



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

This piece of property along Southeast 12th Street in Pendleton is among the list of properties the city has identified as acceptable for outdoor sleeping.

## Homeless: Police plan to educate first

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hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The actual text of the law focused more on where people couldn't sleep — streets, sidewalks, alleys and other public rights-of-way — than where they could. With the production of the map, the city now has a patchwork of public properties where people can legally sleep for the night.

In some ways, the ordinance reinforces the status quo.

Out of the approximately 60 properties that are now considered "right to rest" land, many of them are along the Umatilla River, where many homeless already set up camps during the evenings.

The rest are scattered throughout Pendleton's commercial, residential and industrial areas, ranging widely in size and shape. Although one of the maps includes the disclaimer "areas considered unsafe due to environmental factors have been excluded," some of the rest areas don't seem especially accommodating for overnight stays. One of the highlighted areas appears to be the Southgate entrance to D & B Supply, while others have preexisting structures on them like houses or sheds.

"There are going to be some areas in this map that will need further scrutiny and possible correction," City Attorney Nancy Kerns

wrote in an email. "We will be working to get those resolved."

Lt. Chuck Byram, the incoming chief of the Pendleton Police Department, said while there are public rest areas in some of the city's residential neighborhoods, in practice, he anticipates most homeless residents will continue to stick to the downtown area, where stores and services are within easy walking distance.

While the law is in effect,

comply with the law once they're educated, and they only start taking more stringent enforcement actions if talking to them doesn't work.

Byram said it will be a learning process for both sides, especially since he doesn't expect officers to memorize the rest area map off the top of their heads.

"If you think my officers are going to memorize these public areas, you would be sorely mistaken," he said.

But the exact parame-

Warming Station, Innes has worked on the homeless issues during her two years on the council. Innes was one of two no votes on the right to rest ordinance, arguing that the hours designated for rest needed to be loosened to accommodate each season's changing daylight hours.

Innes said many of the homeless residents she's worked with have learned of her role as city councilor and she's going to keep an ear out to see how they respond to the new law once police start enforcing it.

The ordinance comes at a time when Pendleton's modest homeless services are being further strained by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Neighbor 2 Neighbor shut down its Southeast Court Avenue facility because volunteers felt like they didn't have the facilities or the staffing to safely reopen.

Dwight Johnson, the executive director of Neighbor 2 Neighbor, said the warming station formally started its season on Nov. 15, but is now operating as an intake center where the homeless can obtain motel vouchers for the night.

While the warming station is offering limited services, Johnson said Neighbor 2 Neighbor is soliciting donations to ensure it can operate through the winter, a prospect that could be threatened if demand rises.

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Byram said the police haven't taken any enforcement actions yet because many homeless residents tend to move to warmer climates or warming stations during the cold winter months.

Even when outdoor camping becomes more prevalent in the spring, Byram said his department's first tactic will be educating the homeless on the new law rather than instituting fines or bans. He added that most residents

have caught the attention of City Councilor Carole Innes and some of the organizations that serve the homeless.

Innes said the Legal Aid Services of Oregon's Pendleton office is preparing an "enhanced map" to give homeless residents a clearer picture of where they can and can't sleep.

A volunteer for the Neighbor 2 Neighbor Pendleton, the nonprofit that operates the Pendleton

## Voting: Blue streak continues for Oregon

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But with many counties already reporting official, final results, the remaining votes are a tiny fraction of the turnout. It's safe to see how the election went in Oregon. Some of the numbers:

### Blue streak

Biden kept the streak of Democrats' presidential wins in Oregon alive for another four years. The state last went with a Republican in 1984, when Ronald Reagan won a second term in the White House.

### More votes, same result

Trump increased his total vote in Oregon in 2020, with 955,842 votes as Friday, Nov. 20. That's up from 782,403 votes four years ago. But the extra votes only lifted Trump's percentage of the vote slightly — to 40.36% in 2020 from 39.09% in 2016.

### Bigger bite

Biden has received 1,337,329 votes, a big jump over the 1,002,106 votes for Hillary Clinton in 2016. Both numbers were big enough to beat Trump, but Biden's total gave him just over 56% of the vote in 2020, bettering Clinton's

50.07% of the vote in 2016.

### Deschutes goes Democratic

Deschutes County issued its final vote totals on Nov. 20. It's a landmark result in the presidential vote. Biden won just under 52.7% of the presidential vote in Deschutes County. It marks the first time the county gave over half its votes to a Democratic candidate for the White House since Lyndon Johnson won 69% over Republican Barry Goldwater in 1964. Trump won the county in 2016 with 46.4% over 43.1% for Clinton. This year, Trump won 44.3% of the vote. Minor party candidates and write-in votes accounted for the final 2.9% of the returns.

In 1964, Deschutes County cast a total of 10,095 votes in the presidential election. The 2020 total: 125,234. The total Deschutes County vote in 1964 is 221 votes less than Biden's margin of victory — 10,316 votes — over Trump in 2020.

### Flipper

Most of the approximately 3,000 counties in the United States voted for the same party's candidate as in 2016. Deschutes County was one of 59 counties to flip from Trump in

2016 to Biden, according to a national vote analysis by National Public Radio. Another 18 flipped from Clinton in 2016 to Trump in 2020. The 77 counties that flipped were a pittance compared to the last presidential election. In 2016, 237 counties changed parties from how they voted in 2012. Trump won 216 counties that went for Obama in 2012. In Oregon, Tillamook and Columbia counties made the switch to Trump. Both counties stuck with Trump this year.

### Old record

Best turnout in 48 years. The 2016 election that led to Donald Trump becoming president saw a record 136 million ballots cast nationwide, a 59% turnout of eligible voters, the most since Richard Nixon was elected in 1968 with 60.7% turnout.

### New record

Best turnout in 120 years. NPR projected there would be 155 million votes cast in 2020. That would equal a turnout of 67% of eligible voters, the highest percentage since 73% of voters cast ballots in 1900 to elect Republican William McKinley over Democrat William Jennings Bryan. Women could not vote until 1920 and "Jim Crow" segre-

gationist laws in Southern states kept many Black men from voting.

### All-time champ

Strong political difference drove just over 81% of eligible voters to the polls in 1860 to choose between four candidates. Republican Abraham Lincoln won with 39% of the vote against a split Democratic Party that fielded two tickets, one from the north and one from the south, plus the Whig Party. The electorate did not include women or the 4 million Black slaves in the country. Lincoln's win would set off the Civil War the following year.

### Oregon's first election

Oregon became a state in 1859 and first voted the following year. Lincoln won Oregon with 36% of the vote, just ahead of the pro-slavery Southern Democratic ticket with Vice President John Breckinridge of Kentucky running for the top job. It helped in Oregon that one of the state's U.S. senators, Joseph Lane (namesake of Lane County), was Breckinridge's running mate. Sparsely populated Oregon cast a total of just 14,761 votes, but good enough to give Lincoln three votes in the Electoral College.

## Vaccine: Presently, Oregon averages 1,241 daily cases

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with tracking coronavirus data until they hired her on as the county's temporary epidemiologist. After spending several months in that position, she was hired by Umatilla County.

"I don't have any regrets about becoming an epidemiologist," Maloy said. "But it's such a weird experience to go into a program two years ago and come out during a pandemic. There's no short supply of things to do. That's for sure."

In the past three weeks, Maloy said that she has seen cases slowly start to rise on average in the county. She believes there could be several factors contributing to the slight increase, including "COVID fatigue" and the colder weather, which is forcing residents indoors and closer to each other, making it easier for the disease to pass from one carrier to another.

"It's hard to tell right now what will happen in the future," Maloy said. "Hopefully people will socially distance, wear their masks. But we are in a moment right now where we're seeing an increase in cases."

Oregon is now averaging 1,241 daily coronavirus cases, according to the Oregon Health Authority. The state set new records for deaths and hospitalizations last week as case counts reached new heights on multiple days.

As Oregon continues its two-week "freeze" initiated by Gov. Kate Brown to curb the rapid spread of infection, Maloy said she is glad that the state is imple-

menting restrictions, as it will likely help suppress daily case counts. However, she also recognizes that the restrictions will place a significant strain on the local economy.

"I understand both sides of why people like it and people don't like it," she said. "I do think it's for the best. I think we'll see people comply with it and I think we'll see lower case numbers in the upcoming weeks."

But in light of positive results coming from vaccine trials around the world, Maloy said she is feeling "very optimistic." The rigorous testing shows promise that the vaccines will be safe, she said.

"One thing I do want the public to know is that these aren't things that we are throwing out at people and saying, 'Hey try this.' These (vaccines) are very well tested," she said.

Vaccine trials from the companies Pfizer and Moderna have both reported preliminary results in the past few weeks that show their vaccines to be at least 90% effective. On Monday, Nov. 23, results from an Oxford trial also showed 90% effectiveness.

However, Maloy also said that unless you are a health care worker, first responder or an individual with preexisting conditions, it is likely that vaccines won't be available until perhaps next year.

"I think a lot of people think that once the vaccine is out, everything will go back to normal," she said. "It probably won't. But we'll be on the path."



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

A sign along Highway 395 welcomes drivers to the city of Hermiston on Sept. 1, 2020. The city added an estimated 360 new resident from July 2019 to July 2020, according to Portland State University's Population Research Center.

## Residents: Echo adds 10 residents, bringing its population to 720

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private developers to negotiate better prices for land region-wide."

Other Umatilla County cities also grew, according to PSU's estimates. Umatilla added 135 residents for a total of 7,605. Milton-Freewater added 65 residents for 7,210. Stanfield added 35 residents for a total of 2,280. Echo added 10 residents for a total of 720, while Weston, Athena and Adams stayed at 2019 estimates.

In Morrow County, Boardman added 75 for a total of 4,580 and Irrigon added 10 for a total of 2,040. Heppner stayed the same at 1,275. Morrow County as a whole grew by an estimated 145 residents, up to 12,825.

In Hermiston, Morgan said just two of the housing developers the city is currently working with represent about 350 planned new homes for Hermiston over the next few years. He suggested a few reasons for Hermiston's continued housing growth, including "expansive work in 2017 through 2019 to actively build a deeper bench of housing developments just waiting for the right con-

ditions to pull the trigger." Historically low interest rates have helped pull that trigger, he said.

Morgan also referenced the area's comparatively quick rebound in unemployment rates from the unprecedented spike in the spring. According to the news release, Umatilla County's unemployment rate spiked to 13.9% in April 2020, but fell back to just 6.2% by September.

Portland State University's Population Research Center is the lead agency for the Oregon State Data Center, a state-level partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau. The PSU center creates detailed annual population estimates by analyzing birth records, death records, driver's licenses, school enrollment, Medicare enrollment, voter registrations and other records. The center also provides population projections to help government agencies plan for future growth, such as building new schools.

A preliminary population report is issued Nov. 15, and after allowing time for feedback from local officials and others that might be able to catch any errors, the estimates will be certified on Dec. 15.