

Oregon News

[ICE rounds up alleged kidnapper, rapist, robber and more in immigration crackdown](#)

The National News Desk

A suspected terrorist, gang members, and an alleged rapist are among the illegal immigrants federal authorities arrested in recent days.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is out in force for President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration.

Trump campaigned on mass deportations and stricter border controls.

ICE has announced [thousands of arrests](#) in the first two weeks of Trump's presidency.

POLITICS

[New poll finds voters' perceptions of Portland area are much less dire — but still far from rosy](#)

The Oregonian | By Mike Rogoway

People living in the Portland area are feeling much better about their communities, according to a new poll that finds negative perceptions are down sharply over the past three years.

The poll from DHM Research, conducted for the business group Portland Metro Chamber, found that just 38% of registered voters surveyed say their county is on the wrong track. That's down from 62% three years ago and 51% last year.

[Oregon cities push for infrastructure funding, more leeway to remove homeless camps](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle | By Julia Shumway

Oregon's cities will push the state Legislature to give them more money for roads, water and sewers, more power to remove homeless camps and more flexibility to spend hotel tax revenue on basic services.

City officials from around Oregon laid out those goals during their biannual City Day at the Capitol earlier this week, though it was quickly overshadowed by an announcement, delayed by court orders, that the Trump administration planned to immediately cut funding relied on by states and cities.

Some city priorities, including increased infrastructure spending, are shared by Democrats and Republicans in the Legislature. Others, including attempts to roll back a state law that limits cities' ability to remove homeless camps, will be a tougher sell in Salem.

Three bills — [Senate Bill 593](#) from Sen. Mark Meek, D-Gladstone; [Senate Bill 645](#) from Senate Minority Leader Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles, and [House Bill 2432](#) from several House Republicans — have been introduced to repeal the 2021 law but none has a hearing scheduled. Bonham announced those bills to scattered applause at the League of Oregon Cities forum.

[Oregon legislature mulls delaying clean truck rules to 2027 amid pushback](#)

KATU | By Vasili Varlamos

A legislative push is underway to delay the implementation of Oregon's Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) regulations, which aim to reduce emissions from large vehicles.

House Bill 3119 seeks to delay the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) enforcement of the ACT regulations, originally set to begin this year, until 2027. Proponents of the bill argue that implementing large electric vehicles on a wide scale is impractical.

[Oregon still hasn't classified thousands of sex offenders living in the state. Here's why.](#)

KATU | By Wright Gazaway

The Oregon state agency responsible for classifying thousands of sex offenders living in the state wants to remove a deadline to clear a backlog of unclassified sex offenders, a KATU investigation has found.

The proposed bill — Senate Bill 821 — removes a 2026 deadline to classify all sex offenders and is one of two pieces of legislation aimed at clearing a years-long backlog of unclassified sex offenders. The backlog is tied to a 2013 requirement from the legislature for the Oregon Board of Parole & Post-Prison Supervision to classify every sex offender in the state with a new risk assessment.

Republican State Sen. Cedric Hayden told KATU the proposals make Oregon a “sanctuary state” for sex offenders.

“It's frustrating. For years we've worked on this subject, and the problem is that the Parole Board is not catching up,” Hayden told KATU.

Hayden's office sponsored legislation after learning about the issue with Courtney and Jane that would require Oregon to accept classification levels from other states when people move to Oregon. It would reduce the workload for the Board of Parole and allow them to focus on the backlog.

“This bill that we're putting forward this session would actually say that the Parole Board has to accept that or something similar, to put them into our categories, and then if that person wants their due process to appeal it, give them a process to do that,” **Hayden** said.

The two senate bills aimed at reducing the backlog were sponsored at the request of Koteck. Her office told KATU the governor was “disappointed” that previous efforts to address the issue failed.

[Oregon lawmakers may prohibit lottery players from selling winning tickets](#)

The Oregonian | By Ted Sickinger

State lawmakers are considering banning winners of large prizes in the Oregon Lottery [from reselling their tickets](#) in order to block schemes that enable tax evasion and uncollected child support payments. Members of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection heard testimony Thursday in the first public hearing on House Bill 3115, sponsored by Rep. John Lively, D-Springfield. It would specifically ban individuals from selling or buying a winning ticket or share of a ticket, or claiming a winning ticket or share for another person for compensation.

[Oregon courts ask lawmakers for \\$8M to keep guns, contraband out of courthouses](#)

The Oregonian | By Noelle Crombie

The Oregon Judicial Department will ask the Legislature this session for about \$8.4 million to step up [courthouse security](#) to stop people from bringing guns, knives and drugs inside.

The money would fund 31 new positions to help screen people entering courthouses in Coos, Curry, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Polk, Clatsop and Linn counties over the next two years, according to the Oregon Judicial Department.

[Will Oregon expand ban on plastic checkout bags?](#)

Columbia Insight | By Nick Engelfried

[When Oregon banned retailers and restaurants from giving out plastic, single-use checkout bags](#) in 2019, environmental groups hailed it as a big step forward in the fight against plastic waste.

[The ban](#) “makes Oregon a national leader in the fight to protect our environment from plastic pollution,” Charlie Plybon, Oregon policy manager with the Surfrider Foundation, said soon after it cleared the Legislature.

Oregon's statewide plastic bag ban, the third in the country, prohibits stores from offering bags made of thin plastic film to customers at checkout.

[Bill would double fee on Oregon outfitters and guides to fund enforcement](#)

Statesman Journal | By Zach Urness

A bill in the Oregon Legislature would more than double the cost to register as an outfitter guide to fund a program designed to keep clients safe.

[House Bill 2558](#), introduced on behalf of the Oregon State Marine Board, would bump the price on Oregon outfitters up from \$150 per year to \$350 per year. It would also add a \$25 per year price to register as an “employee guide” — people that work for an outfitter and take clients into the wild.

The registration fee applies to everyone from fishing and hunting guides to outfitters that run rafting, biking and backpacking trips, and those who take people on scenic tours for photography.

[OHSU says no changes to gender-affirming care despite Trump executive order](#)

The Oregonian | By Kristine de Leon

Oregon Health & Science University, one of the country's leading providers of gender-affirming care for transgender people, says it expects no interruption in those services despite a recent federal order aiming to limit such treatments — for now, at least.

[Giant in Oregon politics, Peter Courtney, honored in celebration of life](#)

KATU | By Steve Dunn

The Oregon Legislature celebrated the life of Peter Courtney on Wednesday.

Courtney was the longest-serving legislator and Senate president in Oregon history. [He died from complications of cancer](#) in July at the age of 81.

The memorial was held at the Oregon State Capitol in the Senate chamber.

[Capital Chatter: Oregon celebrates the legacy of Peter Courtney](#)

Oregon Capital Insider | Opinion by Dick Hughes

Peter Courtney was a lifelong prankster.

As a new law clerk working in the Oregon Supreme Court Building, he became friends with the nighttime janitor. Courtney routinely would unplug the janitor's vacuum, hide it in the elevator and dispatch the elevator to a different floor.

I heard that story a few days ago. Many other tales were recounted during Wednesday's [celebration of life](#) for Oregon's longest-serving legislator and Senate president. Stitched together, the anecdotes and appreciations form the map of a life well-lived, a roadmap for statesmanship.

Former Senate President Courtney, D-Salem, [died July 16](#), 2024, at age 81.

Speakers during the two-hour program included Senate President **Rob Wagner**, D-Lake Oswego; former Secretary of the Senate **Lori Brouck**; former Gov. **Kate Brown**; **Connie Seeley**, chief of staff at Oregon Health and Science University, who worked for Courtney for 13 years; and the three main gubernatorial candidates from 2022 — **Christine Drazan**, **Betsy Johnson** and **Gov. Tina Kotek**.

HEALTH CARE

[A landmark Oregon hospital staffing law wasn't enough to avert a massive nurses strike](#)

The Oregonian | By Kristine de Leon

Oregon lawmakers in 2023 passed a groundbreaking [hospital staffing law](#) aimed at curbing nurse burnout, slowing turnover and ensuring safer patient care.

CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

[Portland bus driver who de-escalated alleged hijacking recounts harrowing 12 minutes](#)

The Oregonian | By Zane Sparling

After nearly a decade behind the wheel, TriMet bus driver Mike Perrault thought he'd seen it all as the depths of addiction and despair passed by his farebox.

Then Perrault [came face to face with death Wednesday](#). An armed man commandeered his Line 4 bus and forced him on a 12-minute-long nightmare drive through the streets of Portland's Old Town neighborhood, according to court documents.

Despite the literal gun to his head, the lifelong Oregonian de-escalated the situation, gave the accused hijacker a hug and got home safe to his wife and kids in Oregon City.