

Oregon News

POLITICS

Protesters rally at Oregon Capitol against Trump policies, Musk appointment

KGW | By Celine Stevens

Protesters gathered at the Oregon State Capitol on Wednesday to demonstrate against recent Trump administration policies, including [executive orders affecting transgender rights](#) and [immigration enforcement](#).

Former Republican gubernatorial candidate Christine Drazan defended the president's actions. "Elections have consequences, and the President is doing what he said he would do at the start of his campaign and throughout that campaign," she said.

New funding freezes for Oregon nonprofits helping immigrants gain legal status

Oregon Live | By Yesenia Amaro

Some nonprofit legal service providers in Oregon expressed dismay Wednesday following new federal notices they received that immediately froze grant funding designed to help legal permanent residents become U.S. citizens.

It's unclear if this funding hold is distinct from the one the Trump administration announced last month, which was rescinded in the face of legal challenges and judicial intervention over what could have been trillions in federal funds nationwide.

Doctor warned Oregon governor, corrections director of delayed cancer treatments for prisoners, poor care for women

Oregon Live | By Noelle Crombie, Ted Sickinger

Dr. Peter O'Hanley claimed [the chief medical officer, Dr. Warren Roberts](#), presided over [a dysfunctional health](#) care system that allowed prisoners to endure extreme delays in treatment of serious and even life-threatening illnesses.

Roberts also often dismissed the concerns of women and disabled prisoners and mostly ignored the recommendations of women delivering medical care at the women's prison, O'Hanley wrote.

After registration errors, Republicans take on Oregon Motor Voter law

OPB | By Dirk VanderHart

Last summer, state officials revealed that more than 1,500 [potential noncitizens](#) had been mistakenly registered to vote in Oregon. Now a group of Republican lawmakers wants to either change the law that allowed those errors, or scrap it entirely.

One bill introduced by House Republican Leader Christine Drazan, R-Canby, this week would require the Oregon Secretary of State to verify the citizenship of people who are automatically registered to vote after obtaining a driver's license or state ID.

Another would simply do away with such automatic voter registrations – a point of pride for some since Oregon helped pioneer the practice nearly a decade ago.

But for Republicans who had questioned the system's integrity, the breach provided evidence that not everything is as secure as their Democratic counterparts have often insisted.

"I have asked, 'How can we be sure that only citizens are registered to vote?'" state Rep. Kim Wallan, R-Medford, said in a legislative hearing about the problems [in September](#). "I've asked that question multiple times. I've usually gotten the answer: 'It's fine. We check.'"

HB 3470 isn't the only possible change on deck this year.

Another bill filed by Drazan and several other House Republicans, House Bill 3473, would scrap automatic voter registration entirely. That's a step that Democrats have offered no sign they'd support, and that groups that support the Motor Voter law would be sure to fight.

Oregon coast county mulls aiding ICE arrests, but rejects it, fearing repercussions from Salem

Oregon Live | By Zane Sparling

Coos County commissioners nixed a proposal to welcome federal immigration officials into their jails after hearing that the idea could place the county in legal jeopardy.

The proclamation, though technically nonbinding, would have offered full throated support for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the federal agency known as ICE.

On Tuesday, Coos County Sheriff Gabe Fabrizio and District Attorney Jody Newby told the county board that violating the state's "Sanctuary Promise" laws would put them at risk for loss of state funding and lawsuits, which wouldn't be covered by the county's insurance.

[Portland City Council grills top bureaucrat, grants him 11-month job extension](#)

Oregon Live | By Shane Dixon Kavanaugh

Portland's top bureaucrat, [a powerful fixture within the city's new form of government](#), will remain in his post through the end of the year after the City Council moved Wednesday to keep him on the job a while longer.

City Administrator Michael Jordan faced a fusillade of questions over [Portland's fiscal woes](#), his oversight of the city's bureaucracy and the decision by officials this week to grant fuel company Zenith Energy a controversial land-use credential that [some councilors vehemently oppose](#).

TRUMP

[Oregon Republicans respond to Trump order on trans athletes by touting state legislation](#)

OPB | By Dirk Vanderhart, Tiffany Camhi

[Senate Bill 618](#), introduced by **Senate Minority Leader Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles**, would require school districts to ensure that "every athletic competition or extracurricular sport is expressly designated by the biological sex of the students who participate in the competition or sport." The bill goes on to say there is no restriction by gender for students interested in competing in male sports.

Bonham, who was on hand to witness Trump sign the order Wednesday, said it was "a huge step forward, and Oregon leaders ought to follow suit to ensure our girls are protected."

[Oregon GOP lawmakers spearhead legislation aligning with Trump's executive order to not allow trans females to compete in women's sports](#)

KGW | By Katherine Cook

Drazan's efforts mirror SB 618, a bill that **State Sen. Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles**, just introduced. On Wednesday, Bonham attended Trump's signing of his "No Men in Women's Sports" executive order. "For too long, female athletes have been forced to compete on an uneven playing field," said Bonham regarding his own Senate bill. "This legislation will compel the OSAA to reverse its unfair 'gender identity participation' rule and restore competitive fairness in girls' athletics," Bonham's office shared.

[New Trump executive order targets transgender athletes — What it means for Oregon](#)

Portland Tribune | By Austin White

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Wednesday, Feb. 5, aiming to ban transgender women and girls from participating in female sports events.

A similar move was made on the Senate side with **Sen. Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles**, introducing Senate Bill 618. The bill echoes the sentiments of LC 3895, aiming to keep transgender girls competing against boys.

Bonham was in attendance for Trump's signing of the order in Washington, D.C.

"For too long, female athletes have been forced to compete on an uneven playing field," Bonham wrote in a press release. "Oregon girls deserve the chance to compete, break records, and win championships without biological males taking their opportunities away."

[Oregon Republican leaders announce bills to end transgender participation in girls' sports](#)

Central Oregon News Daily | By Travis Pittman

Oregon's two top Republicans announced Wednesday they are introducing bills aimed at preventing transgender athletes from participating in girls' sports. It comes the same day that [President Donald Trump announced an executive order](#) for a ban at the national level.

Oregon Senate Minority Leader **Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles**, attended Trump's announcement in Washington, D.C.

"For too long, female athletes have been forced to compete on an uneven playing field. Today's executive order restores fairness and upholds the fundamental principle of equal opportunity in women's sports," Bonham said in a statement. "Oregon girls deserve the chance to compete, break records, and win championships without biological males taking their opportunities away."

Bonham has introduced [Senate Bill 618](#), seeking to get the [Oregon School Activities Association](#) to change its policy on transgender athletes participating in girls sports. The bill "requires school districts to designate athletic competitions and extracurricular sports based on biological sex," a statement from Bonham reads.

[Oregon leaders and athletes react to Trump order on transgender sports participation](#)

KATU | By Tanvi Varma

President Donald Trump's [executive order](#) called "Keeping Men out of Women's Sports" threatens "to rescind all funds from educational programs" that let transgender girls and women play on girls' and women's sports teams.

[Oregon rep. Christine Drazan introduces state legislation to ban transgender athletes from girls' sports](#)

Fox News | By Makenna Marks, Dylan Scott

"I want to thank President Trump for taking executive action to protect women's rights and fair competition in women's sports. I urge our state to take similar action to protect women and comply with Title IX," Drazan concluded.

Oregon LC 3895 would require schools to designate athletic competitions and extracurricular sports according to biological sex, according to Drazan's office.

"Women have fought for—and earned—respect and support for themselves in sports and have made incredible gains in doing so. We must defend that progress and stand up for fairness," said Rep. Drazan. "We can respect the dignity of every individual without endangering women in sports," Drazan added.

[WATCH: Oregon Republican lawmakers attempt to mirror Trump's trans athlete ban](#)

KOIN

President Donald Trump's executive order blocking transgender athletes from competing in women's sports is drawing a variety of reactions — from condemnations to praise — in Oregon and beyond.

[How will Trump's executive order about transgender athletes affect Oregon? It's unclear](#)

Oregon Live | By Nik Streng

Oregon agencies said it would take time to determine the potential effects of [an executive order](#) signed Wednesday by President Donald Trump that prevents transgender athletes from competing in women's sports.

It's unclear what the federal government can do to control state activities associations, which are not public entities, and how deep their jurisdiction runs when it comes to controlling high schools.

HEALTH CARE

[Why Oregon's nursing home inspection unit is understaffed, overburdened](#)

Oregon Live | By Ted Sickinger

Since 2020, Oregon's [nursing home inspection team](#) has been budgeted for 47 positions but has never been staffed at that level, a fundamental cause of its [stubborn complaint backlog and inspection delays](#), state officials said.

Its average vacancy rate during that period was 25%. Officials blame the vacancies on high turnover, lengthy training to certify new inspectors and uncompetitive pay.

[Chicago consultants land half-million dollar contract to fix Oregon prison health care](#)

Oregon Live | By Noelle Crombie

The Oregon Department of Corrections plans to pay [an outside consultant](#) an estimated \$550,000 over the next year to assess the prison system's [troubled health care system](#), records show.

The agency said it wants Falcon to complete “a comprehensive assessment of its healthcare system in an expedited time frame” and the work will include providing “best-practice recommendations,” supporting “immediate needs, including crisis management” and communications.

The move to hire the outside consultants comes as Reese this week fired the top two managers overseeing the prison health system, [Dr. Warren Roberts](#) and his boss, Joe Bugher, assistant director of health services.

[Providence and nurses at 8 Oregon hospitals reach tentative agreement after 26 days of strike](#)

AP News

Key provisions of the tentative agreement with hospital nurses include wage increases and automatic penalty pay for missed breaks or lunch, the Oregon Nurses Association union said in a news release late Tuesday. It came after a week of in-person mediation requested by Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek.

Ratification votes will begin Thursday, the union said. Nurses will remain on strike during the vote and return to work if the agreement is ratified.

Meanwhile, doctors, nurses and providers at the women’s health clinics ratified their tentative agreement on Tuesday, and will return to work starting Thursday, Providence said.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

[Oregon homeowners face rising insurance costs as wildfire risk grows](#)

OPB | By Elizabeth Castillo

Insurers across the country are leaving high-risk areas that are affected by [disasters](#) such as wildfires. In Central and Southern Oregon, homeowners are facing [higher insurance premiums](#) and are [struggling](#) with a changing market.

In January, Oregon [released](#) wildfire hazard maps that create new rules for those living in high-risk areas prone to fire. Golden recently held a town hall in Medford and spoke with [frustrated residents](#) who were worried about the state’s final map.

“I have a lot of really concerned constituents. Most of the high hazard properties are in Jackson and Josephine County, followed by Deschutes County,” he said. “The mapping is really hard for people to understand on the ground.”

The bill would direct the Oregon State Fire Marshal to create a program for neighborhoods that would get certification for reducing their fire risk.

Risk assessors would walk through properties and identify home hardening measures, such as trimming trees or clearing mulch around the home.

Golden’s two previous attempts at passing the bill in Salem failed.

CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

[Number of people facing charges without a lawyer hits all-time high in Oregon](#)

KATU | By Christina Giardinelli

The Oregon Judicial Department told lawmakers the number of people waiting for trial without a lawyer has reached an all-time high.

The total number, 4,187, is up 11% from December 2024 to January 2025. Of those cases, 2,717 are misdemeanors, 425 are minor felonies and 312 are major felonies. Most of the individuals accused of crimes and awaiting an attorney have been released from custody; 191 people are awaiting attorneys while still in custody.

ENVIRONMENT

[Oregon lawmakers considering bill banning octopus farms](#)

Statesman Journal | By Tracy Loew

Oregon could soon become the third U.S. state to ban octopus farming, creating a West Coast blockade against the practice.

[House Bill 2557](#) would prohibit the raising and selling of farmed octopus for human consumption in the state.