

OREGON GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Spending in Brown-Buehler race continues to set all-time records

By Gary A. Wamer
WesCom News Service

SALEM — New campaign finance statements this week offer the most accurate financial snapshots to date of the Oregon governor’s race, which has blown past its former fundraising peak to collect a record \$20.4 million, with perhaps millions more to come.

Gov. Kate Brown and her Republican challenger, state Rep. Knute Buehler of Bend, are neck-and-neck in campaign spending at \$8.5 million each as the race for governor enters its final five weeks.

Campaign finance reports filed with the Oregon Secretary of State through Tuesday show that on the fundraising side, Brown has brought in \$11.9 million, while Buehler has raised \$8.5 million.

The \$20.4 million total in contributions to the candidates eclipses the

former record \$17.7 million raised in the 2010 governor’s race in which Democrat John Kitzhaber narrowly defeated Republican Chris Dudley.

Brown has \$3.5 million cash on hand. Buehler has \$1.7 million in the bank.

Transactions must now be reported within one week of occurring. Previously, the campaigns had up to 30 days to report transactions. The most recent reports give totals through Sept. 25 for both campaigns.

The totals do not include independent expenditures by outside groups on behalf of candidates.

If prior campaigns for governor are any indication, there could be millions more coming into the coffers of the two campaigns, if contributors on both sides believe the race is close.

The latest reports included \$750,000 contributed to Buehler

by the Republican Governors Association. All told, the group has given \$786,900 to Buehler. In 2010, the same group gave \$2.5 million to Dudley, most of it in the final weeks of the campaign. Buehler’s largest contributor has been Nike co-founder Phil Knight, who has given \$1.5 million.

The latest filings by Brown showed she received \$100,000 from the Oregon Education Association. Brown’s largest contribution is \$500,000 from the pro-choice group EMILY’s List. It had been previously reported.

The records showed Buehler has spent \$4.3 million on broadcast advertising purchases through Strategic Media Services of Arlington, Virginia.

Brown has spent \$2.4 million on broadcast advertising through Buying Time LLC, a campaign consulting firm in Washington, D.C.

New law requiring grand juries to be recorded could affect prosecutions

ASTORIA (AP) — A new Oregon state law that requires grand jury proceedings to be recorded will likely alter how some local prosecutors seek many felony indictments.

The Daily Astorian reports the law will take effect in July after it was signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown last year. While prosecutors typically seek secretive grand jury indictments in felony cases, many have said preliminary hearings, which are open to the public, will become more common.

“It’s a pretty big change in the statute,” Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis said.

During grand jury hearings, a prosecutor calls witnesses to testify in front

of seven jurors. They testify under oath, but a defense attorney is not present and witnesses are not subject to cross-examination. If five of the jurors find probable cause the case moves forward with an indictment.

Preliminary hearings, on the other hand, involve defense attorneys in the process. Instead of a jury, a judge rules on probable cause.

These hearings are useful for prosecutors when they believe a witness may change their statements or otherwise not be available later in the case, Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said. Otherwise, they largely benefit defense attorneys, who have the ability to cross-examine witnesses.

During grand jury

proceedings, one juror is designated to keep handwritten notes. When the new state law takes effect, prosecutors will need to either train a juror to record the proceeding using audio equipment or hire a certified shorthand reporter.

In more than 30 years as a prosecutor, Marquis recalls just a handful of times he’s pursued a preliminary hearing rather than a grand jury in felony cases. Now, both the district attorney and Brown, who will succeed Marquis in January, expect that preliminary hearings will be requested more regularly.

“It’s a bad idea, but it’s the law now,” Marquis said.

The requirements seek to address a perceived lack of transparency in the judicial

system, especially with grand juries. Every other state in the country, with the exception of Louisiana, requires grand juries to be recorded. Civil rights groups have expressed support for the law.

“This is doable. It’s done in a lot of places,” said Kirk Wintermute, an Astoria criminal defense attorney. “There are a lot of issues with the justice system, and this is one of them.”

The recordings will also give defense attorneys more ammunition when cross-examining the same witnesses later in cases.

“People often make very different statements in grand jury than they do in trial,” Wintermute said. “Getting that extra statement under oath is really important.”

Brown calls for legislation to protect air, water

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Wednesday announced legislation that would maintain Oregon’s water and air quality rules at the same level or higher than they were the day before President Donald Trump took office.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports that one of the goals of the legislation is to protect public health welfare from the adverse effects of pollution and climate change.

With the new legislation, called the Oregon Environmental Protection Act, Brown said she is looking to inspire a national movement of states to oppose what she called the “unprecedented and aggressive attack” on clean air and water.

The Trump administration has undertaken several actions to overturn or delay environmental laws from taking effect, ranging from carbon-emissions goals in the Obama-era Clean Power Plan designed to help the United States meet international climate goals to protections for wildlife — and from regulations of pesticides, ozone and mercury to expanding fossil fuel development on public lands.

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Brown’s proposed legislation focuses on the federal Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. Both are regulated and enforced at the state level by Oregon agencies such as the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Health Authority and the Water Resources Department. In most instances, the federal laws allow states to establish more stringent environmental protections than required nationally.

The governor’s office said, if passed by the Legislature, the legislation would maintain Obama-era ozone emission standards, regulate methane and other pollutants from landfills, as well as mercury emissions from the state’s one remaining coal power plant and extend water quality protections to some of the state’s rivers and streams.

The state Legislature, which is controlled by Brown’s fellow Democrats, has balked at some new environmental legislation in recent years.

CYANIDE

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“Any animal that is attracted to scents is at risk,” Fahy said. “What’s reported is a small fraction of what’s been done.”

Fahy said pets and even children aren’t immune from the impacts. The letter notes the devices have killed pets and injured people across Oregon, from Estacada to Philomath.

Fahy said an incident in spring 2017 in which an M-44 device killed a dog and hospitalized a teenager in Pocatello, Idaho, drew national attention and prompted Wildlife Services to stop using the devices in Idaho.

“It’s not if a child’s going to be killed, it’s when,” he said. “This is a ticking time bomb.”

Fahy said the devices have been around for decades, dating back to the “coyote getters” used in the West during the 1950s. However, he said the problem has been compounded by more and more people visiting and moving to rural parts of the Western United States, where the barriers between public and private land begin to blur.

“There is no place anymore that people don’t venture to,” Fahy said.

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A musician helps a young singer find fame, even as age and alcoholism threaten his own career.

FRI & SAT: (3:45) 6:45, 9:35

SUN: (3:45) 6:45

MON-THURS: 6:45

VENOM PG-13

Eddie Brock acquires the powers of a symbiote, and must release his alter ego "Venom" to save his life.

FRI & SAT: (4:00) 7:00, 9:40

SUN: (4:00) 7:00

MON-THURS: 7:00

SMALL FOOT PG

A Yori is convinced that the elusive creatures known as "humans" really do exist.

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- Hells Canyon relicensing work

For more details, contact Allison Murray at (208) 388-2418 or amurray@idahopower.com.

Daly Creek Headquarters

44895 Snake River Road, Richland, Ore.

Directions:
From Baker City, Ore., at exit 302 or route #86 drive east for 42 miles to Richland, Ore. Turn right at the Hitching Post grocery store onto Snake River Road. Go south on Snake River Road for 3.6 miles; past a cemetery, over two bridges and look for a red barn on the left—this is Idaho Power’s Daly Creek headquarters.



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