



# SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Jackson County Commissioners choose Talbert to fill Senate District 3 seat** *Ashlander will hold position on interim basis until January*

SALEM – Retired Southern Oregon University administrator and long-time active community member Kevin Talbert has been selected by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to fill the seat for Senate District 3, which became vacant following the death of Sen. Alan Bates (D-Medford) earlier this month.

“We are excited to welcome Kevin Talbert to the Oregon Senate,” Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) said. “We all miss and relied upon Sen. Bates for his steady-handed approach to leadership and love of this state, and Sen. Talbert is in a position to help create a smooth transition as the Oregon Senate moves forward from the loss of one of our bright guiding lights. We are grateful to have a colleague join us who has a deep passion for Southern Oregon and has a long record of volunteer and public service in his community.”

The former Director of Extended Campus Programs and Chief Information Officer at SOU, Talbert was employed at the institution for 26 years. Even in his retirement, he continues to be involved in higher education. Talbert has served on the Rogue Community College Board since 2003 and was the president of the Oregon Community College Association for two years.

In his community, Talbert also has been active with the Ashland Food Project, Master Recyclers, Jackson County Master Gardeners and Oregon State University’s Land Steward Program. He serves on the steering committee for Friends of Research and Extension and is vice president of Crater Lake Natural History Association. He volunteers with the Jackson County Animal Shelter and The Nature Conservancy.

A United States Army veteran, Talbert also volunteered in the Peace Corps. He holds a PhD in Higher Education Administration from the University of Northern Colorado; master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse; and bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Minnesota. He earned a certificate in the Management of Lifelong Education from Harvard University.

Talbert was one of three nominees selected by the Jackson County Democratic Party Central Committee for consideration by the Jackson County Commissioners, who made the ultimate decision on whom to appoint. Talbert will hold the position on an interim basis until January. The winner of November's General Election race between Democratic nominee Tonia Moro, of Medford, and Republican nominee Alan DeBoer, of Ashland, will relieve Talbert and fill out the remaining two years of the four-year term.

"Nobody is going to fill Alan Bates' shoes," Talbert said. "I am just going to try to do the best I can to continue his legacy and I think it's important to represent the constituents of Southern Oregon as best I can for the time I am in office."

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