

Millennial voter registration soars

By SARAH ZIMMERMAN
Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Thursday touted the success of the state's unique automatic voter registration program, pointing to a new report that argues the "Oregon model" could be key to engaging millennial voters nationwide.

The study by the non-profit Center for American Progress found that voter registration numbers among youths have soared since Oregon switched to an automatic registration model in 2016. The law registers eligible voters when they apply for a driver's license.

More than 390,000 Oregonians were registered under the program in 2017, and half of those voters were under the age of 40.

The report also noted the success of the state's pre-registration program for 16- and 17-year-olds. Nearly a quarter of those who pre-registered and reached voting age before the 2018 election turned out to vote, the study said.

"I tell young people: if 90% of the people who are

voting are over the age of 65, then that's who candidates listen to," Brown, a Democrat, tweeted on Thursday. "If we get more young people out to vote, it will absolutely change the issues candidates are focused on."

The report comes as the state considers changing its constitution to lower the voting age to 16, an idea that's expected to be met with stiff opposition.

But the Center for American Progress suggests that the state's current registration system could be a possible solution in engaging millennial voters, who comprise the largest electoral bloc but commonly don't turn out for elections.

If automatic registration were implemented nationwide, the report estimates there could be 22 million newly registered voters in the first year alone, with 7.9 million expected to cast a ballot.

Oregon was the first state in the country to implement automatic voter registration. Fourteen other states and the District of Columbia have since implemented similar laws.

Evictions and rent hikes push Oregon to statewide rent control

Poised to become the first state to impose mandatory rent controls

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — Faced with a housing shortage and skyrocketing rents, Oregon is poised to become the first state to impose mandatory rent controls, with a measure establishing tenant protections moving swiftly through the Legislature.

Many residents have testified in favor of the legislation, describing anxiety and hardship as they face higher rents. Some have gone up by as much as almost 100 percent — forcing people to move, stay with friends or even live in their vehicles.

The Oregon housing shortage is getting worse because of a big influx of people moving to the state — lured by the state's job opportunities and its forests, mountains, coastline and relaxed lifestyle. Many move from California, where the cost of living is often more expensive.

Cities across the West Coast are struggling with



AP Photo/Andrew Selsky, File

In this April 12, 2017, file photo, supporters of a bill to ban most no-cause evictions of home renters in Oregon demonstrate on the Oregon Capitol steps in Salem.

"WE'VE WAITED TOO LONG AS IT IS, AND THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE LIVING IN TENTS. IT IS AN EMERGENCY."

Rep. Tawna Sanchez, a Portland Democrat

soaring housing prices and a growing homelessness problem. The small southern Oregon city of Medford recently authorized churches to offer car camping for the homeless on their parking lots.

A state legislative House committee on Wednesday backed the measure, sending it to the full chamber for a vote as soon as next week. The state Senate passed it last week.

Gov. Kate Brown told reporters she expected the full House to approve the measure.

"I look forward to signing the bill," said Brown, a Democrat.

The committee rejected an amendment that would have exempted cities with populations under 150,000 and another that would have delayed the measure from becoming law until Jan. 1, 2020, instead of immediately after Brown signs it.

"We've waited too long as it is, and there are too many people living in tents. It is an emergency," said Rep. Tawna Sanchez, a Portland Democrat and member of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing that endorsed the legislation.

Lawmakers said Oregon will be a pioneer in statewide

rent control if the measure becomes law. New York has a statewide rent control law but cities can choose whether to participate.

California restricts the ability of cities to impose rent control. Last November, voters defeated a ballot initiative that would have overturned that law.

"Homelessness and affordability have no boundaries," said Rep. Mark Meek, a Democrat from a Portland suburb. "We're going to be leading the nation now with this legislation."

Oregon's measure prohibits landlords from terminating month-to-month leases without cause after 12 months of occupancy and limits rent hikes to once per year. Those increases are limited to 7 percent above the annual change in the consumer price index.

Landlords can terminate tenancies only with 90 days' written notice and payment of one month's rent, with exemptions in some cases. A landlord can refuse to renew a fixed-term lease if the tenant receives three lease violation warnings within 12 months and the landlord gives 90 days' notice.

The Oregon Rental Housing Association, which represents small-scale land-

lords, said the measure protects good tenants while not encouraging landlords to leave the business and invest their money elsewhere.

"I believe most landlords will be able to adapt and operate within the parameters," said Jim Straub, the group's legislative director.

Eric Lint, who lives in Bend, one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., urged lawmakers to pass the protections because of spiraling rents. The medical lab where he works is chronically understaffed because potential hires say there is a lack of affordable housing.

Lint said his hourly pay has risen 8 percent over five years. Meanwhile, his rent has increased 66 percent. He plans to move away in the fall but did not say where in his testimony.

Anna Pena, a senior at the University of Oregon in Eugene who works full time, described living in a house smaller than 1,200 square feet with five roommates and spending over half her income on rent that then increased by 15 percent.

"Ultimately, housing insecurity has been one of the biggest setbacks for my education and personal health," she said.

Sen. Tim Knopp, a Republican from Bend, said before he voted against the measure last week that it does not address the housing supply issue.

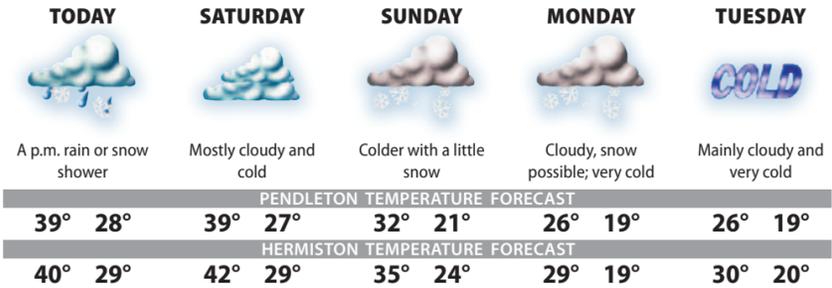
Another measure aiming to deal with that issue would require cities and counties to allow duplexes and some higher-density housing in lands zoned for single-family homes.

House Speaker Tina Kotek, a Democrat, said 30,000 housing units must be built per year to meet the state's current housing deficit and to build for the future as more people move to Oregon.

Oregon ranked second to Vermont as the top moving destination in 2018, according to a study by United Van Lines, the largest U.S. household goods mover.

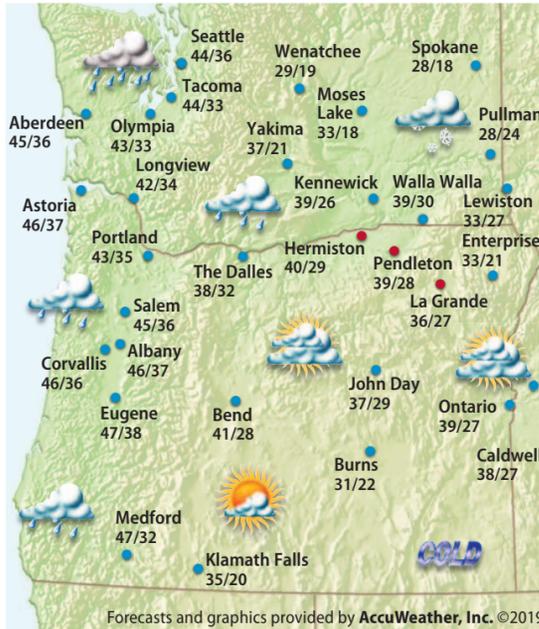
About 60 percent of Oregon's new arrivals come for jobs or because they're looking for work, said Josh Lehner, a state economist. At least one-third of the new arrivals are from California, he said.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



ALMANAC

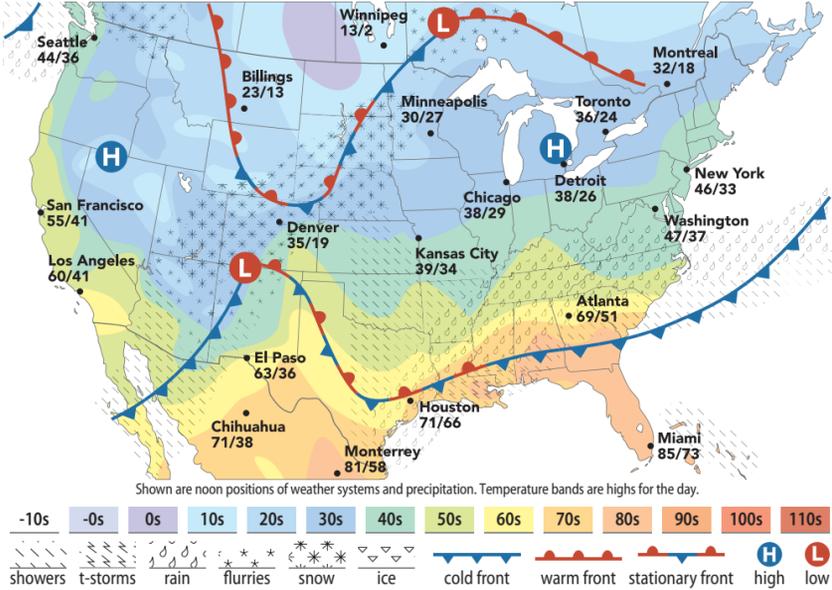
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	31°	26°		
Normals	48°	30°		
Records	69° (1988)	2° (1894)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace			
Month to date	1.72"			
Normal month to date	0.86"			
Year to date	3.79"			
Last year to date	2.22"			
Normal year to date	2.24"			
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	35°	26°		
Normals	50°	30°		
Records	75° (1995)	9° (1957)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace			
Month to date	1.47"			
Normal month to date	0.72"			
Year to date	3.00"			
Last year to date	1.61"			
Normal year to date	2.00"			
WINDS (in mph)				
	Today	Sat.		
Boardman	SW 6-12	SW 4-8		
Pendleton	SSW 7-14	WSW 6-12		
SUN AND MOON				
Sunrise today	6:47 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	5:31 p.m.			
Moonrise today	9:41 p.m.			
Moonset today	8:47 a.m.			
	Last	New	First	Full
	Feb 26	Mar 6	Mar 14	Mar 20

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 90° in Jacksonville, Fla. Low -31° in Daniel, Wyo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



BRIEFLY

Oregon lawmakers demoted for rude behavior

SALEM (AP) — Two Oregon lawmakers have been demoted following complaints of disrespectful and rude behavior.

Rep. Mitch Greenlick on Thursday was removed as chairman of the House Committee on Health Care. The Portland Democrat has also been booted off the House Conduct Committee.

Greenlick on Tuesday called a pharmaceutical lobbyist "stupid" during a hearing on a drug pricing bill. He quickly apologized but Republicans called for his demotion saying his behavior contributed to a "disrespectful atmosphere" in the statehouse.

Republican Rep. Bill Post of Keizer lost his seat from the House Judiciary Committee after calling a state senator "cray-cray" and provoking a gun-control advocacy group via Twitter.

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries in January filed a civil rights complaint against the Legislature, accusing its leaders of allowing harassment to persist.

Bill would require Holocaust education in Oregon schools

PORTLAND (AP) — A proposed bill would require Oregon school districts to teach students about the Holocaust and other acts of genocide.

KGW-TV reports the bill, which the Senate Committee on Education is debating this week, requires the curriculum to "enable students to evaluate the morality of the Holocaust, genocide and similar acts of mass violence and to reflect on the causes of related historical events."

The bill's aim is to "develop students' respect for cultural diversity and help students gain insight into the importance of the protection of international human rights for all people."

Lake Oswego student Claire Sarnowski spoke at Holocaust survivor Alter Wiener's memorial about her friendship with Wiener, and their effort to work to get a bill requiring Holocaust education passed in the Oregon Legislature.

If passed, the bill would take effect during the 2020-21 school year.

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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