

OREGON SENATE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

DAILY CLIPS



Oregon News

POLITICS

[Farm stand rule changes put on pause, Gov. Kotek says, after significant blowback](#)

KGW | *By Jamie Parfitt*

Governor Tina Kotek said Thursday that she's directed state officials to hit pause on proposed new rules [concerning Oregon farm stands](#) after outcry from some of the state's most popular family farms.

[Oregon mom can move forward with adoption despite defiance of state's LGBTQ-affirming policies, court rules](#)

KGW | *By Jamie Parfitt, Ashley Koch*

An appeals court panel ruled that Jessica Bates can resume the process of adopting two young foster kids in Oregon as a lower court reconsiders her case.

[Director of Oregon Human Services Department to retire this fall](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle | *By Julia Shumway*

The longtime director of the Oregon agency tasked with caring for the state's most vulnerable residents will retire this fall.

Gov. Tina Kotek announced Thursday that she'll appoint Liesl Wendt, deputy director of the Oregon Department of Human Services, to succeed Fariborz Pakseresht when he retires Oct. 1. Pakseresht has worked for the state for 35 years, the last eight as the department's director.

His recent tenure has been rocky, including at least two public requests from employees for Kotek to fire him in [July 2023](#) and in [February of this year](#). In both instances, union-represented workers who care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities alleged that they were overworked, underpaid and routinely put in dangerous situations. Kotek strongly denied that those letters had anything to do with Pakseresht's impending departure during a press conference on Thursday.

[Kaiser to halt gender-affirming surgery for patients 19 and under across the US, including Oregon and Washington](#)

OPB | *By Amelia Templeton*

Kaiser members can seek referrals to outside providers, a spokesperson said. Kaiser Permanente will no longer provide surgical treatments for gender dysphoria at its hospitals and surgical centers for patients under the age of 19. The pause on some procedures is effective August 29, 2025.

[Trump administration investigates Oregon's transgender athlete policies](#)

Associated Press

The Trump administration said Friday it's investigating the Oregon Department of Education after receiving a complaint from a conservative non-profit group alleging the state was violating civil rights law by allowing transgender girls to compete on girls sports teams.

[Oregon DEQ booted its first environmental justice coordinator. Backlash swiftly followed](#)

The Oregonian | By Gosia Wozniacka

The dismissal of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's first environmental justice coordinator has triggered a backlash against the agency's director over what some employees say has been a glacial response to longstanding worker complaints of discrimination.

[Oregon State Parks face 14% budget deficit despite fee increases](#)

KOIN 6 | By Amanda Rhoades

Faced with budget cuts, Oregon State Park leaders are asking the public how it can better meet their needs.

"For more than a century, Oregon's parks have been a source of pride, joy, and connection for communities across the state," said Oregon Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Sumption.

['Hindsight is 20/20': Ethics commission investigates Oregon housing adviser](#)

The Oregonian | By Jonathan Bach

Oregon ethics officials are investigating whether a housing council member violated state conflict of interest law.

A citizen complaint prompted the Oregon Government Ethics Commission to complete a preliminary review of Oregon Housing Stability Council member Maggie Harris' alleged failure to declare a conflict of interest when she voted to fund housing projects her employer stood to benefit from.

[Oregon Lottery proposes new rules to protect state revenues, players and the integrity of its games](#)

The Oregonian | By Ted Sickinger

The Oregon Lottery Commission will consider [proposed rules](#) Friday that aim to crack down on questionable ticket sale practices, protect the integrity of its games, and safeguard its ability to sell and profit from Mega Millions and Powerball.

[Enterprise's Todd Nash reflects on 1st session as a state senator](#)

Wallowa County Chieftain | By Bill Bradshaw

As Enterprise's first state senator in more than a half-century, **Todd Nash** can take credit for some accomplishments that benefit rural Oregon.

The Republican was elected in November after serving two terms as a Wallowa County commissioner and two years as president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Nash succeeded fellow Republican Bill Hansell, of Athena, who retired last year.

TRANSPORTATION

[Oregon Department of Transportation director overhauls leadership structure amid funding crisis](#)

The Oregonian | By Carlos Fuentes

Kris Strickler, director of the embattled Oregon Department of Transportation, has restructured the [leadership of his agency](#) as it faces significant financial uncertainty and reckons with the departures of several high-profile leaders.

Under the new structure, which will officially go into effect Aug. 1, Strickler will [more directly oversee](#) the departments responsible for completing major projects and maintaining highways and bridges across the state. The agency will eliminate a position that previously oversaw those divisions and will establish a new deputy director position to manage other departments.

Strickler made the changes "as a reaction to our current budget constraints," he said in an all-staff email Wednesday. The agency faces a \$350 million shortfall after [lawmakers failed](#) to approve more funding in the recent legislative session.

[Transportation leaders caution Oregon officials on impending layoffs, highway funding loss](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle | By Shaanth Nanguneri

Leaders of Oregon's Department of Transportation issued their most dire warning to date Thursday about cuts to services, including road maintenance and snow plowing, if legislators don't patch a \$350 million hole in their budget.

[Rose Quarter project construction to begin next month despite loss of federal funding](#)

KGW | By Anthony Macuk

A month ago, the \$2 billion Rose Quarter Improvement Project was about halfway funded. One failed state transportation package and one [rescinded federal grant](#) later, it's now about one quarter funded. Nonetheless, it's going to break ground next month as planned; the Oregon Transportation Commission gave a final green light at a meeting Thursday morning.

[On tap for Oregon special session: 6-cent gas tax hike, transit funding and more](#)

OPB | By Dirk VanderHart

Gov. Tina Kotek said Wednesday she has a recipe to successfully divert mass layoffs at the state's transportation agency — and it doesn't look too different from a plan lawmakers failed to pass last month.

[Daniel Bonham about Tina Kabuki Kotek's scare tactics and her aim to pass a big tax increase on a holiday weekend when no one is watching](#)

The Lars Larson Show

[Capital Chatter: Special session? We have questions.](#)

Oregon Capital Insider | By Dick Hughes

Gov. Tina Kotek this week announced a special session on Aug. 29 for the Legislature to increase transportation taxes and fees and slap short-term bandages on ODOT's financial wounds.

We have questions, lots of questions.

Will Republicans show up or will they boycott, depriving the House and/or Senate of quorums for conducting business?

House Republican Leader **Christine Drazan** told the governor that four Republican members would attend to provide a quorum in the House.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Democrat Kotek said that when she talked with Drazan and Senate Republican Leader **Daniel Bonham**, "They said they didn't believe there'd be any quorum issues."

HOMELESSNESS

[Unclear how Trump order urging states to involuntarily commit homeless people will affect Oregon](#)

The Oregonian | By Howard Koplowitz

President Donald Trump on Thursday signed an executive order making it easier to [remove people who are homeless](#) from the streets as part of a set of policies the administration said would make America safer.

It is still unclear how the order will affect Oregon, according to several local and state officials, including Gov. Tina Kotek and Portland Mayor Keith Wilson, who said through spokespeople that they were still reviewing the order and not yet prepared to comment. Elizabeth Shephard, a spokesperson for Kotek, said that for now, "the governor is focused on her initiatives to address Oregon's homelessness crisis."

Oregon is among several states that [recently changed its own civil commitment laws](#), making it slightly easier to commit someone to involuntary mental health treatment. The push for that change came in part [from mental health advocates](#) who argued to legislators that it was too hard to compel family members suffering from severe mental illness and unable to make their own health care decisions to receive treatment.

One concern about Oregon's new law has been the state's limited number of residential treatment beds available to assign to people who have been committed. Given those limits, it seems unlikely that the state could immediately compel a significantly higher number of people to receive treatment in the way the Trump order suggests.

Relatively few people are committed each year in Oregon. Out of nearly 8,000 civil commitment filings in each of the last three calendar years, fewer than 500 people were actually committed, [according to the Oregon Judicial Department](#). In 2024, more than

1,500 additional people were treated as aid-and-assist patients at the Oregon State Hospital, according to hospital spokesperson Amber Shoebridge.

[President Trump's executive order on homeless crisis met with praise, pushback in Portland](#)

KATU | By Victor Park

President Donald Trump [signed an executive order Thursday](#) intended to make it easier for towns and cities to remove homeless people from the streets.

The order directs Attorney General Pam Bondi and the Secretary of Human & Human Services to end consent decrees that limit cities from moving people from streets to shelters.

The executive order redirects federal funding to ensure those causing public disorder or suffering from mental illness are moved into treatment centers or other facilities. It also prioritizes grants for cities and states that crack down on illegal drug use, camping and track sex offenders.

The president thinks the effort will make cities safer, as he claimed the order will remove drugs and violent criminals from U.S. streets.

The order comes after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Grants Pass, Oregon on ticketing homeless people for sleeping outside.

Currently there's a city ordinance allows Portland Police to arrest those camping on public right-of-ways when there is reasonable shelter.

On Thursday, Governor Tina Kotek signed a bill to fund a permanent statewide shelter program.

[Homeless shelters from Ashland to Portland to the Willows will now have one thing in common](#)

The Oregonian | By Lillian Mongeau Hughes

With her ceremonial signature on [House Bill 3644](#), Gov. Tina Kotek codified the creation of a new, permanent [statewide homeless shelter system](#) Thursday.

ECONOMY

[Intel says a fifth of its workforce will be gone by year's end](#)

The Oregonian | By Mike Rogoway

Intel put a number to its ongoing layoffs for the first time Thursday, indicating that it's in the final stages of eliminating more than 15,000 jobs across the company.

[Intel stock falls after company details job, spending cuts](#)

The Oregonian | By Tristin Hoffman

[Intel](#)'s stock sank 9.3% Friday after it reported mixed financial results Thursday and [revealed it would cut its workforce by 22%](#) this year.

CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

Oregon sheriff stripped of police certification for life

The Oregonian | By Kimberly Cortez

The [state's police certification agency](#) unanimously voted Thursday to strip [Deschutes County Sheriff Kent van der Kamp](#) of his police certification for life.

Van der Kamp said in June that he was resigning from office as of the end of July.

Demoted state police SWAT sergeant who fired gun as prank, drank while driving - rehired as patrol trooper

The Oregonian | By Maxine Bernstein

Oregon State Police leaders have quietly rehired a retired supervisor who was demoted as a SWAT sergeant for [drinking while driving](#) a police truck off duty and for [firing](#) his gun behind the head of a fellow tactical team officer as a joke.

'The code of silence is very real': Inside Oregon's troubled Snake River prison

The Oregonian | By Noelle Crombie

Women who work at Oregon's [largest and most geographically isolated prison](#) say they were [reluctant to report misconduct](#) by their colleagues, including groping and other unwanted sexual contact while on duty, out of fear their male counterparts would exact revenge and tank their careers, records show.

Prison count method gives rural Oregon districts unfair advantage, report says

Oregon Capital Chronicle | By Shaanth Nanguneri

Voters in eastern Oregon, Salem and other largely rural areas with [prisons](#) have a greater say in the state House than other Oregonians because of how the state calculates where incarcerated Oregonians reside, according to a report released by advocates Wednesday.

Coinbase says Oregon DOJ's contract with outside law firm created incentive to sue

The Oregonian | By Maxine Bernstein

A vice president of cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase, which Oregon's Attorney General Dan [Rayfield is suing](#), said he's been trying to understand why Oregon is the only state challenging the company after the federal Securities and Exchange Commission earlier this year agreed to [drop its own civil suit](#) against it.

So Coinbase filed its own [public records lawsuit](#) against Oregon's governor, after it alleged the state "stonewalled" its requests for records to learn what prompted the state's legal action, including contracts between the Oregon Department of Justice and two out-of-state law firms that are representing the state in its suit against the cryptocurrency company.

'A hotbed of illegal activity': County commissioner calls on Portland officials to bolster security outside Central Library

The Oregonian | By Austin De Dios

In the wake of a [deadly](#) downtown Portland shooting near the Multnomah County Central Library earlier this month, county Commissioner Meghan Moyer is putting pressure on Portland officials to address longstanding safety concerns in the area.

In a letter to Police Chief Bob Day and Mayor Keith Wilson, Moyer said the county can only do so much to protect its employees and patrons at its troubled [downtown branch](#).

CHILD CARE

[Secretary of State Refers Preschool Providers to Oregon Department of Justice Citing Fraud Risk](#)

Willamette Week | *By Joanna Hou*

A Wednesday investigation found potential fraud in various pieces of Preschool Promise.

[Advisory Group Weighs Whether to Recommend Indexing Preschool for All Tax](#)

Willamette Week | *By Joanna Hou*

A meeting of economists, policymakers and business owners outlines some of the challenges an indexing proposal may face, even as top state officials apply pressure to Preschool for All.

NATURAL RESOURCES & WILDFIRE

[Oregon wildfire survivors to pay federal taxes on settlements next year after state bill failed](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle | *By Alex Baumhardt*

A proposal to require utilities cover federal income taxes on settlements paid to powerline-ignited wildfire survivors died and a federal law providing relief is set to expire.

National News

[Fewer than half of ICE arrests under Trump are convicted criminals](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle | *By Tim Henderson*

Despite Trump administration rhetoric accusing Democrats of protecting violent criminals and drug-dealing immigrants, the administration's arrests have been catching a smaller share of criminals overall, and a smaller share of people convicted of violent and drug crimes, than the Biden administration did in the same time frame.

[‘Big, beautiful’ law draws mostly skeptical reaction in new nonpartisan poll](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle | *By Jennifer Shutt*

A majority of Americans believe Republicans' "big, beautiful" law will either hurt them or not make much of a difference, according to a poll released Thursday by the nonpartisan health research organization KFF.

[US Education Department to unfreeze contested K-12 funds](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle | *By Jennifer Shutt*

The Trump administration said Friday it'll soon release billions in Education Department funding that has been frozen for weeks, delaying disbursements to K-12 schools throughout the country.

The funding — which goes toward migrant education, English-language learning and other programs — was supposed to go out before July 1, but the administration [informed schools](#) just one day before that it was instead holding onto \$6.8 billion while staff conducted a review. Members of both parties in Congress objected to the move.