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Brown's educational background includes a Bachelor of Art degree from the University of Colorado in Environmental Conservation and a J.D. degree from the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College, obtained in 1985.

Buehler is serving his second term as the representative from District 54, which includes Coos Bay. He is a graduate of Oregon State University and was the school's first Rhodes Scholar, attending Merton College in Oxford, England. Buehler then graduated from John Hopkins University in Maryland before beginning a successful medical practice in Bend.

Brown is currently leading Buehler by a few percentage points in polling, 43 to 40 percent, the difference within the statistical margin of error, as the race has tightened over the last month.

Both Brown and Buehler provided responses to questions posed with an eye towards gaining insight into the priorities of the candidates.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR?

Brown: I first ran for public office to be a voice for the voiceless. And as Oregon's governor, every day I am fighting to improve the lives of working families.

As governor, I led bipartisan work on transportation, Medicaid funding and ensuring all kids have healthcare. We worked across the aisle to make community college more affordable and put more dollars into our classrooms.

We worked together, urban and rural, to build a better Oregon. When politicians tried to cut Oregonians' healthcare, I fought back. I protected our coast from offshore drilling.

I made sure every woman can access reproductive healthcare. I have been clear during my time as governor that I will do what I say and say what I do. My record is clear. I

will stand up and protect the Oregon that we love.

Buehler: Serving in the legislature and running for governor has given me the chance to listen to and learn from Oregonians all across the state. This has confirmed an important insight for me that Oregonians are unhappy with the performance of our state government and especially its leaders in Salem.

Despite all the good we have going for us, including record revenue in our treasury, our most pressing problems are still getting worse. What we are missing is a government as good, as wise, as innovative and as thrifty as her people.

This is why I am running for governor. To bring moderate, independent leadership to fix the big problems Brown has avoided, ignored or made worse as governor.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE MOST PRESSING CHALLENGES FACING OUR STATE?

Brown: Our state faces many challenges, but the most pressing include strengthening our education system and improving our graduation rate, protecting access to high-quality, affordable health care, and increasing affordable housing options in the state.

Buehler: My top priority will be to rescue our students, teachers and public schools from the classroom funding and graduation crisis that has gone on for far too long. The single biggest failure of Gov. Brown is her indifference to fixing our public schools. I have a detailed plan with big important goals to fix it.

The vision is ambitious — but achievable. As governor, I'll lead Oregon schools from the bottom five to the top five in five years by fixing Oregon's broken pension system, increasing funding for our classrooms, and making targeted investments in proven programs — such as CTE/STEM and 3rd grade reading.

WHAT ISSUES ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADDRESSING IF ELECTED?

Brown: While our economy is growing in Oregon, that growth isn't reaching everyone. Over the next four years, I will bring together Democrats and Republicans, urban and rural Oregonians, to tackle the state's big problems and make sure every Oregonian has the opportunity to thrive.

First, we have to strengthen our schools. I have a plan to expand high-quality preschool in the next two years to an additional 10,000 low-income children; reduce class sizes, require a 180-day school year, and expand career and technical education.

For all Oregonians to thrive, we must also expand access to high-quality, affordable health care. I will fight to protect our Medicaid expansion and make sure that every Oregonian, no matter where they live, has access to the care they need.

Buehler: As mentioned above, one of my top priorities is fixing our broken education system and pension program.

Next, we need to regain our status as a national leader in health care and Medicaid delivery, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who depend on it.

In the past our health care system was known for its compassion and innovation. Today, it is known for scandals, mismanagement and waste. As a physician, I will lead to ensure that every Oregonian has access to high-quality health care.

Third, homelessness is a humanitarian, public health and public safety crisis. I will lead with compassion, and a little tough love to ensure that in Oregon, a tent or a sidewalk is never anyone's home.

Finally, our rural communities have been left behind and forgotten by leaders in Salem for far too long. Oregon's rural-urban divide is not an immovable feature of the natural landscape. It is an artificial political

divide resulting from choices made every day in Salem by elected officials and unelected government employees. I will be a leader for all of Oregon.

As governor, I will make State government a partner for growing jobs and restoring hope and opportunity in rural Oregon.

HOW DO YOUR POSITIONS DIFFER FROM THOSE OF YOUR OPPONENTS?

Brown: Sometimes I feel like I'm running against two different people because what candidate Buehler says does not match what Rep. Buehler has done — especially when it comes to health care. As a legislator, Rep. Buehler voted against a bipartisan package to fund Oregon's Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

By voting no, he voted to take away critical health care from 430,000 Oregonians — including 80,000 kids. Rep. Buehler also voted against a plan that would have covered 100 percent of Oregon's children. That's not only dead set against Oregon values, it's cruel.

Buehler: I will challenge the status quo and be a governor for all of Oregon, no matter who you are, where you live, who you love, or how you register to vote. In contrast, Brown has proven that she is unwilling to take on the powerful special interests in her own party that defend a broken system. I will bring moderate, independent leadership to the governorship while working with Democrats, Republicans and Independents to help solve our most pressing issues.

WHAT ELSE IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR CANDIDACY?

Brown: As governor, I brought legislators from both parties together to fight for Oregon families.

We passed a transportation package that will reduce traffic, create

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