

STATE ELECTION RESULTS

Hass wins Democratic primary for secretary of state

By HILLARY BORRUD
The Oregonian



SALEM — Oregon Sen. Mark Hass narrowly won the Democratic primary for secretary of state, with Wednesday morning results showing he edged Sen. Shemia Fagan by 1 percentage point in results tallied as of 6 a.m. Wednesday.

Hass had claimed 36% of the votes at that hour, just edging Fagan with 35%.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, a natural resources consultant from Terrebonne, was in third place with 28% in the state's highest profile primary race.

Hass, who is completing his 20th year in the Legislature, said Tuesday night of his lead, "I'm very gratified, but it's way too close and way too early." From the shuttered Noble Rot wine bar where he was watching results, Hass predicted, "It's gonna be a long night."

He led Fagan by 40% to 37% early Wednesday in Multnomah County, the county that historically has had the most last-minute ballots left to count after Election Day.

Fagan's campaign could

not be reached for comment on election night.

The results reflected the extreme competitiveness of the race, despite Fagan jumping in less than three months ago, after former Oregon House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson dropped out amid questions over her use of campaign funds. Williamson had pinned her candidacy on being the most left-leaning candidate and Fagan took up that mantle.

Public employee unions quickly lined up behind Fagan, spurning Hass over his votes to trim public pension costs and skipping over McLeod-Skinner, who lacks a state-level voting record.

The unions overwhelmingly bankrolled Fagan's campaign, allowing her to raise more than her two opponents combined. Hass' top contributor was environmental nonprofit founder Richard Roy, who gave him \$50,000,



OPB Photo/Bradley W. Parks, File

Oregon Sen. Mark Hass narrowly won the Democratic primary for secretary of state, with Wednesday morning results showing he edged Sen. Shemia Fagan by just 1 percentage point.

and McLeod-Skinner raised the most of the three candidates in small donations of \$100 or less: \$84,000.

With no incumbent in the race, all three candidates faced the challenge of building name recognition with voters. That grew more difficult when the coronavirus pandemic hit Oregon just as the primary shifted into high gear in the spring and Fagan, Hass and McLeod-Skinner were forced to quickly adapt their campaigns to the state's social distancing orders.

Hass, a former television

journalist who now works in advertising, started out with some name recognition thanks to his years speaking to voters in the Portland area and Willamette Valley, first as a reporter, and then as a lawmaker for 20 years in the House and Senate. He promised that as secretary of state, he would create an office of elections cybersecurity, push to allow same-day voter registration, add climate change impacts to audits of state programs and advocate for ranked choice voting.

Hass cited his record

championing "big ideas that are now Oregon law," such as full-day kindergarten and a \$1 billion-a-year business tax passed in 2019 to boost public education. As coronavirus wreaked havoc on the state's health and economy, he touted his leadership experience during previous economic downturns as a key selling point.

Fagan is an employment lawyer who served four years in the House and two in the Senate, where she pushed Senate President Peter Courtney to allow floor votes on liberal policy priorities even if they lacked enough votes to pass and helped muscle through a statewide rent control law. She focused on connecting with voters based on her background of being raised by a single dad while her mother struggled with drug addiction, then going on to graduate from Lewis & Clark Law School.

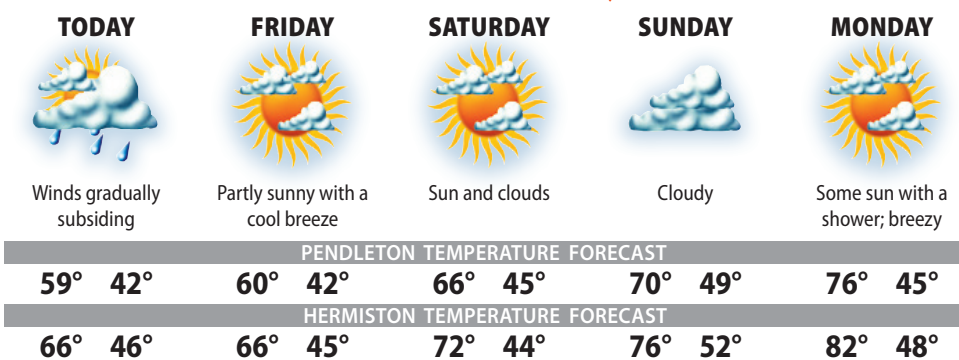
Although Fagan didn't lay out a clear policy platform, she concurred with Hass and McLeod-Skinner on a number of issues. For example, she agreed with Hass that Oregon should try out ranked choice voting. She pointed to her endorsements from groups,

such as Planned Parenthood and the League of Conservation Voters, as reasons for voters to pick her, and said she was proud to receive huge financial contributions from unions because "these are the very people that we're calling heroes."

McLeod-Skinner, a natural resources consultant who serves on a statewide environmental board and local school board, sought to distinguish herself as the Democratic candidate who could connect with both rural and urban areas of the state. She pointed to her competitive 2018 race against U.S. Rep. Greg Walden in the sprawling and strongly Republican 2nd Congressional District and promised to "represent the entire state," saying during a City Club of Portland forum in March "that's a voice that needs to be heard in Salem."

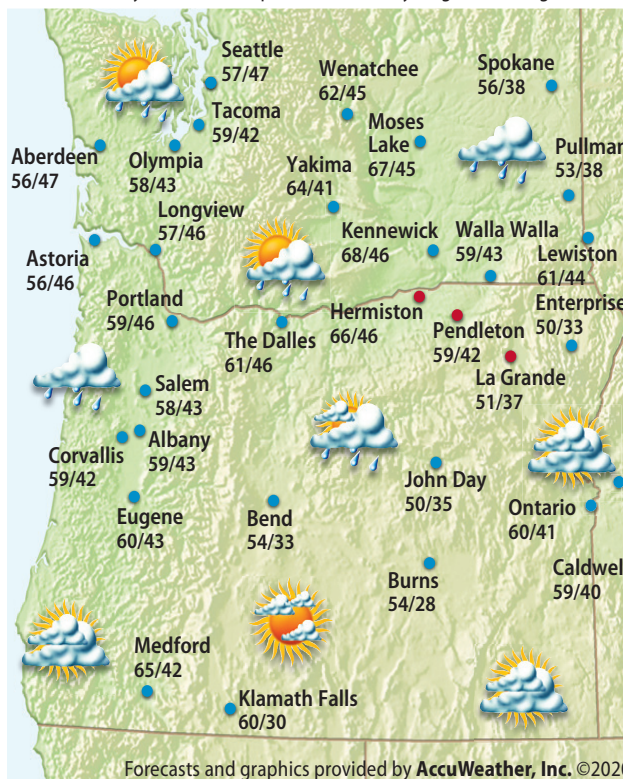
Hass will go on to run against Republican nominee, Sen. Kim Thatcher of Keizer, in the general election. The current secretary of state, Republican Bev Clarno of Redmond, was appointed to the role after the death of Dennis Richardson and pledged not to run for an elected term.

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°	49°
Normals	72°	48°
Records	93° (1928)	33° (1910)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	1.10"
Month to date	2.31"
Normal month to date	0.80"
Year to date	7.47"
Last year to date	8.68"
Normal year to date	5.95"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	61°	53°
Normals	74°	48°
Records	94° (1928)	35° (2003)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.20"
Month to date	0.87"
Normal month to date	0.73"
Year to date	1.38"
Last year to date	4.17"
Normal year to date	4.75"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Fri.
Boardman	WSW 15-25	WSW 10-20
Pendleton	W 12-25	WSW 10-20

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:17 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:27 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:03 a.m.
Moonset today	7:34 p.m.

PHASES

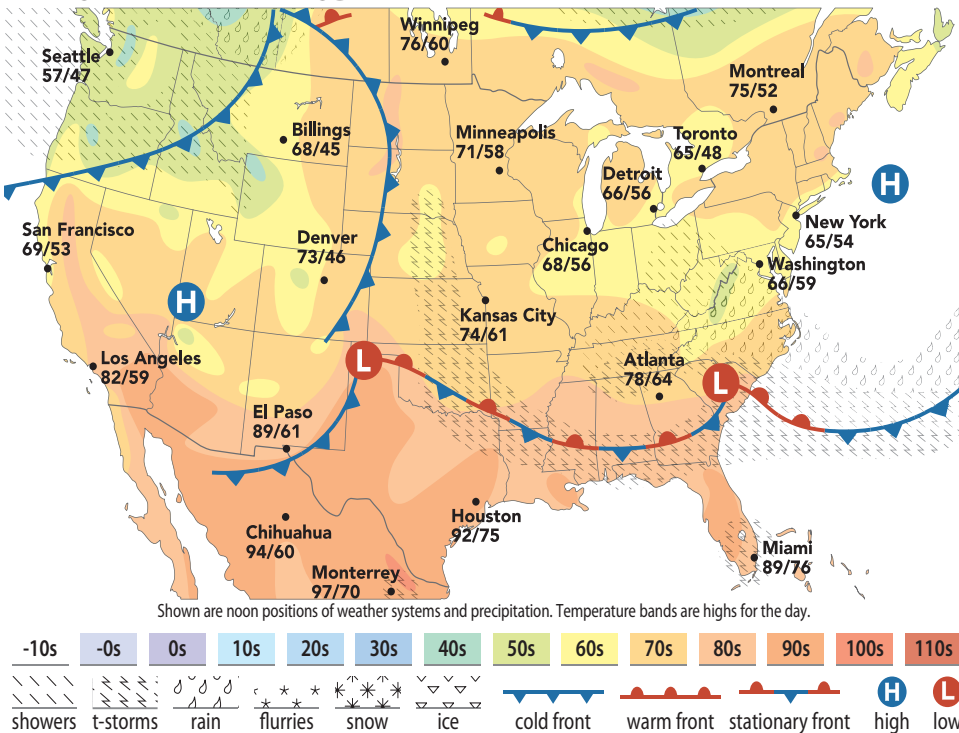
	New	First	Full	Last
May 22				
May 29				
June 5				
June 12				

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 102° in Maverick, Texas Low 18° in Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



UMATILLA COUNTY

Voters say yes to fire district merger

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

UMATILLA COUNTY — The merger to create the East Umatilla Fire & Rescue District is complete.

According to results from Umatilla County Elections, voters resoundingly said yes on Tuesday night to dissolving the East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection District and the Helix Rural Fire Protection District, and the vote for Measure 30-144 to form the new district passed with 72% by the end of the night.

As a result, the East Umatilla and Helix fire districts will now merge with the Athena Volunteer Fire Department and the East Umatilla County Ambulance Area Health District under the umbrella of one taxing district.

"We're really pleased," said Dave Baty, chief of East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection. "We're happy that we can continue to provide service to the people that we do."

The four agencies have worked together in an inter-

governmental agreement since last July and have been headquartered at the Weston fire station with a board of members from each agency.

While this means services won't change as a result of the merger, residents of Helix, Athena, Weston, Adams and surrounding areas will pay about \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed value for both emergency ambulance and fire services.

Prior to Tuesday's vote, the East Umatilla fire and ambulance districts were each already funded with \$1 per \$1,000 assessed value tax rate, while Helix residents were paying 43 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Athena residents were covered by a \$30,000 annual donation from the city.

The merged districts are expected to raise an additional \$120,000 in funding for its services.

Now, Baty and the agencies are working through the next administrative steps as they prepare to officially make the switch to one unified district.

"We won't have bound-

ary lines anymore," Baty said. "We're just one big family."

Along with three district merging measures, voters approved a public transportation tax for Milton-Freewater and a bond for the Echo Fire District.

With just 359 total votes reported by Umatilla County Elections, Measure 30-140 will impose an estimated tax rate of \$0.375 per \$1,000 assessed value and raise \$62,625 per year for the Echo Fire District passed at 58% of the vote. The funds raised will pay for a 10-year general obligation bond to purchase firefighting equipment and add a bay to the existing fire station on West Main Street in Echo.

Measure 30-141 was a five-year tax option that has helped pay for Milton-Freewater's public transportation system since 1971 and was once again passed by voters with 62% of the vote. The tax is projected to raise \$60,000 at a rate of 37 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, which is the same rate it was when it first passed in 1971.

MORROW COUNTY

Commissioner's race heads to runoff

By ALEX CASTLE
East Oregonian

MORROW COUNTY — The next Morrow County commissioner will be decided in November.

Incumbent Jim Doherty staved off a competitive primary challenge from Joel Peterson on Tuesday night, coming in first in the nonpartisan race with 41.56% of the vote compared with Peterson's runner-up finish with 38.25%.

But the two will have to face off again in a November runoff because neither received more than 50% of the vote.

"I don't know if one ever really relaxes," Doherty said of the result. "But I was really, really thrilled."

Though he had to keep a close eye on the results Tuesday night, Doherty said com-

petitive elections are ultimately what's best for a community.

"I think it's a great thing," he said. "For a long time, especially in these small counties and communities, you end up drawing from the same folks year after year. You want more involvement rather than less."

Peterson is a farmer from lone, who has served as an elected member of the lone School Board and spent a number of years as an appointed member of the Morrow County Planning Commission. He was unable to be reached for comment Wednesday.

Doherty, a self-employed cattle rancher from Board-

man, is running for reelection after serving the last four years on the county's three-person board of commissioners. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restricting traditional campaigning methods, Doherty said he mostly relied on his record and reputation from being on the board for Tuesday's primary.

As those restrictions begin to ease and he can ease back into his preferred campaigning methods of going door to door and holding town halls, Doherty said he'll likely need to reach out and generate some more fundraising for the next stage of the campaign.

Other challengers, Joseph Armato, an emergency dispatcher from Heppner, finished third with 10.26% of the vote, while Michael Sweek, a chemical loader from Heppner, was fourth with 9.65%.



Doherty

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