

## OREGON CAPITOL

## Lawmakers wrap up session with drama-free final day

BY CHRIS LEHMAN

The Oregonian  
The last day of the 2021 Oregon legislative session was largely free of drama or surprises. But by the time the final gavel dropped at 5:37 p.m. Saturday, lawmakers had approved billions of dollars in spending that will touch nearly every corner of the state.

"This is truly historic," said Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene, as he urged the House to approve a bill that would fund more than \$2 billion in construction projects at universities, National Guard armories, and a slew of other state government buildings.

"Take note of that. You won't see that very often," he said, referring to the overall amount contained in the bill.

That sounded good to Holvey's colleagues, who approved the measure 56-0 without debate.

All told, the House approved 18 bills and the Senate 46 on the final day of what turned out to be a 159 session — one day short of the maximum allowed length for odd-numbered years under the Oregon Constitution.

The closing hours featured breezy approvals of agency budgets, a bill to extend health insurance coverage to low-

come Oregonians regardless of immigration status, a measure that would regulate kratom and a bill to require public schools to provide free feminine hygiene products to students.

The Senate gave final passage to the final eight bills in a package of 22 designed to improve law enforcement officers' training, regulate officer conduct and increase their accountability for misconduct. The eight included bills to limit use of tear gas and rubber bullets, require large law enforcement agencies to gain national accreditation and create model training for workers across the criminal justice system to help them better interact with people who have experienced trauma.

Most passed easily with bipartisan support. But a bill to require state licensing of private security guards and a linchpin bill to create a statewide commission to set conduct and discipline standards for law enforcement officers and disallow police unions from negotiating a local discipline matrix as part of the union contract both passed more narrowly, on an 18-10 vote. Bills need 16 yes votes to pass the Senate.

In the House, the only bill



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that sparked any significant debate was a measure that would direct utilities to develop wildfire mitigation plans, bolster state firefighting capacity and require some property owners to establish buffers around homes and other buildings. The bill will also make a down payment on the vast backlog of forest restoration work that many fire, forestry and environmental officials believe will be critical to restoring forest health and reducing wildfire

severity.

The bill was on life support in the final week until a special joint committee was created to allow the chambers and parties to hash out their differences. In the end, it passed with minimal opposition.

As lawmakers endured the typical wait for the paperwork needed in order to complete the final day's business, House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, thanked representatives for their work during what a

session unlike any in Oregon's 162-year history.

"We're here because we're motivated by the people we serve," she said, noting that lawmakers—like many Oregonians—have endured wildfires, ice storms, and pandemic-related shutdowns over the past year.

"This work requires a lot of sacrifice," said Kotek. "I don't want to see you in July. I want everyone to take a break."

Kotek also noted that Cap-

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itol staff members have also endured challenging workplace circumstances, tearing up as she told of seeing a janitor clean her desk one night, and realizing the amount of work that the facilities staff had done to keep lawmakers safe during the pandemic.

The Capitol itself remained closed to the public during the entire session. Even with Gov. Kate Brown's announcement that most coronavirus-related restrictions will be lifted no later than Wednesday, the building's door remained shut, and lawmakers kept wearing masks right up until the end of the session.

## Trump airs old election grievances during campaign-style rally in Ohio

BY JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, Ohio — Donald Trump on Saturday reprised his baseless election grievances and painted a dystopian picture of the country under Democratic control in his first campaign-style rally since leaving the White House.

His mission, in part, was to exact revenge on one of the Republicans who voted for his historic second impeachment.

Trump's event Saturday night at Ohio's Lorain County Fairgrounds, not far from Cleveland, was held to support Max Miller, a former White House aide who is challenging Republican Rep. Anthony Gonzalez for his congressional seat. Gonzalez was one of 10 GOP House members who voted to impeach Trump for his role in inciting the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol building.

Trump wants them to pay.

In his remarks, Trump revisited some of the false claims familiar from his fruitless challenges of President Joe Biden's election victory. "On the evening of Nov. 3 the election was over and then all of a sudden things started closing down all over," he said of election night. "We took a massive victory, they did, into something that should never be allowed."

In fact, Trump was describing a legitimate vote counting process that saw Biden take the lead as the night wore on, as Democratic-leaning cities in key states and results from mail-in ballots were reported. Trump administration election officials and top election offi-



Tony Dejak/AP

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., talks with supporters before a rally at the Lorain County Fairgrounds on Saturday in Wellington, Ohio.

cial in Republican-led states affirmed the validity of the election outcome.

In another echo of the past, the crowd chanted "Lock her up" at the mention of Hillary Clinton, the Democrat he defeated in 2016.

Traffic was backed up from the fairgrounds into town, where pro-Trump signs dotted residents' lawns. On street corners, vendors sold "Trump 2024" flags and other merchandise as supporters arrived.

The rally, held five months after Trump left office un-

der a cloud of violence, marks the beginning of a new, more public phase of his post-presidency. After spending much of his time behind closed doors building a political operation and fuming about the last election, Trump is planning a flurry of public appearances in the coming weeks. He'll hold another rally in Florida over the July Fourth weekend unattached to a midterm candidate and will travel to the southern border in the coming week to protest President Joe Biden's immigration policies.

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