

# Democrats say Knute Buehler is ineligible for his House seat

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE  
Capital Bureau



Randy L. Rasmussen/The Oregonian via AP

**Republican gubernatorial candidate Knute Buehler gathered with supporters in Wilsonville on May 15. Buehler, a doctor and state representative from Bend (or is it Tualatin?), will face Kate Brown in November.**

PORTLAND — The Democratic Party of Oregon is claiming that the GOP nominee for governor no longer lives in the district he represents in the Oregon House, in what they argue is a violation of the state's Constitution.

State Rep. Knute Buehler, an orthopedic surgeon, was elected to represent House District 54, which spans the core area of Bend, in 2014. He won the GOP nomination in May and is facing incumbent Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, in the November general election.

The Democratic Party alleges Buehler has moved to Tualatin and is no longer eligible to serve as a state representative for the Bend area.

The Buehler campaign dismissed the allegations as "a nonsense, desperate attack from a campaign that cannot defend Kate Brown's record of failed leadership."

The Democratic Party of Oregon points to two press interviews with Buehler — one with a sports reporter at *The Portland Tribune* and another with Mark Mason of 1190 KEX in Portland — as evidence that Buehler has moved to Tualatin.

In the interview with Mason, Buehler confirms Mason's sign-off description of the candidate as "Knute Buehler, of Tualatin now."

Then Buehler responds, "Of Tualatin now, yeah, just down the street." Mason then says, "No longer Bend." And Buehler says "Yeah, and soon to be resident of Salem."

"The evidence for this is in his own words," said DPO chair Jeanne Atkins.

Atkins pointed to Article IV, Section 8 of the state's Constitution, which states that "A person may not be a Senator or Representative if the person at all times during

the term of office of the person as a Senator or Representative is not an inhabitant of the district from which the Senator or Representative may be chosen or which the Senator or Representative has been appointed to represent."

Atkins said the constituents of the district no longer had someone to represent them, and that the Democratic Party of Oregon wants the Secretary of State, which houses the state elections division, to investigate.

"Bottom line, political ambition has trumped his commitment to his current constituents," Atkins said.

The Secretary of State's Office is processing the complaint, according to the secretary's Chief of Staff Deb Royal.

The Buehler campaign says the Republican nominee has an apartment in Tualatin, but says his primary residence remains in Bend and that's where his wife, Patty, spends most of her time.

It is also where the Buehlers are registered to vote, their cars are registered and where they pay property taxes, the campaign says.

They say the Tualatin residence is a place for Buehler to "sleep, shower and snack while he is campaign-

ing vigorously nearly every week in the Portland-area and Willamette Valley."

Asked how many days per week or month Buehler spends in Tualatin instead of Bend, spokeswoman Monica Wroblewski said "he spends as much time as he can in Bend."

"We were just there all last week," Wroblewski wrote in an email to the EO/Pamplin Capital Bureau. "Bend is his home."

Buehler unveiled his health care plan during a press conference in Bend on Wednesday, July 18 and attended the convention of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers' Association on Friday, July 20.

Advocating for the state's rural communities and industries is a key part of his platform, Buehler said at the ONPA event last week.

Asked why, then, his campaign headquarters are in the Portland suburbs, Wroblewski said it allows the campaign to have a presence both east and west of the Cascades.

"The location for the

campaign headquarters was chosen so that we would have a presence on the east and west sides of the state," Wroblewski said. "As the campaign progresses, we will have a presence throughout the state and in multiple locations."

Oregon has a "citizen legislature" that meets for roughly five months in odd-numbered years and for a month in even-numbered years.

State lawmakers from further-flung parts of the state often rent apartments in Salem during the session. But Article IV, Section 8 also states that a "person does not lose status as an inhabitant of a district if the person is absent from the district for purposes of business of the Legislative Assembly."

"This is different, because Buehler has said, on more than one occasion, that he has moved to Tualatin," a spokeswoman for the DPO, Molly Woon, wrote in an email Tuesday. "Not temporarily and not to fulfill his legislative duties. He's actually left his district and moved to Tualatin. This leaves the constituents of HD 54 without representation, even though Buehler continues to receive a state paycheck."

Asked to respond Tuesday to potential criticism that this could be perceived as an "election-year stunt," Atkins again referred to the constitution.

"I would ask you to read very clearly the state Constitution," Atkins said. "And we have asked the Secretary of State to examine whether or not his residency has been maintained, as required by the state Constitution. That's the bottom line here."

## BRIEFLY

### Jury selection begins in trial of FBI agent accused of lies

PORTLAND (AP) — Jury selection started in the trial of an FBI agent accused of lying about firing two shots that missed Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, spokesman for the group that took over an Oregon wildlife refuge in January 2016.

The errant shots came as the Arizona rancher emerged from his pickup when authorities arrested leaders of the takeover on Jan. 26, 2016.

Oregon State Police fatally shot Finicum seconds later.

The agent, W. Joseph Astarita, pleaded not guilty to felony charges of making a false statement and obstruction of justice.

Defense lawyer David Angeli says his client didn't fire, and the government's case is based on weak circumstantial evidence.

Jury selection began Tuesday afternoon. The trial is expected to last several weeks.

The occupiers seized the refuge to protest the imprisonment of two Oregon ranchers who set fires. President Trump recently pardoned those men.

rounded by wildfires, it's tough to see it getting better," Clarstrom said.

Nine major wildfires are sending thick smoke into the region, bringing hazardous air quality to cities including Ashland, Medford and Grants Pass, the *Statesman Journal* reported.

Officials recommended wearing a mask outdoors and said sensitive populations, such as small children and pregnant women, might consider leaving town.

Most of the major fires have continued to grow, despite more than 5,000 fire personnel and a small air force of tankers and helicopters working the blazes, according to the *Statesman Journal*.

"As soon as we get one fire knocked down and out cold, another one comes to life and jumps containment lines," said Ashley Lertora, spokeswoman on the Garner Complex, which includes the fires in Taylor Creek and Grave Creek. "We're facing near-critical fire weather conditions the next few days, and our teams are really battling to stay on top of them."

### Earthquakes strike off Oregon Coast; no damage

PORTLAND (AP) — The U.S. Geological Survey recorded a series of earthquakes in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Oregon.

The Tuesday morning quakes were about 125 miles west of Gold Beach, and occurred at a depth of 6.2 miles. They ranged in magnitude from 3.2 to 5.6.

There have been no reports of injuries or damage.

Experts have said for years that Oregon and the Pacific Northwest are due for a major earthquake with a magnitude of 8.0 or higher. Smaller quakes, like those on Tuesday, are fairly common.

### Southern Oregon air quality worsens as wildfires grow

SALEM (AP) — The air quality in southern Oregon was the worst in the nation Monday, according to officials.

Connie Clarstrom, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Medford, said not to expect the conditions to get better anytime soon.

She said southern Oregon will likely face triple digit temperatures and unhealthy to hazardous air all week.

"As long as we're sur-

## 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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— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

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333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed major holidays

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2018, EO Media Group

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Single copy price:  
\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

Circulation Manager:  
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**AccuWeather Forecast**

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly sunny and hot	Hot with plenty of sun	Hot with plenty of sun	Sunny and hot	Very hot
98° 64°	99° 65°	97° 67°	98° 67°	102° 69°
102° 65°	103° 68°	101° 69°	102° 69°	106° 69°

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

Today	Thu.
98° 64°	102° 69°

**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**

Today	Thu.
102° 65°	106° 69°

### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH 97° LOW 62°

Yesterday 97° 62°

Normals 90° 60°

Records 112° (1928) 45° (1917)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.00"

Normal month to date 0.25"

Year to date 6.49"

Last year to date 11.30"

Normal year to date 7.83"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH 99° LOW 56°

Yesterday 99° 56°

Normals 90° 59°

Records 110° (1928) 45° (1948)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"

Month to date 0.00"

Normal month to date 0.17"

Year to date 5.10"

Last year to date 6.59"

Normal year to date 5.87"

#### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:30 a.m.

Sunset tonight 8:32 p.m.

Moonrise today 7:12 p.m.

Moonset today 3:38 a.m.

Full Aug 4

Last Aug 11

New Aug 18

First July 27

### REGIONAL CITIES

Today Thu.

Hi Lo W Hi Lo W

Astoria 71 55 pc 68 56 pc

Baker City 95 50 s 95 51 s

Bend 96 56 s 96 54 s

Brookings 65 51 pc 68 53 pc

Burns 95 53 s 95 51 s

Enterprise 92 53 s 92 54 s

Eugene 96 55 s 96 50 s

Heppner 96 64 s 96 65 s

Hermiston 102 65 s 103 68 s

John Day 97 60 s 97 61 s

Klamath Falls 94 54 s 95 53 s

La Grande 94 54 s 95 53 s

Meacham 92 50 s 93 50 s

Medford 104 67 s 103 63 s

Newport 62 51 pc 62 52 s

North Bend 66 53 pc 66 54 pc

Ontario 102 67 s 101 67 s

Pasco 101 59 s 102 60 s

Pendleton 98 64 s 99 65 s

Portland 95 63 s 94 61 s

Redmond 99 52 s 98 50 s

Salem 97 60 s 97 56 s

Spokane 93 64 s 93 65 s

Ukiah 92 49 s 92 50 s

Vancouver 94 60 s 93 59 s

Walla Walla 99 69 s 99 69 s

Yakima 99 62 s 99 65 s

### WORLD CITIES

Today Thu.

Hi Lo W Hi Lo W

Beijing 90 75 t 91 75 s

Hong Kong 88 81 t 88 81 t

Jerusalem 94 71 s 88 88 t

London 87 65 pc 91 66 pc

Mexico City 77 55 pc 77 56 pc

Moscow 71 62 c 81 66 pc

Rome 92 69 t 95 70 t

Seoul 90 68 s 89 70 s

Sydney 89 78 pc 91 79 pc

Tokyo 72 49 c 85 75 pc

### WINDS

(in mph) Today Thursday

Boardman W 4-8 WSW 4-8

Pendleton WNW 6-12 W 6-12

### UV INDEX TODAY

2 4 8 8 4 2

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

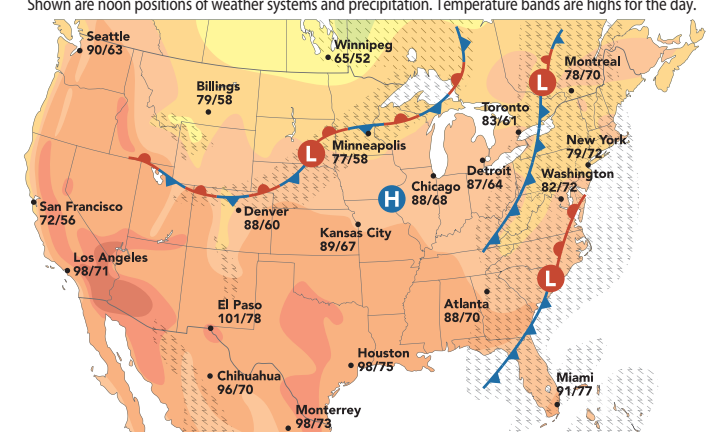
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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



National Summary: Flooding downpours are in store for the East and will expand into the Northeast today. Storms will extend from the Upper Midwest to the central Plains and into the Rockies. The West will stay hot.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 122° in Thermal, Calif. Low 36° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

### NATIONAL CITIES

Today Thur.

Hi Lo W Hi Lo W

Albuquerque 97 73 pc 92 69 t

Atlanta 88 70 t 91 69 pc

Atlanta 88 70 t 91 69 pc

Baltimore 80 70 t 86 69 t

Billings 79 58 pc 80 57 t

Birmingham 90 68 pc 93 70 pc

Boise 100 65 s 99 65 s

Boston 80 71 sh 81 71 t

Charleston, SC 87 74 t 89 77 t

Charleston, WV 80 65 t 85 65 pc

Chicago 88 68 s 78 59 pc

Cleveland 81 67 t 85 65 pc

Dallas 101 77 pc 103 79 pc

Denver 88 60 t 78 59 t

Detroit 87 64 pc 82 60 pc

El Paso 101 78 t 99 74 s

Fairbanks