control of both chambers.

Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, noted in remarks Friday night that one Oregon Senate seat flipped in the last election from Democrat to Republican.

Sen. Alan DeBoer, R-Ashland, won a special election to finish the last two vears of the term of the late Sen. Alan Bates, D-Medford, who died in August. DeBoer won the race by just under 400 votes, according to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office.

Salem physician Bud Pierce, the 2016 Republican gubernatorial candidate who lost to Democratic Gov. Kate Brown, said he was feeling optimistic about the future of the Republican party in Oregon.

Pierce, who is on the board of directors of Oregon's League of Minority Voters, moderated a panel of speakers, that included Promise King, executive director of the league, about including people of color in state politics and campaigns.

Asked by a reporter whether he sees a conflict between his party's aim to include minority groups and the rhetoric of President Trump — who has been prone to making gross gener-



U.S. Rep. Greg Walden poses for a photo at the Dorchester Conference Saturday with Promise King, executive director of the Oregon League of Minority Voters. Republicans attending the annual political conference were optimistic about the party's chances to expand its fortunes in the Beaver State.

alizations about minority groups, including immigrants from Mexico — Pierce said he was waiting to see what action the president takes.

"Let's see if he can give a legal status to 11 million people," Pierce said. Pressed about the likelihood of such a reversal by the president, Pierce said: "Well see, you know, it was unlikely that Nixon would go to China."

Pierce points to the state's lack of affordable housing as one example of what he calls the "failures" of the Democrats' policies in Oregon that he believes could attract more voters to the right.

The Legislature is debating proposals to ban rent hikes and no-cause evictions, and many Republicans at the conference advocated instead for loosening up the state's land use restrictions to encourage more development and housing supply.

Pierce said he believes Republicans may benefit from the growing number of voters in the state who are not affiliated with any political party.

Many new voters have been registered recently through the state's new automatic voter registration law, which registers voters as unaffiliated unless they designates a political party.

"Can we become the natural place for the unaffiliated votes?" Pierce asked. "Maybe they won't call themselves Republicans, but maybe they'll do it."

State Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, referencing relatively recent political shifts in Michigan and Wisconsin, told conference attendees he believes Oregon could become a red state.

"I think there's a lot of hope in Oregon," Barreto said. "But a lot of these other states, they didn't just change from blue to red accidentally, there was some pain that went on.'

referred Barreto to economic woes in those states and continued:

"If we're not careful in Oregon, there's going to be some pain in Oregon, when we talk about PERS, when we talk about Medicaid, when we talk about bills that we can't afford to pay right now, we will feel some pain."

U.S. Rep Greg Walden, R-Hood River, Ore., called on Republicans to stay involved.

'You need to fight back," Walden said, when asked by an attendee if conservative groups were organizing to attend town halls. "If you believe in why we run, if you believe in the policies we're trying to implement, you have to help us fight back, you have to be there shoulder-to-shoulder with us.'

# Anti-abortion measure supporters can start seeking signatures

### By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE

Capital Bureau

SALEM — Petitioners were granted permission last month to gather signatures to put a measure restricting state funding for abortions on the ballot in November 2018.

The effort, Initiative Petition 1, would amend the state's constitution to prohibit spending public funds for abortions, with certain exceptions, according to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office.

As written, the petition would allow public funds to be spent in circumstances where federal law requires states to provide funding for the procedure or when the procedure is "medically necessary."

Abortions and vasectomies are excluded from coverage required under the Affordable Care Act, the federal health care law that is under threat of repeal in Congress.

A group of Democratic lawmakers in the Oregon House of Representatives this session is sponsoring legislation — called the Reproductive Health Equity Act — that would require health plans, except for those that are offered by religious employers, to cover abortions and vasectomies. It would also maintain no-cost birth control in the state.

The petition was approved for circulation Feb. 24. The petition needs 117,578 signatures to get on the ballot next year.

Similar petitions were filed in 2012, 2014 and 2016, but failed each time to qualify for the ballot. Supporters of the initia-

tive petition, in comments

submitted to the Secretary of State's Office, argue that Oregonians who oppose abortion should not be obligated to fund the procedure through taxes.

Mary Nolan, executive director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, said in a statement that limitations on abortion would negatively affect low-income women, immigrants, young women and women of color in the state.

"When a woman is living paycheck to paycheck, denying coverage can push her deeper into poverty,' Nolan said.

Claire Withycombe is a reporter for the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group capital bureau. She can be reached at 503-363-0888, or at cwithycombe(a) eomediagroup.com.

## Police, civil rights leaders voice support for police stop data collection

#### **By PARIS ACHEN** Capital Bureau

SALEM—After years of disagreement, both Oregon enforcement and law civil rights leaders voiced support Monday, March 6, for a bill that would require police to record data on race during traffic stops.

The legislation, proposed by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, is aimed at addressing racial profiling by law enforcement.

'The legitimacy of our law enforcement depends on public perception, and there is no accountability mechanism better than sunshine," Rosenblum testified during a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee. "The experience of other states suggests that law enforcement is often quick

to change their policies when confronted with data

suggesting disparate impact on diverse communities."

The legislation also expands mandatory bias training for police officers and downgrades certain drug possession crimes from felonies to misdemeanors — crimes for which people of color are disproportionately prosecuted.

Law enforcement officers would be required to record the race of the person stopped and when a citation or warning is issued, a search is conducted or a person is arrested. The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission would analyze the data for any enforcement disparities and publish any trends in an annual report. Finally, the information would be distributed at a public forum in the law enforcement agency's county of jurisdiction.

agencies already collect such data voluntarily. Since 2000, Oregon State Police has been recording data on race, gender, age, reason for contact, citation, warning or search type.

"OSP does believe data collection has value in terms of guiding good policing policy and a critical foundation for discussions relating to policing concerns," said OSP Superintendent Travis Hampton. "Before we have the conversation, I think we do need the data.'

OSP data shows that 2.1 percent of trooper contacts were with people identified as black, which is proportionate with the population. But in Multnomah County, court records show that blacks are 10 times more likely to be charged with а drug-related crime, according to a Portland

Several law enforcement Tribune report.

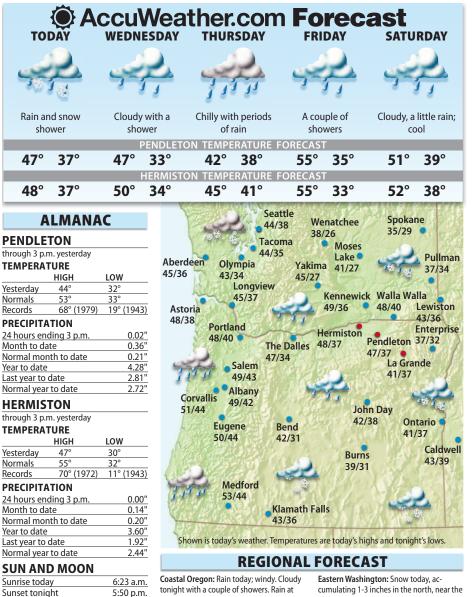
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tonight with a couple of showers. Rain at times tomorrow.

Moonrise today

Moonset today

Mar 12 Mar 20

Last

New

Mar 27

Full

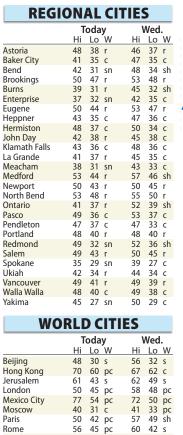
12:52 p.m.

3:09 a.m.

First

Apr 3

Eastern and Central Oregon: A bit of snow this morning, then a little rain near the Cascades; a bit of snow and rain in the north Western Washington: Periods of rain today into tomorrow



Seattle 44/38	Winnipeg 17/5	
Billings -1 41/23		Montreal 45/36
	Minneapolis 47/23 Detroit 60/36	Toronto
an Francisco 0/49	4//23 Chicago 55/37	53/31 • New York 57/50 • Washington
Denver Los Angeles	Kansas City 62/33	64/50
Los Angeles 77/55		32
El Paso 72/43		Atlanta 68/50
12/43	• Houston 75/54	
Chihuahua 77/46	Monterrey	Miami 78/69
10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 3	• 88764 0s 40s 50s 60s 70s	s 80s 90s 100s 110s

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

0 C showers t-storms flurries cold front warm front stationary front ice rain snow high National Summary: Thunderstorms, some heavy, will stretch from the central Great Lakes

to the western Gulf Coast today. The East Coast will turn milder as strong winds whip the northern Plains. The Northwest will stay stormy.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) Low -8° in Berlin, N.H. High 90° in Zapata, Texas

### NATIONAL CITIES

NATIONAL CITIES												
	Т	oday		Wed	Ι.		Т	Today		Wed.		Ι.
	Hi	Lo W	' Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	58	35 s	67	40	рс	Louisville	61	43	t	64	43	S
Atlanta	68	50 t	70	45	рс	Memphis	65	42	r	72	46	
Atlantic City	60	51 c	64	42	рс	Miami	78	69	рс	81	68	
Baltimore	64	48 sh		41	рс	Milwaukee	54	34	S	48	24	-
Billings	41	23 po		29	С	Minneapolis	47	23	рс	35	18	-
Birmingham	70	45 t	71	42	S	Nashville	62		r	69	40	
Boise	44	40 r	56	43		New Orleans	79	61	-	72	62	
Boston	46	44 r	57	38		New York City	57	50		61	42	
Charleston, SC	76	60 c	76	46		Oklahoma City	67	37	-	74	49	-
Charleston, WV	61	38 t	62	42	S	Omaha	58		рс	60	29	-
Chicago	55	37 s	53	27	-	Philadelphia	63	51		64	44	
Cleveland	61	39 t	54	33		Phoenix	76	53		84	58	
Dallas	71	45 pc			рс	Portland, ME	40	37		53	34	
Denver	54	31 p		37	S	Providence	48	45		59	39	
Detroit El Paso	60 72	36 t 43 s	51	27 52	рс	Raleigh	73	57		70	42	
Fairbanks	-3	43 s	80 0	-27	pc s	Rapid City	44 52	19		48 61	22	рс
	-5 34	-27 S	26	-27	-	Reno Sacramento	52 60	35 43		68		
Fargo Honolulu	80	65 p		67	pc pc	St. Louis	62	39	-	69	46 42	
Houston	75	54 t	. 78	62	pc	Salt Lake City	48	39	-	56	41	-
Indianapolis	59	38 t	59	34		San Diego	73	54		78	57	pc
Jacksonville	78	59 p		53	-	San Francisco	60	49	pc	65	51	-
Kansas City	62	33 s	69	38		Seattle	44	38		46	37	-
Las Vegas	67	49 p		56	-	Tucson	79	49	-	87	52	
Little Rock	68	39 r	72	43		Washington, DC	64	50		65	45	
Los Angeles	77	55 s	85	59	-	Wichita	66	35		72	41	
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37 25 s

71 66 sh 37 r

49

WINDS

Today

NE 2-4

SSE 6-12

**UV INDEX TODAY** 

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

3-5, Moderate

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num

ber, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

2 1 0 0

43 27 pc

71 66 sh

52 38 s

Wednesday

W 6-12

VAR 2-4

6-7, High;

11+. Extreme

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

Seoul

Sydney

Tokyo

(in mph)

0 1

0-2, Low

8-10. Verv High;

Boardman

Pendleton

cumulating 1-3 inches in the north, near the Idaho border and in the mountains. Cascades: Snow this morning, then a little rain; snow, accumulating 1-3 inches in the south

Northern California: A little rain today; however, a couple of flurries in the interior mountains.