

# Bev Clarno picked for Secretary of State position

Redmond Republican appointed by governor to serve remainder of Richardson's term

By **AUBREY WIEBER**  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown has tapped former legislator Bev Clarno to be Oregon's 37th secretary of state.

The announcement came Friday, just over a month after former Secretary of State Dennis Richardson died.

Clarno will finish Richardson's term, which will conclude in January 2021.

In filling Richardson's term, Brown sought a Republican with no intention of running for election in 2020. Brown has said she doesn't want to give an incumbent bump to anyone running for the office.

A large list was formed after people nominated themselves or others. Ore-

gon Republicans also proposed five candidates. Twenty candidates advanced into an initial round, said Chris Pair, Brown's communications director.

Brown interviewed three finalists, asking about their "vision for the Office of Secretary of State, their approach to Dennis Richardson's legacy, management of large organizations or government agencies, and commitment to accountability in state government," Pair said.

The office is not releasing the names of the other finalists.

The secretary of state oversees elections and campaign finance, conducts audits of state agencies and registers businesses. The secretary of state also sits on the State Land Board.

"I'm honored by the confidence that Governor Brown has placed in me and pledge to be a good steward of the office. I know there is not a Republican way or a Democrat way to oversee elections —



Clarno

there is only a fair and honest way," Clarno said in a news release.

Clarno is a former Oregon lawmaker from Redmond who served as House speaker from 1995 to 1997. After losing a run at state treasurer, Clarno left politics for a few years. She returned in 2000 when she was elected to the Senate. She became Republican leader in 2003 when Democrats and Republicans had a 15-15 split. Her counterpart on the left that year was Brown.

"Bev's career is marked by her trailblazing spirit, focus on fiscal responsibility, and a commitment to Oregonians," Brown said in a news release. "Bev's experience as a legislator and as a manager of a large government organization is key to the success of the programs and employees the Secretary of State oversees. I'm confident that Bev will continue the legacy of accountability and integrity that Secretary Richardson left on the office of secretary of state."

In 2003, President George W. Bush appointed Clarno to serve as a regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Clarno has lived nearly her entire life in Central Oregon, where she is a pig farmer, cattle rancher and real estate broker. While in politics, Clarno had to battle misogynistic views of men who did not believe women should work in the Capitol, according to a biographical video.

"I've raised 3,000 hogs and I've castrated 200 in a day," she famously said to a doubter. "I think I'm tough enough to be speaker."

Clarno will be the fifth woman to serve as Oregon's secretary of state.

Richardson died Feb. 26, and since then the office has been run by his deputy, Leslie Cummings. Richardson's death followed a near yearlong battle with brain cancer. According to records request showing communication between the governor's staff, Brown's team started discussing a replacement as early as Feb. 5.

## Legislature looks at getting dark money out, more teenagers into elections

By **MARK MILLER**  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Two constitutional amendments next year could bring the most dramatic changes in a generation to how Oregon conducts its elections.

But first, they have to pass through the Legislature.

The pathway for campaign finance reform looked relatively smooth until it hit a bump Wednesday. The Senate Campaign

Finance Committee approved one proposal that would ask voters whether they want to limit campaign contributions in Oregon's state and local elections. It did so without the support of the committee's two Republican senators — including the legislation's co-sponsor, Sen. Tim Knopp of Bend.

Because of an Oregon Supreme Court decision in 1997, Oregon is one of a handful of states that does not limit campaign contributions. The Supreme Court ruled that Oregon's constitutional right to free speech

protects campaign donations and spending, effectively allowing a donor to plough an unlimited amount of money into a political campaign committee.

Additionally, so-called dark money groups, like Priority Oregon, can spend freely without having to disclose their contributors.

Senate Joint Resolution 18 is one of several campaign finance-related proposals in the Legislature this year, but it's the most fundamental. It proposes amending the constitution to explicitly allow the Legislature, cities and counties, and initiative petitions to limit campaign contributions. It would also allow them to require that campaigns and advertisements name their donors.

Lawmakers like Knopp, co-sponsor Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton, and Sen. Jeff Golden, D-Ashland, the Senate committee chair, want to rein in campaign spending. So does Brown, who pledged last year to reform Oregon's campaign finance system.

"The overall objective is to move to people-powered politics," Golden said.

The committee unanimously agreed to amend Knopp and Hass' resolution to more closely resemble a similar House proposal. Local campaign finance limits that voters in Multnomah County and Portland have approved are grandfathered in, so they would become legally enforceable if the constitution is amended.

Knopp also offered an amendment applying campaign contribution limits evenly to all classes of donors. If the state or local government were to cap donations, the maximum amount would be the same for a corporation, a union, a nonprofit, a political committee or an individual.

Democrats on the committee rejected Knopp's amendment. As it became clear that the Republican amendment wouldn't pass, Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton, grew frustrated.

"This is the very example of what I fear the most: the majority party doing what they want, without incorporating what the minority party wants into a bill, and cramming it down our throats," Girod said. "I want election reform like anybody else. But I want it done fairly, and I don't think that the majority party is interested in that."

While Knopp supports campaign finance reform, he said he wants to maintain a "balance" in the playing field.

"If we pass it as is, I think you will see different groups from the left and the right try to go to the ballot," Knopp said. "I can easily see a group going to the ballot to try to eliminate the ability for unions to contribute, and I can easily see a group going to the ballot to not allow corporations, or some iterations of corporations, to ... be able to donate."

Meanwhile, a proposal to lower Oregon's voting age to 16 got a boost Wednesday

when Gov. Kate Brown declared her support.

"I think it makes sense to have 16-year-olds vote in this state," Brown said at a bill-signing ceremony attended by youth voting advocates. "I look forward to that conversation in the building, and hopefully we get to have that conversation with Oregonians across the state."

Oregon would be the first state to lower the voting age to 16. But the state hasn't always been friendly to the idea of allowing teens to vote.

When Congress reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 in 1970, Oregon successfully sued the federal government to keep 18- to 20-year-olds from voting in state and local elections. The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified the following

year, giving all citizens age 18 and older the right to vote.

Written testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 22, the proposed constitutional amendment to allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote, has been sharply opposed, including form letters and some submissions from out-of-state. But with Bus Project supporters and others in Salem to testify Wednesday, the feedback on the proposal at the committee hearing was overwhelmingly positive.

At the committee hearing, Victoria Clark, a 17-year-old senior at Reynolds High School, argued that the perspective of people her age belongs in politics.

"Students have always been the leading front for activism. We are encouraged to engage in politics, yet when it comes to letting us partake in one of our most important rights, voting, we are cut short," Clark said.

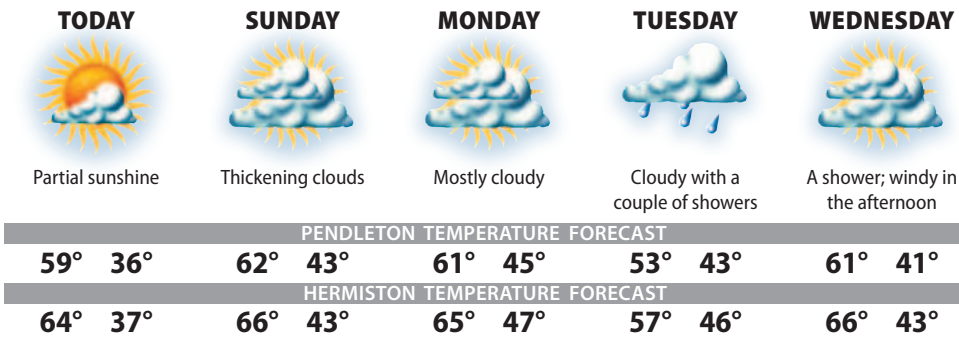
Both constitutional amendments are now in the hands of the Senate Rules Committee. The committee has a reputation in the Capitol — many bills sent to Rules never emerge, and some undergo drastic changes before they do. But the committee is often also the final proving ground for legislation before it moves to the full Senate for a vote, and once a bill has the Rules Committee's stamp of approval, it may have a relatively quick path to the governor's desk.

Campaign finance reform is considered likely to move forward, according to the office of Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, who both sits on the Senate Campaign Finance Committee and chairs the Senate Rules Committee. Lowering the voting age isn't as high a priority, but it is still believed to have even chances to proceed.

Voters will have the final word on both proposals if they pass the Legislature. The state constitution cannot be amended without voter approval.

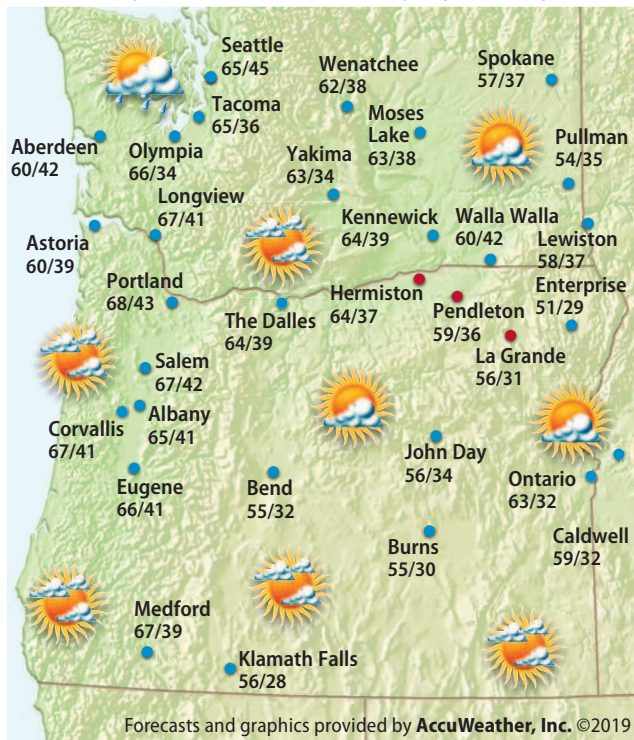
Reporter Mark Miller: mmiller@fgnewstimes.com. Miller works for the Oregon Capital Bureau, a collaboration of EO Media Group, Pamplin Media Group, and Salem Reporter.

### Forecast for Pendleton Area



### OREGON FORECAST

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



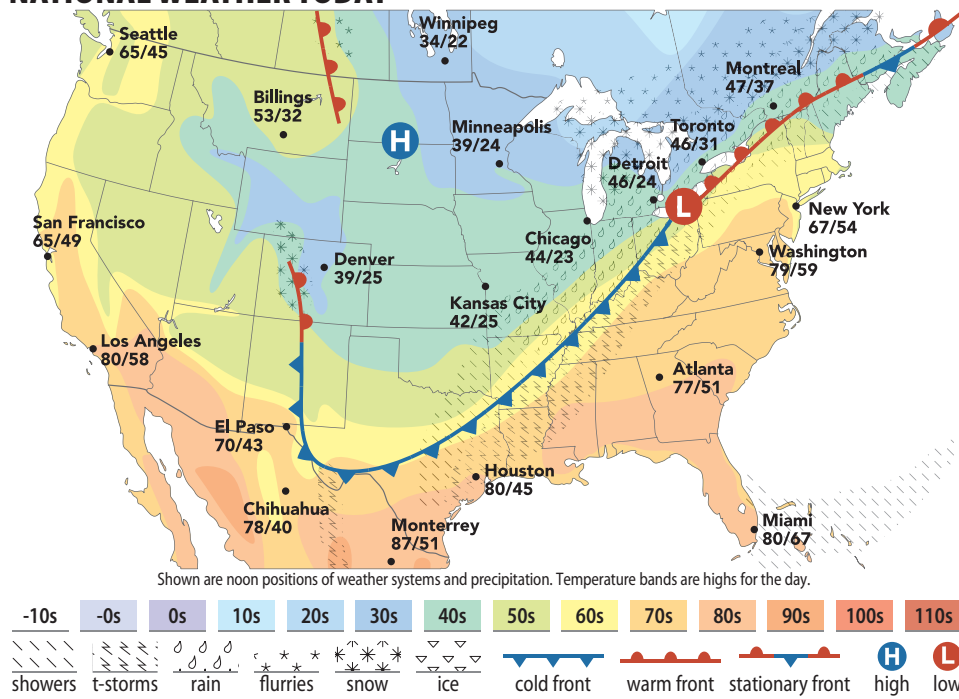
### ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	54°	35°	
Normals	58°	37°	
Records	80° (2004)	18° (1954)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	1.23"		
Normal month to date	1.34"		
Year to date	6.08"		
Last year to date	3.71"		
Normal year to date	3.85"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	59°	33°	
Normals	61°	37°	
Records	80° (1994)	12° (1954)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.20"		
Normal month to date	0.83"		
Year to date	3.59"		
Last year to date	2.38"		
Normal year to date	3.07"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Today	Sun.		
Boardman	S 3-6	NE 3-6	
Pendleton	NW 4-8	N 4-8	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	6:40 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	7:20 p.m.		
Moonrise today	4:23 a.m.		
Moonset today	1:49 p.m.		
New First Full Last			
Apr 5	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 26

### NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 92° in Presidio, Texas Low 4° in Tuolumne Meadows, Calif.

### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



**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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