

Oregon primaries set up competitive governor's race

Democrat Tina Kotek will face Republican Christina Drazan and nonaffiliated candidate Betsy Johnson

BY SARA CLINE
Associated Press/Report for America
PORTLAND — Gubernatorial elections in Oregon usually result in victories for the Democrats, but this November's contest is setting up to be a competitive and contentious three-way race.
Former Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek won the Democratic nomination for Oregon governor Tuesday, May 17. She will face Republican nominee Christine Drazan as well as nonaffiliated candidate Betsy Johnson in the fall. As a nonaffiliated candidate, Johnson did not need to run in a primary race to make the fall ballot.

"This will be a three-way race for the highest office in our state. And this will be an election unlike any of us have ever seen," Kotek said in her victory speech Tuesday night.
Drazan, the former state House Minority Leader, won the GOP gubernatorial primary, maintaining a lead over former Oregon Republican Party Chair Bob Tiernan as more ballots were counted Wednesday, May 18.
Drazan said Tiernan called her Wednesday afternoon and conceded, which was confirmed by his campaign.
Incumbent Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, can't run again due to term limits.

While Oregon hasn't seen a GOP governor in 35 years, political experts say Republicans have an opening amid widespread discontent in the state and a possible split in votes between Kotek, a progressive, and Johnson, a former Democratic state senator.
"I think this is the best shot they've had in quite a few years," Christopher McKnight Nichols, an associate professor of history at Oregon State University, said of the GOP party's chances in November.
In the blue Pacific Northwest state, Republican voters account for about 25% of the state's total number of registered voters. Democrats and nonaffiliated voters each amount to 34%. Which gu-



Johnson

Drazan

Kotek

bernatorial candidate collects nonaffiliated votes and support from undecided Democrats and Republicans will play a major factor in the November election.
"For Johnson to win she's going to need to get Independents, Republicans and people who weren't the low turnout Democrat voters in the primaries — so sort of lukewarm or not as observant regular voting Democrats," Nichols said.
The only nonaffiliated governor in Oregon's history was

Julius L. Meier from 1931 to 1935.
"The biggest change Oregon can make this year is putting the people back in charge with an independent governor loyal only to Oregonians, not the political extremes," Johnson tweeted.
The former lawmaker, whose time in the Legislature overlapped with Kotek's, described the Democratic gubernatorial nominee as "more Kate Brown than Kate Brown" — a common comparison by opponents of Kotek, in hopes of associating her with the current governor's historically low approval ratings.
Kotek, who wielded the House speaker's gavel for a record nine years as the Democratic Party increased

its power and pushed ambitious progressive agendas, has called Johnson a conservative.
The Portland-based Kotek, beat her biggest Democratic challenger — Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read — by a comfortable margin Tuesday night. But as someone who held power during a tumultuous time in Oregon, Kotek must convince voters she can improve the state while avoiding blame for its problems.
"I think it's important to remember that all the Democrats in this race share a similar vision for what we want the state to be," Kotek said in her victory speech. "We're all going to work together to make sure we win. That a Democrat — that I win in November, because frankly there is just too much at stake."



Noah Erickson, a silviculture technician for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, explains how to plant a ponderosa pine seedling to science students from Baker High School during a field trip on May 18, 2022.

Planting

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But first came the vocabulary lesson as Mitchell quizzed the kids for the words that describe a fire that destroys everything.
After a hint, one student called it out: "Stand replacement."
"Is there a seed source left to rebuild this forest?" Mitchell asked, sweeping an arm across the landscape littered with fallen logs and skeletons of standing trees.
"There is not."
The source on this day is the students, who planted 750 ponderosa pine seedlings.
"Your goal is 20 trees each today," Mitchell said.
He and Erickson demonstrated how to dig a hole, either with a shovel or a hoedad — a tool with a long, flat blade, rather like a large-scale tongue depressor — that was big enough for the tree's roots.
Location matters too — the students were instructed to plant by the "microsite" technique, which means finding a place, such as beside a fallen log, where the seedling would be protected from the elements.
"This is the toughest place we plant," Mitchell said. "It's dry, it's windy, it's cold."
Then it was time to load up the bags with seedlings, each first dipped in a bucket of water to give it a good start on growing.
In pairs or trios, the students hiked uphill, picking their way through charred logs and the

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— Bill Mitchell, U.S. Forest Service

lush green of grass, lupine and arnica.
This summer will mark seven years since the wildfire burned this portion of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.
"We've planted about 2.5 million trees since the burn," Erickson said.
The survival rate, he said, can vary from 15% to 50% depending on weather conditions.
"It depends on the year," he said. "Ponderosa has the highest success."
Crews contracted with the Forest Service have planted western larch, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and western white pine.
This is Erickson's fifth year with the Wallowa-Whitman. He never saw this area covered in tall, green trees — but he has seen it coming back to life.
"I've only see Dooley like this," he said. "I've seen the growth."

Picking as well as planting
This tree-planting excursion brought out students from several different classes: general science 2, advanced biology, advanced ecology, natural resources and wilderness readiness survival.
Nicole Sullivan, who teaches science at BHS, planned the field trip to wrap up a unit on the plant kingdom.
"And we've been doing bot-

any with all the classes," she said.
In addition to planting trees, the students hunted for morel mushrooms — in fact, the planting took a bit longer because the prized fungi kept distracting their attention.
And even though they

finished the day tired with scratched skin and dirty clothes, each dirt-smudged face had a smile.
"I enjoy this," said Jaylyn Baird.
"It feels more rewarding," added Joy Murphy.
And the Forest Service, Mitchell told the group, appreciates the help.
"You guys did a solid job," he said. "That's a tough place to plant trees — the toughest we have."



Jordynn Scholl points to the next location and Cierra Lafferty makes sure the seedling is secure in the ground at Dooley Mountain on May 18, 2022.

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Celebration of Lives for
Dwight & Donna Brooks
Saturday, May 28, 2022 • 11am-2pm
at Catherine Creek Community Center
(Old Methodist Church) on Main St., Union.
Please join us for a light lunch.
Bring your stories and memories.
For questions, call Tanya Collier at 541-398-1952.
*Wasteland Kings will be performing following the Celebration at the Community Center.
*Union High School Alumni Breakfast will be Sunday morning

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MAY

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Majestic Grove

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Senior at Baker High School
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Nancee C. Heath
March 2, 1941 - May 12, 2022

Nancee Heath, 81, of Baker City, died at her home Thursday, May 12, 2022, with her family at her side. She will be laid to rest next to her father at Mount Shasta Cemetery.
Nancee C. Heath was born March 2, 1941, in Mount Shasta, California, to James and Zelfter (Carleton) Love. She met her first husband, William L. Garriott Jr., at Mount Shasta High School. They married and had two children, William L. Garriott and Micheal James Garriott. They later divorced.
She married Carl L. Heath, "by the hanging judge" in Caron City, Nevada. They moved to Baker City in 1993, where she loved living in the "Bubble of Baker City." She was a member of Local VFW and Eagles Club.
Nancee wanted to be remembered as being happy. She loved to travel and explore new areas. One of her greatest joys was being in her yard with her flowers. Her favorite season was winter, she had her own special word for snow. In her later years one of her sayings was "if I can get one foot on the floor and hope that the other one follows."
She had a great love of animals; she was the caretaker of 13 cats. Any cat that came over the fence and needed a home knew that Nancee would take care of them.
She was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers, James and Steve Love.
Nancee is survived by her husband, Carl Heath; her brothers, Carl and Paul Love; her sons, William (Deana) and Micheal (Mary); 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.
She will be dearly missed.
Online condolences may be shared at www.tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com.

The Nurses and Techs at Saint Alphonsus Baker City would like to say THANK YOU and show our support to the Baker City Fire Department's First Responders for the work they do 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in our community. Thank you from the Oregon Nurses Association of Saint Alphonsus Baker City.

Remember, these brave men and women not only respond to fires and emergency medical calls they also provide many other invaluable services to Baker City and surrounding areas including:

- "Stop the Bleed" campaign
- FREE Blood Pressure checks at the Community Center
- EMT Preceptors
- School Education
- Fire Inspections
- Community Basic Life Support (CPR) and First Responder Courses
- Rural Fire Department Training

Thank you for ALL you do to keep us Safe

ONA Oregon Nurses Association
Voice of Oregon Nurses Since 1904