

# Survey: 49 questions asked how COVID-19 could permanently change workplaces in Oregon

Continued from A1

Working from home misses checking in with each other, developing a sense of community and the dynamic interaction of problem-solving, he said. Virtual platforms just don't cut it.

McCarthy's views mirror about 601 people who were surveyed March 5 to 10 as part of the Oregon Values and Voices project, a nonpartisan charitable organization that partnered with Pamplin Media Group, EO Media Group, which owns The Bulletin, and the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center.

The survey consisted of 49 questions sent to a random sample about changes caused by COVID-19 that will become permanent in Oregon. This is the second such survey orchestrated by the group on the effects of COVID-19.

In one question, 47% of the people who live in rural Oregon say they felt working from home was only temporary, compared to 37% in the Willamette Valley and tri-county area around Portland who said it's temporary. Since workers in urban and suburban communities are more likely affected by congestion, their commute times are longer, making working from home more attractive, said Adam Davis, Oregon Values and Beliefs Center co-founder.

"As a result of the coronavirus and how it has affected life at home and employment, a strong majority of Oregonians feel more of us in the future will work from home," Davis said. "This feeling is shared across all population subgroups with many feeling the change will be permanent."



**47%**  
of the people who live in rural Oregon said in the survey that they felt working remotely was only temporary, compared to **37%** in the Willamette Valley and the Portland metro area.

Cheri Rosenberg, Pendleton Chamber of Commerce CEO, said the small-town feel has created a tight bond between employee and employer. The population of Pendleton, according to U.S. Census Bureau's most current estimates, was 16,733.

"Because we tend to have a more personal relationship between our employers and employees, it's a conversation we are able to have," Rosenberg said in an email. "For those who are able and prefer to work from home, those steps are being taken. For those who are ready to get back into the office, those steps are being taken there as well."

"We're able to have the best of both worlds due to the ability to be very open and candid with one another."

In the survey, 33% of those ages 45 to 64 said the ability to work from home was temporary, compared to 53% in the same age group that thought working from home was permanent. And 64% of those who earned more than \$100,000 a year said they believed working from home would become permanent, compared to 28%, earning the same

## Oregon Values and Beliefs Center

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center is committed to the highest level of public opinion research. To obtain that, the nonprofit is building the largest online research panel of Oregonians in history to ensure that all voices are represented in discussions of public policy in a valid and statistically reliable way.

Selected panelists earn points for their participation, which can be redeemed for cash or donated to a charity.

To learn more, visit [oregonvbc.org](http://oregonvbc.org)

amount, who said it would be temporary.

The survey's margin of error, for the full sample, ranges from 2.4% to 4% depending on how the response category percentages are split for any given question, according to the survey authors.

Katy Brooks, Bend Chamber of Commerce CEO, said she's seen the data play out during this past year. But Bend is a city with a high percentage of remote workers given that Bend has a low inventory of office space and employees appear to like the flexibility of working from home.

"There are plain savings in office space, utilities if they function well with a hybrid or remote format," Brooks said. "I've spoke to dozens of companies in Bend who are considering a permanent hybrid model for these reasons."

Reporter: 541-633-2117, [sroig@bendbulletin.com](mailto:sroig@bendbulletin.com)

## Zoning

Continued from A1

The state land conservation and development department essentially told the county there was no way for the county to accomplish what it wanted to with these redesignations under state law, according to a county memo.

"Unfortunately ... there's not a path that would insulate Deschutes County if we went forward from a (legal) appeal and, ultimately, a rejection at the courts," Deschutes County Planning Manager Peter Gutowsky told the commission Monday.

The withdrawal is a win for environmental groups like Central Oregon LandWatch and 1000 Friends of Oregon, which both testified

against the amendments out of fear the redesignations would become a precedent to "spot zone" on lands zoned for farm and forestry around the county.

"Although it unfortunately took a multi-year drain of taxpayer resources to get here, Land-Watch is pleased the County finally acknowledges its proposal to rezone rural farm and forest land for residential sprawl is contrary to Oregon law," Ben Gordon, the executive director of Central Oregon LandWatch, wrote in a statement.

The commission expressed disappointment about having to withdraw the amendments, with commission Chair Tony DeBone once again calling for the state to have a larger conversation about relooking at all aspects of the state's

land use system.

But the county learned from the state land conservation and development department that its board will not look into the issue of how to redesignate land that may have been incorrectly zoned any time in the near future.

This leaves the commission with few options. "Clearly we learned on March 17 that unless we can get legislators to do something we won't be able to accomplish anything," said Commissioner Patti Adair, who referred to a meeting the county had with the department on March 17.

Moving forward, the commission will explore other ways to ease the burden of property owners seeking to build in these six areas, Gutowsky said. County staff will recommend the

commission reduce conditional use permit fees for nonfarm dwellings at these six subdivisions by 30%.

Currently, this fee can be up to \$3,600, plus the additional cost it takes to hire experts to prove that the soil quality is not high enough to be farmed, Gutowsky said.

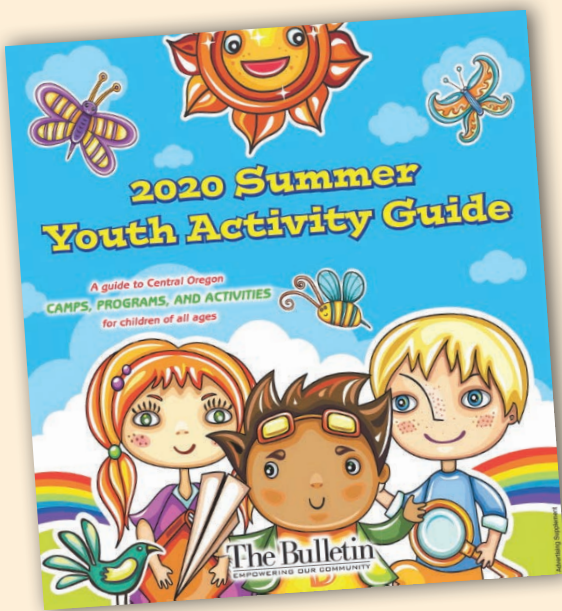
Gutowsky said another idea being considered is having one document that compiles all the previous land use decisions that show how a property owner was successful in getting to build a house in one of these six areas. This could be used by future applicants who wish to build on land in one of these six areas.

These ideas will be considered by the commission in May.

Reporter: 541-633-2160, [bvisser@bendbulletin.com](mailto:bvisser@bendbulletin.com)

## COMING SOON!

### 2021 SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE



- The perfect place to share your message with local parents, you don't have to be part of an activity to invite them into your business.
- Valuable tool for planning ahead and keeping kids busy all summer long.
- Includes detailed information on day and overnight camps, art, science and outdoor adventure programs and summer safety tips.
- Includes camps and other activities from out of the area.

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE MONDAY, APRIL 5**

Publishes in The Bulletin Friday, April 16



HALF OR FULL PAGE ADVERTISERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT A 500 WORD STORY AND PHOTO ABOUT THEIR CAMP OR PROGRAM.

Contact Leanna Williams at 541-617-7865 or email: [lwilliams@bendbulletin.com](mailto:lwilliams@bendbulletin.com)

**The Bulletin**  
EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

## PROUDLY PROVIDING ENT CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1970

We are Central Oregon's premier providers for ear, nose, and throat and hearing care .

### SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR:

- Ear/sinus issues
- Vertigo episodes
- Earwax removal
- Abscesses
- Nosebleeds
- Hearing test
- Allergy consultation
- Telehealth appointments

**541.526.1479**

NO REFERRALS NEEDED!\*



Central Oregon Ear, Nose & Throat is excited to announce same-day appointments available!

Myra Baker, PA | Physician's Assistant

**central oregon**  
EAR | NOSE | THROAT

Bend | 2450 NE Mary Rose Pl, Ste 120  
Redmond | 1020 SW Indian Ave, Ste 102

COENT.com | \*Call for details