

# Google says 20% of workers will be remote and many more hybrid

The Associated Press

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Google says it expects about 20% of its workforce to still work remotely after its offices reopen this fall, while some 60% will work a hybrid schedule that includes about three days in the office and two days “wherever they work best.”

The remaining 20% can change their location to a dif-

ferent Google office.

The policy announced Wednesday relaxes the company's stricter earlier stance.

“The future of work is flexibility,” CEO Sundar Pichai wrote in an email to employees that was also posted on Google's website. “The changes above are a starting point to help us do our very best work and have fun doing it.”

Most of Google's 135,000 employees can continue to work from home through September of this year.

For up to 20 days per year, Google employees will also be able to work from any location other than their main office. That's up from a previous allotment of 10 days.

The company based in Mountain View, California, will also continue offering ex-

tra “reset” days — days off to help cope with the pandemic.

Google was among the first major technology companies last year to tell its employees to work from home at the onset of the pandemic. Other tech giants, such as Facebook and Twitter, have announced that people can work from home permanently after the pandemic if their jobs allow for it.

## Paid leave

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“Since Dec. 2019, the Oregon Employment Department has taken significant steps toward building the program,” Angelini said in an email. “However, the impacts of the pandemic over the last year, including the agency's need to shift nearly all efforts to administer unemployment insurance benefits to hundreds of thousands of Oregonians has made clear that to successfully implement an equitable and accessible PFMLI program, the implementation timeline would need to be adjusted.”

Oregon became the ninth state to commit to offering a paid family and medical leave program when lawmakers enacted the Oregon Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance program in 2019. At the time, proponents heralded the legislation as one of the most progressive paid family leave policies in the nation.

The law will provide Oregon workers who earned at least \$1,000 in the preceding year with up to 12 weeks of paid time off to bond with and care for new children, navigate illness, care for family members with serious health conditions or seek medical treatment in cases of domestic violence.

The state and federal government already offer many employees access to up to 12 weeks of unpaid family and medical leave, but Oregon's new law will offer generous paid benefits. Under the law, low-wage workers will have their entire paychecks covered during their leave. The benefits decrease as income rises.

The program will be funded by a payroll tax of up to 1% on employers and employees.

Sandra McDonough, president & CEO of Oregon Business & Industry, which supported the 2019 legisla-

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tion, said the implementation of the program shouldn't be rushed to meet an arbitrary deadline and urged lawmakers to accept the employment department's request for more time to develop the program.

“We appreciate the Employment Department's acknowledgment of the challenges throughout the past year for businesses and state agencies alike,” McDonough said in an email. “By delaying the implementation of the paid family and medical leave program by a year, they are ensuring that this complex implementation process is done the right way.”

Andrea Paluso, executive director for Family Forward Oregon, which helped craft the legislation, said she wasn't surprised that the state had requested more time to implement the program given the strain the employment department has been under over the last year.

The employment department has had to put nearly all its resources toward responding to a flood of new unemployment claims resulting from the pandemic.

“There's a lot of strain on our government programs right now with an unprecedented level of need,” Paluso said. “But I am hopeful because the signs show there's a real commitment to this program and a commitment to implementing it successfully and taking the time that it will take to do that.”

## Flowers

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Dionne, of CalFlowers, said it's still a bit premature to predict wedding sales because many couples are still watching state restrictions and scoping out venues. But growers, he said, are already being “flooded” with wedding inquiries.

In Oregon, Stacey Denton, owner of Flora, a small organic flower farm in Williams, said she's seeing a wedding comeback.

“In my experience, I feel like it's totally rebounded to 2019 levels,” she said.

Last year, COVID prompted Denton to create an online floral store, which she plans to continue developing along with the wedding side of her business.

Dionne, of CalFlowers, said many people who postponed funerals are also ordering flowers.

Experts say a few other factors are also impacting the supply-and-demand curves.

The first is consolidation. Fewer domestic growers has led to tighter supply.

U.S. growers are also seeing



Ann Nguyen/Flora

Stacey Denton runs a small-scale organic flower farm in Southern Oregon. Although she experienced great community support in 2020, it didn't make up for lost wedding sales. This year, Denton said she's happy to see a resurgence in floral design for weddings.

less foreign competition. The U.S. imports about 80% of its cut flower supplies annually, but because of jammed ports, limited air cargo capacity, vaccine doses taking up cooler space and civil unrest in Colombia, imports have shrunk this year.

Import difficulties have also

tightened supplies of certain flower varieties. Bulbs from Holland are backlogged, and many farmers are having trouble importing specific seeds.

Finally, labor shortages in both the agricultural and trucking sectors have recently made it difficult to harvest and ship

flowers on time.

Despite these challenges, Dionne, the industry expert, said he thinks the American fresh cut flower industry is having its day in the sun.

“We've never seen demand like this,” he said. “It's been a good run.”

## Intel

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“This is a critical industry for the nation, for the world, for every aspect of human existence. And you are now extraordinarily reliant on a few places in Asia,” Gelsinger said in an interview Wednesday. “Geopolitically, I say that's not stable.”

Intel has announced this year that it plans to spend \$20 billion to build two new Arizona factories and \$3.5 billion to expand its chip packaging operation in New Mexico. It's also confirmed plans to proceed with a \$10 billion factory expansion in Israel.

Intel is racing to cash in on a global shortage of computer chips, which has constrained the supply of everything from PCs to smartphones to automobiles. It's also striving to regain its technological edge after manufacturing defects delayed production of three consecutive generations of computer chip.

Though Intel's headquarters are in Silicon Valley, its largest and most advanced operations are in Washington County. Intel is Oregon's largest corporate employer, with close to 21,000 people working at its Washington County campuses.

The company said Wednesday that it has added 400 Oregon employees already this year and said more than 3,000 construction workers have worked on the third phase of D1X since construction began in 2019 at Intel's Ronler Acres campus near Hillsboro Stadium.

During Wednesday's visit, Gelsinger met with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and Hillsboro Mayor Steve Callaway and reviewed the progress of the third phase of D1X. He said COVID-19 delayed Intel's construction timetable by a couple months but that the company expects the expanded portion of the factory will enter production early next year.

Wednesday's visit to Oregon is the latest stop on a whirlwind world tour. In the past week Gelsinger has visited Belgium, Israel and appeared on “60 Minutes” to pitch the value of semiconductor manufacturing and drum up government support for the industry, and for his company.

Politico Europe reported last week that Gelsinger had asked for nearly \$10 billion from Eu-

ropean governments to help finance a new factory somewhere there, though Intel denied having requested a specific number.

In the U.S., Intel has joined an industry push for \$50 billion in new direct support and a tax credit on money chip-makers spend on new production equipment. With the cost of a new factory now running above \$10 billion, those tax credits could be worth billions of dollars to Intel over time.

In Oregon, Intel already enjoys some of the largest local tax breaks in the nation. Hillsboro and Washington County exempted the company from more than \$120 million in property taxes on its equipment last year. Intel's savings over the past decade were nearly \$1.2 billion.

While Gelsinger didn't pitch new Oregon incentives Wednesday, he did say that Gov. Brown and Mayor Callaway offered to assist in his campaign for federal support. The

governor's office said they discussed “engagement with our congressional delegation” on promoting support for the chip industry.

Intel has reported more than \$20 billion in profits in each of the past three years and has generated so much cash that it took to buying back its own stock. Its gross profit margins are above 55%, among the most robust in any industry.

Now, Gelsinger is making the case that domestic chip man-

ufacturing also needs federal support.

On “60 Minutes” last weekend, Gelsinger said Intel will severely curtail its stock buybacks. He said Wednesday that Intel can afford to grow without government incentives but insisted that it can do more if the U.S. matches the subsidies that other countries offer their chip sectors.

“I'm not being hesitant to invest,” Gelsinger said. “I want to go bigger and faster.”

## OBITUARY

### Shannon Kelly Ann Elizabeth Frydenlund

March 15, 2000 - April 2, 2021



Death is supposed to be nothing but a distant rumor to the young, so it is with great sadness that we write this.

Shannon KellyAnn Elizabeth Frydenlund, 21, of Prineville, OR, passed away, Friday, April 02 surrounded in love by family and

loved ones who will continue to honor her amazing spirit by living life to the fullest.

She was a proud daughter, sister, granddaughter, aunt, niece, cousin, and girlfriend and is survived in death by so many broken hearts.

This loving, caring and wonderful girl has left a permanent mark etched in our hearts and will be missed beyond measure by everyone who had the pleasure of meeting her.

Family and friends were the essence of Shannon's life. She should be forever remembered for her caring heart, beautiful smile and unconditional love. Her presence could warm your soul and if you were lucky enough to be present when she was with her two beautiful nieces the pure joy radiating from all of them could blind you.

She was an accomplished outdoors woman who loved camping, fishing, hunting, and bonfires and could be persuaded into any adventure if Dutch Brothers was involved.

When she wasn't spending time with family and friends, she dedicated her summers to fighting fire for the U.S. Forest Service. Alongside her family, she dedicated her time to raising money and awareness in effort to supporting the families of fallen wildland firefighters through the Wildland Firefighter Foundation.

She was a young woman with so much enthusiasm and so many plans for her future who was taken from us far too early.

Although our hearts are aching, we will celebrate the life of this amazing woman and find comfort in knowing that we now have the greatest angel looking over us.

Shannon was preceded in death by her Great Grandparents McCulley, Great Grandmother Hemphill, Great Grandparents Poppe, Great Grandfather Frydenlund, and Uncle Frydenlund.

## OBITUARY

### Timothy J. Allen

May 3, 2021



Timothy J. Allen passed away peacefully on 5-3-2021 at his home with his wife, Laurie L. Rice by his side. Tim and Laurie moved to Bend, Oregon in 2011 from Chicago, IL. He will be greatly missed.

Tim was a loving Father to Jason (Tricia), Ryan (Dani), and Molly (Reese). Caring stepfather to Meghan Jacquot (Cyril) and Kevin Wyllie (Alex). He was a proud grandfather to Nora and Evelyn. Tim was the human companion to Lucy, his beloved dog.

He was an awesome brother to surviving siblings Michael, Luke, Marian, Ruth, niece Nan, and preceded by John and Paul.

Tim will be fondly remembered by his friends and family for his love of music, humor, politics, fishing, history, cooking, grilling, gardening, and travel. He was up for any adventure his wife, Laurie, planned. Tim's last words of wisdom: “Always live a good clean honest life to the best of your abilities and do not eat the yellow snow.”

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Partners in Care Hospice at 2075 N. E. Wyatt Bend, Oregon 97701, 541-383-5882 or [www.partnersbend.org/donate-to-bend-hospice/](http://www.partnersbend.org/donate-to-bend-hospice/). They provided excellent care and helped ensure Tim's peaceful passage to the other world.

## DEATH NOTICES

### Maxine “Mick” Mary Harden

of Bend/Eugene, OR  
October 21, 1922 -  
April 22, 2021

Arrangements:  
541-382-2471 Please  
visit the online registry for  
the family at [www.niswonger-reynolds.com](http://www.niswonger-reynolds.com)

Services:  
Wednesday May 12, 2021  
Viewing At Niswonger  
-Reynolds Funeral Home  
11-1  
Graveside Service at Pilot  
Butte Cemetery 2:00pm

### Constance C. Frisbee

of Redmond, OR

Oct 25, 1946 - May 1, 2021

Arrangements:  
Autumn Funerals, Bend  
541-318-0842 [www.autumnfunerals.net](http://www.autumnfunerals.net)

Services:  
Private services will be  
held

## OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines  
541-385-5809

Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm

No death notices or obituaries  
are published Mondays.

Email:

[obits@bendbulletin.com](mailto:obits@bendbulletin.com)