



Oregon Primary Election Update 2018

2018 Primary Election Snapshot

- Incumbent Governor Kate Brown will face Rep. Knute Buehler, a physician, in a re-match in November. Buehler lost to incumbent Brown in the 2012 Secretary of State's race.
- Democrats control the House 35-25 and the Senate 17-13.
- All 60 House seats and 17 Senate seats are up for election.
- Three state senators and 19 state representatives have a free ride to re-election with no opponent.
- Two Senate Seats and seven House seats will be filled by newcomers.
- All five incumbents for Oregon's congressional delegation will advance.
- No races for U.S. Senate, Secretary of State or State Treasurer until 2020.

Governor

Governor Kate Brown handily won the Democratic nomination with over 82 percent of the vote. Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, won over 46 percent of the vote in a primary with 10 other candidates. The two will face off in the November General election.

Labor Commissioner

Former Majority Leader Val Hoyle wins 51 percent of the vote to prevail over former Tualatin Mayor Lou Ogden.

Political Upsets

Senate District 24

Former state rep. Shemia Fagan defeats five-term incumbent Rod Monroe

In a race that made national news, Shemia Fagin won 62 percent of the vote for the East Portland District. Monroe was not able to top 25 percent. The decisive factor was a vote he took last year opposing a housing bill that would have increased protections for renters. Physician advocates should note that Sen. Monroe was also one of the decisive votes opposing a bill from the Oregon Trial Lawyers to raise statutory caps on damages for wrongful death actions. This may play out again next session.

House District 32

Political newcomer beats Tillamook County Commissioner

Democrat Tiffany Mitchell, a children's advocate, led former legislator and Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi in this North Coast district.

Spotlight Races for the November General Election

Senate District 3

Democrat Jeff Golden, a television producer, will face Republican Jessica Gomez, an aide to Sen. DeBoer, for the seat formerly held by deceased Sen. Alan Bates. If the seat goes to Golden, it would give Democrats a super-majority in the Senate.

House District 11

Democrat Marty Wilde, executive director of the Lane County Medical Society, will face Mark Herbert in this Eugene race for the seat vacated by long-time state rep. Phil Barnhart.

House District 19

Rep. Denyc Boles wins 53 percent of the vote to face Democrat Mike Ellison in Salem. Psychiatrist Satya Chandragiri, who challenged Boles, received 11 percent.

House District 20

Selma Pierce, a retired dentist and wife of former gubernatorial candidate Bud Pierce, won the Republican nomination to face Rep. Paul Evans, an Air Force veteran. Democrats have a slight voter's registration edge in this Salem district but the race is expected to be one of the few Republicans can flip.

House District 54

Bend City Councilor Nathan Boddie, a physician, is running against La Pine School Board Member Cheri Helt for the seat vacated by Republican nominee for Governor Knute Buehler. Democrats have a voter-registration edge of 5,000 over Republicans in this district but a third of all voters are non-affiliated. A win by Boddie could mean a supermajority for Democrats in the House.

Congressional Race Highlights

U.S. Senate — None. Democratic Senator Ron Wyden was re-elected in 2016 and Sen. Jeff Merkley, also a Democrat, was re-elected in 2014. U.S. Senate terms are six years.

U.S. House of Representatives

All five incumbents win...as expected

All five members of Oregon's congressional delegation won their party's nominations for a 2-year term. Oregon's Congressional Delegation: Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-District 1; Rep. Greg Walden, R-District 2; Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-District 3; Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-District 4; and Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-District 5. U.S. House terms are for two years

What's next?

General Election Day is Tuesday, November 6.