

# Brown offers 7-step ed policy

By **PARIS ACHEN**  
Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown released her seven-step education policy agenda Monday, Aug. 27, components of which will be included in her proposed 2019-21 state budget, her spokeswoman said.

"The governor strongly believes that in order to effect change for Oregon's students, a multi-pronged approach is vital," said Kate Kondaney, a press secretary in Brown's office.

The press secretary did not answer a question from the Pamplin/EO Media Group about how much the education policy agenda would cost.

The governor's proposed statewide budget is due in late November. At 77 percent, Oregon has one of the worst on-time graduation rates in the nation and one of the shortest school years, according to federal statistics.

Her plan would:

- Increase access to preschool for low-income children. She plans to propose funding to send 10,000 more children to preschool in the next two-year budget and 40,000 by 2025.
- Decrease the median class size from 22 to 20 in kindergarten, maintain 23

in first grade, and reduce the size from 24 in the second grade and 25 in the third grade to 23.

- Mandate a minimum 180-day school year.
- Accept recommendations from a policy advisory committee on policies to create "safe and effective schools," including enhancing access to counselors and mental health professionals.

- Boost access to career-technical education.
- Enhance support for educators and high quality instruction.

Oregon Rep. Knute Buehler, the GOP nominee for governor, released his education platform in late June.

"After 30 years in elected office, and the last three as governor, Kate Brown has had many opportunities to show that she is capable of fixing our broken schools," said Monica Wroblewski, communications director for Buehler's campaign. "Instead, as governor, she has presided over a public school system that fails to graduate roughly one out of every four kids — one of the worst graduation rates in the country."

Buehler's plan would "actually solve Oregon's classroom funding cri-

sis and move our schools from the bottom five to the top five in five years," Wroblewski said. "He will lead where Kate Brown has failed."

His plan also calls for a minimum 180-day school year and more access to career-technical education.

Buehler, a Bend orthopedic surgeon and state representative for Oregon House District 54, has said he plans to achieve his goal by boosting the state budget for education by at least 15 percent. The increase in funding would be paid for in part with cost savings from reforms to the state public pension program, the Public Employees Retirement System, or PERS, Buehler said.

Meanwhile, a 14-member legislative committee has been touring schools around the state and seeking input since April on policies the Legislature could pursue next year to improve graduation outcomes.

The tour is scheduled to continue through the first half of October.

Legislation stemming from the tour could include reform of educational funding or accountability measures that tie funding with certain measures of performance, among others.

# Local sheriffs join support to end Oregon's sanctuary law

By **PHIL WRIGHT**  
East Oregonian

The sheriffs of Umatilla and Morrow counties joined 14 others in Oregon urging voters to repeal Oregon's sanctuary law.

Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan and Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack added their names to Clatsop County Sheriff Tomas Bergin's letter Monday asking voters to mark "yes" on Ballot Measure 105 in November to end Oregon Revised Statute 181A.820, which forbids state and local enforcement agencies from using their resources to find or apprehend anyone whose only violation is being in the county in violation of federal immigration laws.

Rowan said he signed the letter because this issue is about focusing on the people in the county illegally who are criminals.

"If a person is illegally here, I'm not even worried about that," he said. "But what I am worried about are those who are here illegally and who commit local crimes. ... That is the population that we're trying to get at."

Umatilla County has not had an uptick in crime from illegal immigrants, Rowan said, but there are people here illegally who commit crimes. Letting local law enforcement communicate and work with federal agencies "just makes sense," he said, and Oregonians have the right to vote on repealing the sanctuary law.

"This is about the rule of law," he said, and law enforcement should be able to communicate with fellow agencies, no matter their level of government, from local to federal. Fighting crime, he said, is apolitical.



**Umatilla County Sheriff Terry Rowan**



**Morrow County Sheriff Kenneth Matlack**

Erin McKee is co-director of the Immigrant Rights Project at the Oregon Justice Resource Center. She issued a statement Monday asserting Oregon's 30-year-old sanctuary law has benefited public safety and prevented racial profiling. McKee called Bergin's letter "tired, fear-mongering rhetoric that misleads the public on how the law works."

Bergin perpetuates "the myth of the criminal immigrant," McKee wrote.

"Studies have shown, repeatedly, that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than native-born citizens. There is no factual basis for the assertion that a civil immigration violation leads to a life of crime."

Nothing in the sanctuary statute prevents local law enforcement from pursuing immigrants who commit crimes, according to McKee, but passing the ballot measure will lead to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement deporting noncitizens who called the police for help. She stated the letter is "nothing short of open hostility towards communities of color, immigrants, and non-citizens," and Oregonians "should reject such fear based rhetoric and myths, and support policies grounded in facts, dignity, and compassion."

Rowan said he spoke with a number of commu-

nity groups about the need to repeal the sanctuary law, including some from the Hispanic populace. Rowan said those groups agree law enforcement needs to deal with people who don't obey the law. He stressed repealing the law was not about Latinos but freeing local law enforcement to work with federal partners. That's no different, he said, than the sheriff's office sharing information with city police departments.

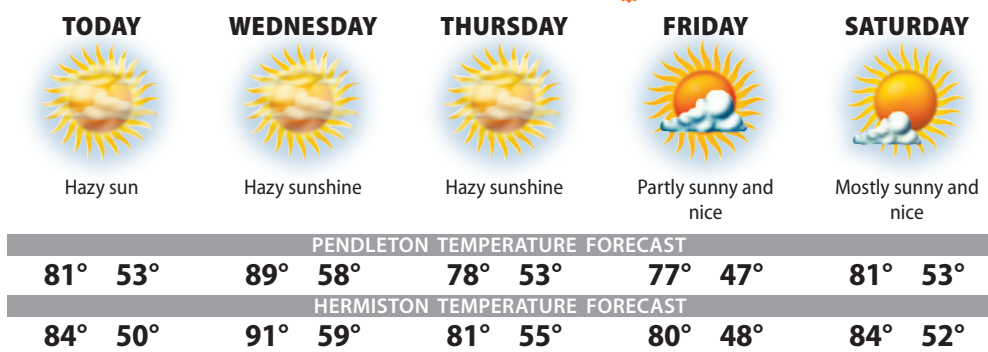
"If we can't use every tool available to us," he said, "we're just swimming upstream all the time."

The *East Oregonian* tried to reach Sheriff Matlack, but he didn't return a call before deadline Monday.

Oregon has 36 counties, so 20 sheriffs did not sign the letter. The 16 who did are Bergin (Clatsop), Craig Zanni (Coos), John Ward (Curry), Shane Nelson (Deschutes), John Hanlin (Douglas), Glenn Palmer (Grant), Gary Bettencourt (Gilliam), Dave Ward (Harney), Chris Kaber (Klamath), Mike Taylor (Lake), Brian Wolfe (Malheur), Matlack (Morrow), Brad Lohrey (Sherman), Rowan (Umatilla), Boyd Rasmussen (Union) and Chris Humphrey (Wheeler).

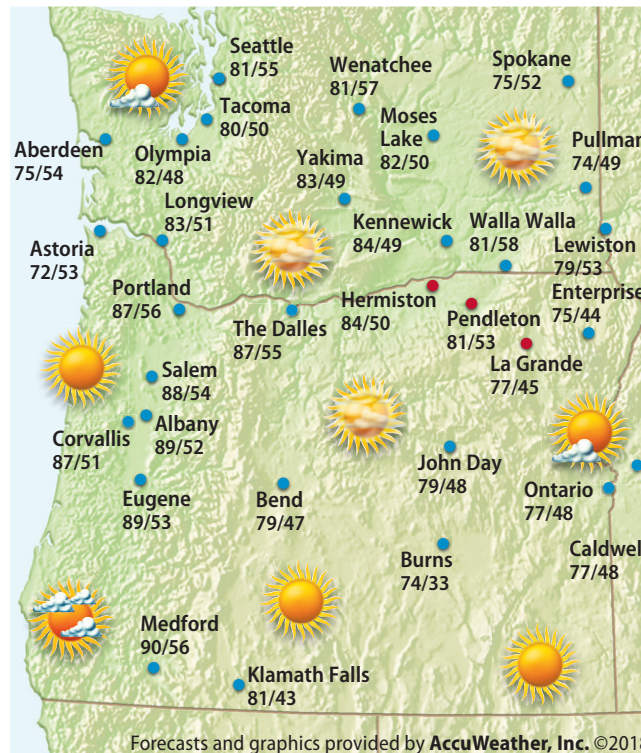
Contact Phil Wright at [pwright@eastoregonian.com](mailto:pwright@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0833.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	73°	54°
Normals	85°	55°
Records	103° (1916)	40° (1911)

## PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.03"
Month to date	0.03"
Normal month to date	0.37"
Year to date	6.52"
Last year to date	11.37"
Normal year to date	8.32"

## HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	75°	57°
Normals	85°	55°
Records	99° (1934)	41° (1930)

## PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.02"
Month to date	0.05"
Normal month to date	0.17"
Year to date	5.15"
Last year to date	6.65"
Normal year to date	6.09"

## WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	SSW 3-6	WSW 7-14
Pendleton	N 4-8	W 7-14

## SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:11 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:41 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:03 p.m.
Moonset today	8:14 a.m.

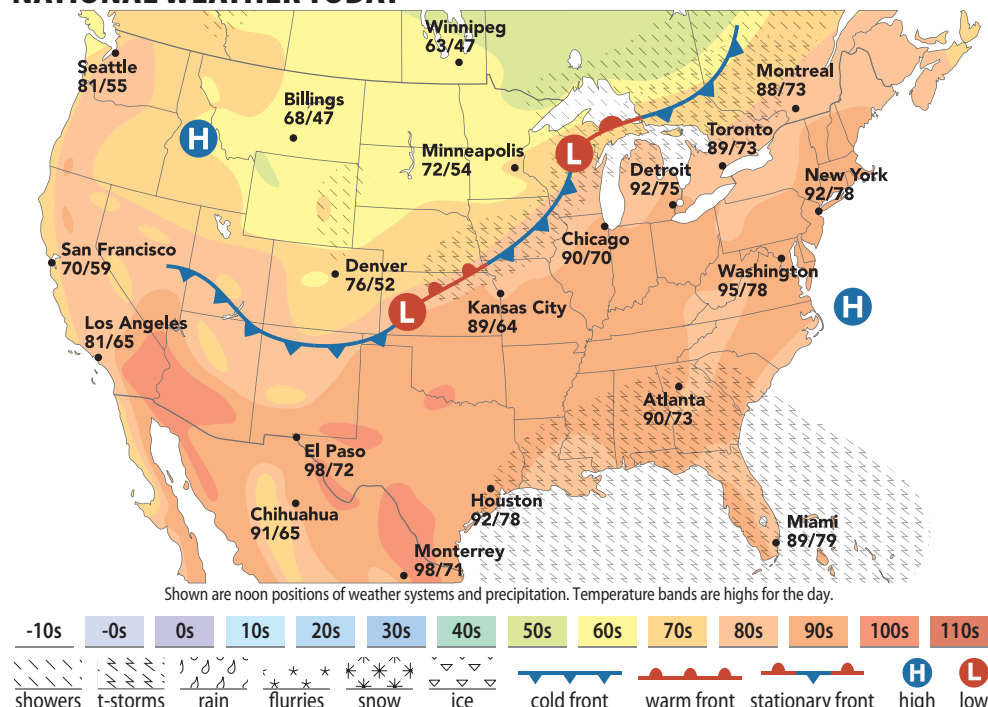
Last	New	First	Full
Sep 2	Sep 9	Sep 16	Sep 24

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 110° in Needles, Calif. Low 28° in Tuolumne Meadows, Calif.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Legislature objects to subpoenas in sexual harassment case

By **ANDREW SELSKY**  
Associated Press

SALEM — The Oregon Legislature is fighting attempts by the state's labor commissioner to subpoena documents as he pursues senior lawmakers for allegedly permitting a sexually hostile environment in the Capitol.

The Legislature is committed to transparency, but the documents contain confidential information about people who came forward in harassment complaints and asked to remain anonymous, a lawyer whose firm is representing the Legislature said in a letter.

A copy of the letter, sent on Friday to members and staff of the Legislature by Edwin Harnden of the Baran Liebman law firm of Portland, was obtained by The Associated Press.

"The Legislature will protect the privacy of those individuals who disclosed personal information relating to harassment issues in the Capitol," Harnden wrote.

On Aug. 1, Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian filed a complaint with his own department accusing Senate President Peter Courtney and House Speaker Tina Kotek, both fellow Democrats, of allowing a sexually hostile environment and of being slow to protect women from Republican Sen. Jeff

Kruse. Kruse resigned earlier this year as the #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct swept politics, entertainment and other industries.

Kotek and Courtney have said they acted quickly when complaints emerged about Kruse, who an independent investigation determined had harassed women in the Capitol with prolonged hugging, groping and other unwelcome physical contact.

"The 'MeToo' movement has woken everybody up that this is not OK behavior," Kotek told reporters on Aug. 2 in response to Avakian's complaint. She said if it leads to an investigation that helps create a better atmosphere in the Capitol and better outcomes for victims, that she is open to it.

The complaint from Avakian, whose term ends at the end of the year, came as a surprise, and after Kotek and Courtney had already asked the Oregon Law Commission to review policies on harassment and recommend ways to improve them by year's end.

Since the #MeToo movement caught fire, about half of all state legislatures in America have changed their

sexual harassment policies, most often by boosting their own training, according to a 50-state analysis by The Associated Press published Sunday. The rest have done nothing this year.

Harnden on Friday sent a letter to Avakian's Bureau of Labor and Industries, formally objecting to the subpoenas, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported. Harnden's letter to Capitol workers and lawmakers explained the reasons behind the objections.

"The information seeks highly confidential personally identifiable information about individuals who came forward in harassment complaints and asked to remain anonymous, and because the subpoenas are overbroad," Harnden wrote. He said the objections are "a standard part of the administrative process under BOLI's rules."

The Legislature will respond to Avakian's complaint on Friday, Harnden said.

It was filed on behalf of two female interns for Kruse who had complained of unwanted touching and comments, and on behalf of two employees. None was identified.

## 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.

# EAST OREGONIAN

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