



Contributed photo/AFBF
President Donald Trump addresses the 100th Annual American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in New Orleans on Jan. 14.

Grant County overwhelming votes for President Trump

Local voting results solidly Republican

Blue Mountain Eagle

Although most major news organizations have called the presidential election for Democrat Joe Biden, Grant County voters overwhelmingly supported President Donald Trump and other Republicans on the ballot.

In Grant County, Trump carried 77.28% of the vote to 20.17% for former Vice President Joe Biden, according to final unofficial results Wednesday. In Oregon, however, Biden received 57.13% of the vote, compared to 39.87% for Trump.

According to Fox News, Biden secured 290 Electoral College votes — 270 are needed for victory.

Fox News reports the Democrats have picked up two Senate seats so far for a total of 48 Democratic seats to 48 for Republicans.

Grant County voters chose Republican Jo Rae Perkins for the U.S. Senate with 72.61% of the vote over 24.69% for incumbent Democrat Jeff Merkley. Statewide, Merkley beat Perkins 57.62% to 38.8%.

The Democrats gave up some seats in the U.S. House of Representatives but maintain a 215 to 196 lead over Republicans, according to Fox News.

In Grant County, 81.65% of voters chose Republican Cliff Bentz as representative for Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District over 15.6% for Democrat Alex Spenser. Districtwide, Bentz secured 60.03% of the vote, compared to 36.81% for Spenser.

Grant County voters chose Republican Kim Thatcher (77.34%) over Democrat Shemia Fagan (18.66%) for Oregon secretary of state; Republican Jeff Gudman (73.68%) over Democrat Tobias Read (19.59%) for Oregon treasurer; Republican

Michael Cross (76.56%) over Democrat Ellen Rosenblum (21.11%) for Oregon attorney general.

Statewide, however, the Democrats prevailed. Fagan secured 51.11% over 42.61% for Thatcher. Read secured 52.49% over 40.9% for Gudman. Rosenblum secured 56.69% over Cross with 40.78%.

Grant County voters supported Measure 107 to allow campaign contribution limits 65.94% to 34.06% but opposed the other three measures that passed at the state level. In Grant County, 52.77% voted against Measure 108’s tobacco taxes, 66.83% voted against Measure 109’s clinical “magic” mushroom use and 63.5% voted against Measure 110’s decriminalization of hard drugs.

Statewide, Measure 107 passed with 78.79% of the vote, Measure 108 passed with 66.84%, Measure 109 passed with 55.81% and Measure 110 passed with 58.8%.

Bentz wins 2nd Congressional District

Ontario Republican succeeds longtime Rep. Greg Walden

By Gary A. Warner
Oregon Capital Bureau

Republican Cliff Bentz of Ontario won by a wide margin in the race for the open congressional seat representing Central and Eastern Oregon.

Returns in the 2nd Congressional District showed Bentz with 60% of the vote against 37% for Democrat Alex Spenser of Klamath Falls. Libertarian Robert Werch of Grants Pass had 3%.

Bentz is the only Republican among the two U.S. Senators and five U.S. House members representing Oregon. He said he had worked with U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and Rep. Susan Bonamici, D-Beaverton, when they were all in the Legislature together. He’s worked with U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden on state issues as well.

Bentz said he’ll seek a bipartisan approach to the state’s efforts to handle the COVID-19 virus and an economic recovery from the pandemic’s impact. The delegation can also work on wildfire recovery — about 2,400 homes were destroyed in Talent and Phoenix, near Ashland, part of the district. He also hopes to cooperate on a transportation legislation.

“I am happy to work with all of them,” Bentz said.

Bentz, 68, will retain a seat the GOP has held for 40 years. Retiring U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River, has represented the district since 1999. The district has 50,000 more registered Republicans



File photo
Cliff Bentz

than Democrats. Walden usually won re-election with over 60% of the vote. Democrats hold the other four U.S. House seats, along with both U.S. Senate seats.

Given the district’s heavy Republican tilt, Bentz was favored to win the seat after his victory in the May 19 Republican primary. Bentz won 31% in a field of 10 candidates that included former Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, and former Sen. Jason Atkinson, R-Ashland.

CD2 sprawls across nearly 70,000 square miles, including all of the state east of the Cascades and a swath in the southwest that goes as far west as Grants Pass. It includes all or part of 20 of Oregon’s 36 counties. Other cities in the district include Bend, Redmond, Pendleton, Medford, Ashland and Grants Pass.

Bentz was born in Salem but spent much of his childhood in Harney County. He attended Regis High School, a Catholic school, in Stay-

ton. Bentz has a B.A. in history from what is now Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, and a law degree from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland. Bentz has worked at the Ontario law firm of Yturri Rose for 40 years, rising to become a senior partner.

Bentz was appointed to the House District 60 seat in 2008, then won re-election four times. Bentz was a key GOP negotiator on the Legislature’s bipartisan \$5.3 billion transportation package approved in 2017. In 2018, Bentz was appointed to Senate District 30.

During the campaign, Bentz cast himself as a strong supporter of President Donald Trump, saying he supported Trump’s proposed wall at the Mexican border and attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. He is opposed to abortion and favors revision of environmental laws to allow for greater land use.

In September, Bentz’s wife, Lindsay, tested positive for COVID-19. Bentz said she was asymptomatic. Though he tested negative, Bentz spent 14 days in quarantine.

Bentz says Trump’s statements on the COVID-19 pandemic have been “awkward,” but said he thinks Trump has been unfairly blamed for not doing enough to stem the virus, which has killed 230,000 Americans, including over 700 in Oregon.

The 117th Congress will be sworn-in on Jan. 3, 2021, at noon. Congressional districts will be reapportioned before the 2022 election, but CD2 is expected to remain a Republican stronghold.

THE OUTPOST PIZZA, PUB & GRILL AND TRUE VALUE HARDWARE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR BRAVE HEROES FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY AND PROTECTING OUR FREEDOMS.

Veterans Eat Free

AT THE OUTPOST ON VETERAN'S DAY - NOV. 11, 2020

John Day True Value
161 E Main St.
John Day • 541-575-0632

The Outpost
201 W Main St.
John Day • 541-575-0250

JD Rents/Outdoor and Power Equipment Inc
727 W Main St.
John Day
541-575-1156

Mobile Glass
27825 Wilderness Rd.
John Day
541-575-1055
CCB#175517

Michael B. DesJardin Dentistry, PC
208 NW Canton St.
John Day
541-575-2725

John Day Polaris
821 W Hwy. 26
John Day
541-575-0828
jdpolaris.com

Bank of Eastern Oregon
John Day
541-575-1862
Prairie City
541-628-7040

Grant County Building Supply
124 N Clark St.
Canyon City
541-575-3550

Mills Building Supply
751W.Main st.
John Day
541 575-1021

Gibco Ag & Industrial
312 N Canyon City Blvd.
Canyon City
541-575-2050

John Day Auto Parts NAPA
742 W Main St.
John Day
541-575-1850

Timber’s Bistro
742 W Main St.
John Day
541-575-0151

Oregon Telephone Corp.
1 Telephone Dr.
Mt. Vernon
541-932-4411

Subway of John Day
121 S Canyon Blvd.
John Day
541-575-0782

Gardner Enterprises
195 NE 2nd Ave
John Day
541-575-1410

Blue Mountain TV Cable
255 NE Elm
John Day
541 575-1116

These Businesses SALUTE Those Who Served

On Veterans Day, we salute the American veterans and active-duty military whose courage and dedication have protected our freedom and our way of life for generations. We recognize their service and their sacrifice, their selflessness and bravery, their hard work and their faith. Please join us in celebrating the men and women of our military, past and present, this Veterans Day. Proudly fly your flag, thank a veteran and show your support for those who continue to serve today.

Thank You, Veterans!

Solutions, CPAs
101 NE 1st Avenue
John Day
541-575-2717

Nydam’s Ace Hardware
652 W Main St.
John Day
541-575-0549

Malheur Lumber Co.
60339 Highway 26
John Day
541-575-2054

Radio Shack DP Home Entertainment
139 E Main St.
John Day
541-575-1637

Len’s Pharmacy
120 E Main St.
John Day
541-575-0629

MD Enterprizes
116 N Clark
Canyon City
541-575-2010

Columbia Power
311 Wilson St.
Monument, OR
541-934-2311

Les Schwab Tire Center
551 W Main St.
541-575-1346

1188 Brewing Co.
141 E Main St.
John Day
541-575-1188

Duke Warner Realty
“Your professional Real Estate choice in Grant County”
Lori: 541-575-2617
Sally: 541-932-4493
Babette: 541-987-2363

Blue Mountain Eagle
195 N Canyon Blvd.
John Day
541-575-0710

Grant County Automotive
200 E Main St.
John Day
541-575-0211

Tidewater Contractors
Mt. Vernon
541-932-4888

Land Title of Grant County
145 NE Dayton St.
John Day
541-575-1529

1st Choice Auto Body
700 S Canyon Blvd.
John Day
541-575-1786

5211530-1