

## District

Continued from A1

Gov. Kate Brown said the strong turnout in Oregon to answer the census ensured that Oregon's voice will be amplified in federal decisions.

Brown released a statement praising the "great news" of the additional seat.

"Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2020 Census to make sure you were counted," Brown said.

Oregon's new seat was in apportionment, the reassignment of the 435 congressional seats after each census.

The census reports Oregon's 2020 population is just under 4.24 million, up from 3.83 million in 2010.

Oregon's 10.6% increase was well above the national population growth of 7.4%, the slowest rate since the 1940 census that came after the Great Depression.

Bend had the largest population growth in Oregon — about 25% — over the past decade.

The other largest concentration of growth was the ring of suburbs around Portland, with Gresham, Troutdale, Sandy, Estacada, Beaverton, Tigard, Newberg and St. Helens all posting strong growth.

The sixth congressional district is the first new seat for Oregon since the 1980 census.

Five other states received additional seats. Texas gets two more seats. Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina each received one.

California lost a seat for the first time in state history. It will still have the largest delegation, with 52 seats.

Also losing a seat were New York, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

In an announcement that has political leaders promising to take action against the count, New York fell just 89 people short of keeping all its seats.

Democrats currently hold a 218-212 majority in the U.S. House. Five seats are vacant. Oregon currently has four Democrats and one Republican in its House delegation.

Each U.S. House member will now represent 761,169 people, up about 50,000 people from 2010.

Numbers in each district can vary slightly.

Still to come is dividing up the districts within each state. Oregon currently has four Democrats and one Republican in the House.

Oregon is among 33 states where the Legislature controls all or most of the process. Eight states — including California and Washington — use independent commissions to draw the maps. Two do a mix.

The disruption of the census count amid the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted redistricting in most states.

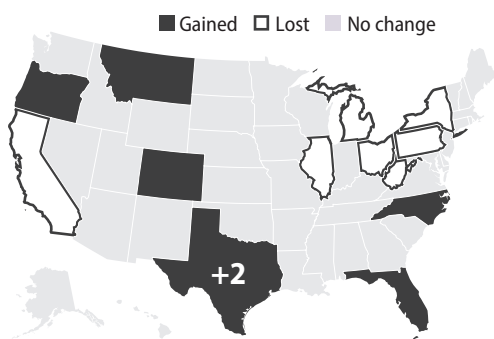
In Oregon, the timelines for the Legislature to receive census data needed to draw congressional and legislative lines that meet civil rights and voting rights requirements has shifted from April 1 to late August or September.

The delay means the state will blow past most of the established deadlines for creating and approving legislative and congressional maps.

The Oregon Supreme Court ruled April 9 that the Legislature will have until Sept. 27 to submit maps for the state House and Senate seats, as well as congressional districts.

If lawmakers cannot agree on new districts, legislative districts would be drawn by Secretary

## Which states will gain seats in Congress based on 2020 Census data?



of State Shemia Fagan, while congressional seats would be determined by a special judicial panel.

The deadline under that scenario is Oct. 18 to complete maps. With legal challenges, the Oregon Supreme Court has set Feb. 7, 2022, as the latest date for maps to be finalized. That leaves one month until the March 8, 2022, deadline for candidates to file for the May 17 primary.

If Fagan's or the judges' maps are found wanting under legal review, the Oregon Supreme Court would draw the lines itself.

The state House and Senate have redistricting committees that will work on the maps. But their makeup is currently politically asymmetrical.

Under a deal this month to end a Republican slowdown of legislation, House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, named Minority Leader Christine Drazan, R-Canby, as a sixth member of the House panel. The move gives the Republicans parity on the committee with Democrats.

Drazan said having an equal vote on the committee was crucial given the Democrats' political dominance of all facets of the reapportionment process.

"The Legislature's majority, governor and secretary of state are all Democrats," Drazan said. "More than 50% of the Oregon Supreme Court has been appointed by this governor. We are at high risk of gerrymandering. They have the power, but we'll be able to question how it is done."

Still up in the air is how the House committee will work with the Senate's, which has retained a 3-2 Democratic majority and has Sen. Kathleen Taylor, D-Milwaukie, as chair.

A constitutional quirk allows congressional candidates to skirt the residency requirements of most political offices.

The Constitution requires that members of the House be at least 25 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and live in the state they represent, but not the district they are running in.

The result has led to frequent "district shopping" for congressional districts across the country, especially by candidates who are squeezed out of their seats under reapportionment.

One name to take out of the mix for Oregon's new congressional seat is Brown's, according to her longtime political consultant Thomas Wheatley. He said Monday after the census announcement that Brown is not interested in running for the seat.

"I don't even see a crack," of interest from Brown, Wheatley said. "She's got a lot on her plate as it is."

■ gwarnar@eomediagroup.com

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— House Minority Leader Christine Drazan, R-Canby, about a recent agreement regarding membership on the chamber's redistricting committee

# Young adults relocate — and reshape political geography

*More Americans are avoiding California and New York — long considered desirable — with implications for Oregon and other states*

BY NICHOLAS RICCARDI AND MIKE SCHNEIDER  
Associated Press

Garima Vyas always wanted to live in a big city. She thought about New York, long the destination for 20-something strivers, but was wary of the cost and complicated subway lines.

So Vyas picked another metropolis that's increasingly become young people's next-best option — Houston.

Now 34, Vyas, a tech worker, has lived in Houston since 2013. "I knew I didn't like New York, so this was the next best thing," Vyas said. "There are a lot of things you want to try when you are younger — you want to try new things. Houston gives you that, whether it's food, people or dating. And it's cheap to live in."

The choices by Vyas and other members of the millennial generation of where to live have reshaped the country's political geography over the past decade. They've left New York and California and settled in places less likely to be settings for TV sitcoms about 20-something urbanites, including Denver, Houston and Orlando, Florida. Drawn by jobs and overlooked cultural amenities, they've helped add new craft breweries, condominiums and liberal voters to these once more-conservative places.

The 2020 Census confirms those trends.

The U.S. Census Bureau released data Monday on U.S. population shifts, which affect how congressional seats are apportioned among the states every 10 years. Oregon gained one seat, Texas two; four other states also gained a seat each; and other states, mostly in the north but notably including California, lost seats.

The relocations have reshuffled politics. Once solidly conservative places such as Texas have seen increasingly large islands of liberalism sprout in their cities, driven by the migration of younger adults, who lean Democratic. Since 2010, the 20-to-34-year-old population has increased by 24% in San Antonio, 22% in Austin and 19% in Houston, according to an Associated Press analysis of American Community Survey data. In November's election, two states that also saw sharp growth in young people in their largest cities — Arizona and Georgia — flipped Democratic in the presidential contest.

### Not just the weather

These demographic winners are almost all in the Sun Belt, but climate is not the only thing they have in common.

"These places are grow-



David Zalubowski/AP

**"This is just a really great place to be," says Sydney Kramer, a graduate student at the University of Colorado, pictured on campus in Boulder on Friday. The 23-year-old moved here from Miami to begin graduate studies in atmospheric and oceanic sciences in January.**

ing not just because they're warmer — it's because that's where the jobs are and young people are moving there," said Ryan Wiechelt, a geography professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

There are other drivers of population growth, such as immigration from overseas and childbirths. But as foreign immigration tapered off during the decade, then plummeted during the pandemic, internal relocations have become an increasingly big factor in how the country is re-sorting itself, demographers say.

Places with jobs have long attracted transplants, but this shift has been different because housing prices have risen so much in previous job clusters — Boston, New York and Silicon Valley, for example — that cost of living has become more of a factor in relocations, said Daryl Fairweather, chief economist for Redfin.

"Since the last housing crisis, young millennials have had to move to places with really strong job markets," Fairweather said. "Now, during the pandemic I think that is changing — you don't have to move to San Francisco if you want a job in tech."

Plenty of young people still move to traditional destinations such as New York and California to start careers, experts say. They just leave them relatively quickly now, with a wider variety of alternative job centers to choose from. "Every year these places attract a lot of young people, but they lose more," William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institute, said of traditional, coastal job magnets, joking that his own hometown of Washington, D.C. "rents" young people.

### The case for Colorado

Instead, places with both cheaper housing, growing economies and recreational amenities have become popular. Colorado — which will gain a seat in Congress, based on Monday's data — was the third-most popular place for young adults to relocate to since 2015, gaining more than 20,000 new young adults from elsewhere each year, according to Frey's analysis of early census data. The state has boomed over the past decade

as its libertarian lifestyle, outdoor attractions and growing knowledge-based economy have drawn young people from across the country.

As a result, Denver's skyline is regularly pockmarked with construction cranes. Apartment complexes are springing up from parking lots. For when those renters want to have children and buy homes, waves of new suburban subdivisions are emerging in the shadow of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains.

As mostly college-educated transplants have relocated to Denver and its satellite communities, Colorado has gone from being a solidly Republican state to a competitive swing state to a solidly Democratic one. It's a pattern that some political experts expect could be replicated in other states importing loads of young people, even traditionally conservative Texas.

Sydney Kramer is typical of many new Colorado arrivals. The 23-year-old moved to the university town of Boulder in January to begin graduate studies in atmospheric and oceanic sciences. She could have stayed in Miami, a natural location for someone of her interests and where she finished her undergraduate studies. But Kramer was depressed by Florida's anti-science turn under Republican state control.

"The government and policy hasn't necessarily caught up there yet," Kramer said of Florida, noting that state regulations barred the use of the term "climate change" in some official documents under the previous governor. "Everybody here has a high level of education, is really educated about climate change."

"This," she said of Boulder, with its wealth of environmental and forecasting organizations, "is just a really great place to be for my industry."

A New Jersey native who did not want to deal with New York City's high rents, Kramer has been impressed by how her new neighbors talk excitedly about hiking, camping and skiing and at the combination of outdoor activities and urban amenities the area offers. "It's a really wonderful place to be for everything you get for the cost of living," she said.

## NATIONAL BRIEFING

### California governor recall has enough signatures

Organizers of the recall effort against California Gov. Gavin Newsom collected enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot, state election officials said Monday, likely triggering just the second such election in state history.

"The people of California have done what the politicians thought would be impossible," said Orrin Heatlie, the retired county sheriff's sergeant who launched the recall effort last year. "Our work is just beginning. Now the real campaign is about to commence."

Heatlie spearheaded the signature collection effort that began last June and then picked up momentum in the fall as frustration grew over Newsom's coronavirus-related actions. The California secretary of state's office said more than 1.6 million signatures had been deemed valid as of Monday, about 100,000 more than required. People who signed petitions now have 30 days to withdraw their signatures, though it's unlikely enough will do so to stop the question from going to voters.

### Justice Department opens probe over Breonna Taylor

The Justice Department is opening a sweeping probe into policing in Louisville, Kentucky, over the March 2020 death of Breonna Taylor, who was shot to death by police during a raid at her home, Attorney General Merrick



Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP

**Demonstrators call for a recall of California Gov. Gavin Newsom in Huntington Beach in November. California is likely headed for its second recall of a governor in state history.**

Garland announced Monday.

It's the second such probe into a law enforcement agency by the Biden administration in a week; Garland also announced an investigation into the tactics of the police in Minneapolis following the death of George Floyd. The attorney general has said there is not yet equal justice under the law and promised to bring a critical eye to racism and legal issues when he took the job. Few such investigations were opened during the Trump administration.

The 26-year-old Taylor, an emergency medical technician who had been studying to become a nurse, was roused from sleep by police who came through the door using a battering ram. Her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, fired once. A no-knock warrant was approved as part of a narcotics investigation. No drugs were found at her home.

### Supreme Court to take up right to carry firearms

The Supreme Court agreed on Monday to hear an appeal to expand gun rights in the United States in a New York case over the right to carry a firearm in public for self-defense. The case marks the court's first foray into gun rights since Justice Amy Coney Barrett came on board in October, making a 6-3 conservative majority.

New York is among eight states that limit who has the right to carry a weapon in public. The others are California, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

In the rest of the country, gun owners have little trouble legally carrying their weapons when they go out.

Federal courts have largely upheld New York's permit limits.

— Bulletin wire reports

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