

# State budget hangs on May revenue forecast

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — While lawmakers are now likely negotiating the state's budget behind closed doors, Oregonians may have a better idea of what to expect once state economists present the quarterly revenue forecast in mid-May.

Legislators are required to pass a balanced budget, but face an approximately \$1.6 billion shortfall between what the state expects to bring through the general fund and lottery funds, and what it would take to maintain existing services.

Between those two funds, available revenue is expected to be about \$20.99 billion, according to

the most recent quarterly revenue forecast, which was issued in February.

According to Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin, one of the co-chairs of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, which writes the state's budget, the forecast that comes out May 16 gives budget writers "the most accurate picture" of what's to come, once most income tax returns have been filed.

The state's general fund is largely sourced from income taxes; the deadline to file is April 18.

With both budget cuts and new

taxes still in the realm of possibility — and with both options imbued with political consequences — Oregon lawmakers could turn to a strategy they've tapped in the past: establishing a bicameral "super committee" to hammer out big-ticket policy items.

Such super committees, though not common, have emerged in prior legislative sessions. They can form when legislators think it could "help break down some of the institutional barriers" between the Oregon House and Senate, said Jim Moore, professor of political science and director of the Tom McCall Center

for Policy Innovation at Pacific University.

Such a mega-committee could include party leadership from both sides of the aisle from each chamber, and possibly members of key policy committees — such as healthcare or education — Moore said.

But if the legislative session starts Feb. 1, why isn't there more public information about what the budget will actually be until three months later?

"When you come out with a budget, you're, in effect, making promises," Moore said. If not all of them can be kept, lawmakers "just don't want to go that far."

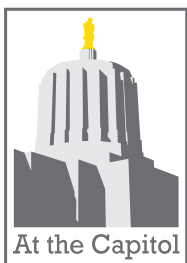
Oregon passes its budget in

increments, with the biggest components of the budget typically coming first.

Once the most significant pieces of the budget are passed — such as education, public safety and human service programs — budgets for smaller agencies and programs fall into place, Moore said.

This session, lawmakers are also trying to craft a transportation funding package. Health care costs are another significant challenge for the state as the federal government gradually tapers its support to states for the Medicaid expansion.

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



# Oregon lawmakers try to stem opioid epidemic

By **ANDREW SELSKY**  
Associated Press

SALEM — Seeking to stem the opioid epidemic in Oregon and prevent overdose deaths, the House of Representatives unanimously approved a proposed law on Monday that would provide safe-use recommendations to those who prescribe such pain-killing drugs.

However, provisions in the bill that would have limited health-care practitioners to prescribing a maximum seven-day supply and would have criminalized improperly prescribing opioids were earlier stripped by the House Health Care Committee. The Oregon Medical Association had lobbied against some of the provisions.

The state attorney general's office had strongly backed the measure because "the risk of overdose and addiction is serious."

"In 2014, enough opioids were prescribed in Oregon for nearly every person in the state to have a bottle," Assistant Attorney General David Hart said in written testimony.

More than 15,000 people died in America from overdoses involving prescription opioids in 2015, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Oregon, more drug poisoning deaths involve prescription opioids than any other type of drug. The Oregon Health Authority says an average of three Oregonians die every week from prescription opioid overdose.

The original bill, sponsored by Rep. Mitch Greenlick, D-Portland, and House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, D-Portland, would have limited prescriptions to seven days, unless a health-care

practitioner determined more was needed for an acute medical condition or for various types of pain, like that associated with cancer. It also would have made it a crime to refuse to furnish records or to prevent inspections.

In a Feb. 28 memo to the health care committee, Oregon Medical Association general counsel Mark Bonanno said: "We do not believe criminalizing prescription writing achieves better patient care. In fact, if practitioners fear prosecution for writing prescriptions for opioids or opiates, we expect the pendulum for the public health issue of properly treating pain will swing all the way back to under-treatment of pain."

Under the amended bill, the Oregon Medical Board, the Oregon State Board of Nursing and the Oregon Board of Dentistry would provide notice to practitioners they regulate of recommendations for safe use of opioids.

Among the guidance contained in Oregon Opioid Prescribing Guidelines: Recommendations for the Safe Use of Opioid Medications:

- Consider opioid therapy only if expected benefits for both pain and function are anticipated to outweigh risks
- Prescribe the lowest effective dosage
- If clinicians suspect their patient might be sharing or selling opioids or intentionally misusing them, clinicians should consider urine testing to consider whether opioids can be discontinued abruptly or tapered
- Clinicians should avoid prescribing opioids and benzodiazepines (a class of psychoactive drugs).

Now that it has passed the House, the bill next goes to the Oregon Senate.

## BRIEFLY

### Oregon set to shield marijuana user data from U.S. officials

SALEM (AP) — Oregon state lawmakers have given final approval to a bill that would shield the names, birthdates and other identifying information of marijuana users from being accessed by federal drug agents amid worries of heightened enforcement.

The bill was approved 53-5 by the Oregon House on Monday and is largely in response to mixed signals about the new White House administration's stance on the federal marijuana prohibition.

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown is expected to sign it into law.

Oregon pot shops would have 30 days to destroy their recreational pot customers' personal data from their records and be banned from keeping such records thereon.

Data collection about pot clients is already illegal or discouraged in Alaska, Colorado and Washington state.

Recreational marijuana is legal in those states and sold from stores.

### Portland commits to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland and Multnomah County have pledged to completely transition to renewable energy sources by 2050.

Monday's announcement from Mayor Ted Wheeler and County Chair Deborah Kafoury places the Portland-metro region alongside 25 other cities that have committed to 100-percent renewables. Nearly 90 major U.S. companies have also committed.

Portland has been working on climate change since it became the first U.S. city to adopt a carbon reduction strategy in 1993. In addition to making its own moves to use clean energy, the city said in a statement that it plans to resist any federal policy changes that increase carbon emissions.

Kafoury described the effort as a pledge to children, allowing them to have a future with cleaner air and more economic opportunity.

### Gresham, Portland settle lawsuit over filming of police

PORTLAND (AP) — The cities of Portland and Gresham have settled a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of a woman whose cell phone was seized by a police officer as she recorded an arrest.

The cities agreed to new policies and training regarding the public's right to film police activity. Gresham also agreed to pay \$85,000 in legal fees. Since Carrie Medina's attorneys worked the case for free, the money goes to the ACLU Foundation of Oregon.

Medina said a Gresham officer seized her phone in 2013 as she livestreamed the arrest of a young man at a light-rail stop in downtown Portland. She said Monday that bystanders should not feel afraid to exercise their rights.

Gresham spokeswoman Elizabeth Coffey says the city adopted new procedures shortly after the incident and is thankful the matter is resolved.

### Historical mill that operated for 73 years being torn apart

CAVE JUNCTION (AP) — A historical mill that operated in southern Oregon for 73 years is being taken apart to make way for a new owner.

The Daily Courier reports contractors were working on dismantling the Rough & Ready Lumber mill Wednesday. One of the mill's owners, Link Phillippi, said he can't say who the prospective owner is, but can say the space will not be converted into a marijuana processing plant, as it is rumored.

Phillippi also says although the new owner is not a lumber producer, they will be creating jobs.

The mill was the Illinois Valley's largest employer for the last 50 years.

## Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sun and some clouds	Mostly cloudy with a shower	A shower and t-storm around	Mostly cloudy, a shower; cool	Mostly cloudy
<b>59° 44°</b>	<b>58° 42°</b>	<b>57° 37°</b>	<b>52° 31°</b>	<b>58° 37°</b>
<b>PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST</b>				
<b>62° 43°</b>	<b>61° 45°</b>	<b>62° 40°</b>	<b>58° 34°</b>	<b>62° 39°</b>
<b>HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST</b>				

### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	56°	38°
Normals	60°	38°
Records	87° (1925)	24° (2010)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.13"  
Month to date 0.18"  
Normal month to date 0.44"  
Year to date 6.45"  
Last year to date 4.98"  
Normal year to date 4.40"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	62°	41°
Normals	63°	39°
Records	80° (1985)	22° (1933)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.05"  
Month to date 0.05"  
Normal month to date 0.24"  
Year to date 4.98"  
Last year to date 2.80"  
Normal year to date 3.35"

### SUN AND MOON

	Last	New	First	Full
Sunrise today		6:17 a.m.		
Sunset tonight		7:37 p.m.		
Moonrise today		8:14 p.m.		
Moonset today		6:51 a.m.		

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Location	Temp	Conditions
Seattle	56/45	c
Wenatchee	55/40	c
Spokane	52/39	c
Tacoma	56/41	c
Moses Lake	57/44	c
Pullman	55/43	c
Longview	59/47	c
Kennewick	62/45	c
Walla Walla	61/46	c
Lewiston	60/44	c
Astoria	58/46	c
Portland	58/46	c
Hermiston	62/43	c
Pendleton	59/44	c
La Grande	56/42	c
Salem	56/46	c
John Day	54/42	c
Ontario	59/44	c
Eugene	55/46	c
Bend	49/38	c
Medford	59/47	c
Corvallis	57/46	c
Albany	57/46	c
John Day	54/42	c
Burns	49/37	c
Caldwell	58/43	c
Klamath Falls	50/40	c

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

### REGIONAL FORECAST

<b>Coastal Oregon:</b> Occasional rain and drizzle today; however, a shower in spots across the north.	<b>Eastern Washington:</b> Sun and some clouds today.
<b>Eastern and Central Oregon:</b> Some sun today with a shower in spots in the afternoon.	<b>Cascades:</b> A few showers today, except occasional rain and drizzle in the south.
<b>Western Washington:</b> Mostly cloudy today; an afternoon shower in spots across the south.	<b>North Central California:</b> Mostly cloudy today; periods of rain, but dry across interior locations.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	58	46	c	55	45	r
Baker City	54	37	c	55	40	pc
Bend	49	38	pc	53	33	sh
Brookings	56	47	r	52	44	r
Burns	49	37	pc	52	37	sh
Enterprise	50	37	pc	52	39	pc
Eugene	55	46	sh	56	43	r
Heppner	54	39	pc	57	40	sh
Hermiston	62	43	pc	61	45	sh
John Day	54	42	pc	53	39	pc
Klamath Falls	50	40	r	51	30	r
La Grande	56	42	pc	56	41	sh
Meacham	55	42	pc	54	40	pc
Medford	59	47	r	57	41	r
Newport	54	44	sh	53	44	r
North Bend	54	47	r	55	46	r
Ontario	59	44	pc	66	47	pc
Pasco	62	42	pc	61	43	sh
Pendleton	59	44	pc	58	42	c
Portland	58	46	c	57	44	r
Redmond	53	36	pc	57	34	sh
Salem	56	46	sh	57	43	r
Spokane	52	39	pc	51	40	sh
Ukiah	52	39	pc	52	38	sh
Vancouver	58	46	c	57	43	r
Walla Walla	61	46	pc	60	46	c
Yakima	58	43	pc	58	43	sh

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	70	38	s	76	41	s
Hong Kong	82	70	c	74	69	t
Jerusalem	76	62	c	81	62	c
London	61	43	pc	62	42	pc
Mexico City	79	49	pc	78	47	pc
Moscow	61	37	pc	44	36	pc
Paris	60	40	pc	64	44	pc
Rome	68	48	pc	69	49	pc
Seoul	66	39	pc	58	40	pc
Sydney	73	63	pc	71	61	pc
Tokyo	56	52	r	61	46	pc

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
<b>Boardman</b>	NE 6-12	S 6-12
<b>Pendleton</b>	NE 6-12	S 6-12

### UV INDEX TODAY

**1 3 5 5 3 1**

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

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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

**National Summary:** Warmth will extend from the Deep South to coastal New England today. Showers and thunderstorms will extend from the eastern Great Lakes to southern Texas. Rain is forecast to approach the Northwest coast.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
**High 92°** in McAllen, Texas      **Low 5°** in Tuolumne Meadows, Calif.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	74	52	s	75	50	pc
Atlanta	80	59	s	79	58	pc
Atlantic City	68	55	s	68	47	sh
Baltimore	84	59	pc	74	46	pc
Billings	57	38	pc	61	40	pc
Birmingham	82	62	pc	82	60	c
Boise	59	45	pc	68	47	pc
Boston	76	54	s	66	43	r
Charleston, SC	79	56	s	81	57	pc
Chicago, IL	78	54	c	70	45	pc
Cleveland	70	42	sh	58	43	pc
Dallas	74	61	t	81	64	c
Denver	69	41	t	74	43	pc