

# Governor Kate Brown announces Circuit Court vacancy

## Judge McLane to resign from 22nd Judicial District

SALEM, Ore.—Governor Kate Brown announced on Wednesday (Sept. 22) that she is accepting applications for a judicial position on the Circuit Court for the 22nd Judicial District to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Michael McLane.

The governor thanked Judge McLane for his dedicated judicial service to Jefferson and

Crook Counties, wished him well in his return to private practice in Bend, and announced that she will fill the position by appointment.

Judge McLane's resignation is effective Oct. 10, 2021.

Interested applicants should address their completed application forms to Dustin Buehler, General Counsel, Office of the Governor, and

email (no mail or hand delivery) those completed forms to Shevaun Guttridge at shevaun.guttridge@oregon.gov. Forms must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 11, 2021.

Governor Brown fills judicial vacancies based on merit. She encourages applications from lawyers with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.

ORS 3.041 and 3.050 provide that at the time of appointment to the court, the candidate must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Oregon, and a member of the Oregon State Bar. SB 977, recently passed by the Oregon Legislature, creates a new requirement. It amends ORS 3.041 and requires that these vacancies must be filled by

persons who are residents of or have principal offices in the judicial districts to which they are appointed or adjacent judicial districts.

For questions about the appointment process, or to request an interest form, contact Shevaun Guttridge at 503-378-624 or shevaun.guttridge@oregon.gov.

## Riverbend joins Babies with Books NICU read-a-thon

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. – The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart at RiverBend is teaming up with more than 100 other hospitals from around the world to participate in the 2021 Babies with Books NICU Read-a-thon.

The annual Babies with Books NICU read-a-thon is a friendly reading competition between both families and NICUs.

The read-a-thon is designed to encourage family reading, support infants and families and build NICU morale especially during the isolating time of COVID-19.

Families and NICUs track their total hours read with winners announced at the end of the competition, which runs

from Sept. 13 – 23.

Reading to children helps support infant brain development, promotes family bonding and reduces the stress parents face.

In particular, premature born babies miss time in the womb hearing their mother's voice, making the concept of parents reading to their child even more important. Since March of 2020, the NICU at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart at RiverBend has been giving parents free books to help get them started.

"The NICU can be very sterile and sometimes parents don't feel like they have much control," said Allison O'Brien, neonatal specialist at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart at RiverBend. "Reading to their child feels normal and

gives parents something to look forward to. We've received a lot of positive feedback from families."

With support from the Children's Miracle Network and book donations, more free books are now being made available to families in the NICU. The books handed out include recommendations from staff and classics like Goodnight Moon and The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

If you would like to make a book donation, new books can be sent to the NICU – 5th Floor at 3333 RiverBend Dr., Springfield, OR 97477. New books only.

For more information, visit [www.babieswithbooks.org/readathon](http://www.babieswithbooks.org/readathon).



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## FCC offers broadband discount program

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline;

- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year;

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;

- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating pro-

vider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider, or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), using an online or mail in application.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting [www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](http://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit), or by calling 833-511-0311.

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