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## Oregon News

### [Democratic lawmaker Andrea Salinas plans to run for Oregon's new 6th congressional seat](#)

#### *The Oregonian \$\$\$*

A Democratic lawmaker who led the Oregon Legislature's recently completed work to redraw the state's congressional and legislative districts now appears to be planning a run for Oregon's new sixth congressional district.

Rep. Andrea Salinas, D-Lake Oswego, served as chair of the House congressional and legislative redistricting committees during the special session that wrapped up last week and according to people contacted by The Oregonian/OregonLive, Salinas has been making calls this week to inform people she plans to run for the sixth congressional district. Salinas, a second-term lawmaker who previously worked as a lobbyist for clients including immigrant rights group Causa and the state's largest public employee unions, did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Oregon's newly added 6th District is the state's only congressional seat without an incumbent. Salinas lives just outside the district, less than a mile east in the 5th District, represented by Democratic U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader. Members of Congress are not required to live in the districts they represent, but not doing so could be viewed as a political liability.

"It is telling to me that at least two of the people who've said they are running for (congressional district six) or are telling people they are running for (the district) are from the Portland area," Evans said. "I happen to think the Democratic Party is a bigger tent than people think it is ... I don't necessarily think (congressional district six) is a Portland perspective district."

The district covers agricultural areas including Yamhill County and the bulk of the state's Latino population in and around Woodburn and Salem. It includes some of Portland's southwest suburbs including Tigard and Tualatin and portions of Washington County immediately west of Portland. The district leans Democratic but is competitive, according to The Oregonian/OregonLive's analysis.

### [Oregon House committee co-chairs speak on new redistricting maps](#)

#### *KATU*

State legislators have made a decision that will impact everyone for the next ten years. Lawmakers have approved new legislative and redistricting maps, and because of Oregon's population growth, we received a new Congressional seat -- the first in almost 40 years. It's the redrawing of those Congressional districts that is getting a lot of attention right now. Generally speaking, Democrats are pleased with the outcome, while Republicans, for the most part, are not.

### [Rep. Janelle Bynum Will Again Seek to Become Oregon House Speaker](#)

#### *Willamette Week*

Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek, who is running for governor, will not step down as leader of the state House of Representatives. "Speaker Kotek plans to remain in her role through the 2022 session," says spokesman Danny Moran.

But that hasn't dissuaded Rep. Janelle Bynum (D-East Portland) from announcing she will

but that hasn't dissuaded Rep. Janene Bynum (D-East Portland) from announcing she will run again for speaker as soon as there's an opening.

The next vote for speaker, short of a resignation by Kotek, will come after the November 2022 election.

Bynum previously challenged Oregon's longest-serving speaker but, in January, withdrew her name from consideration after it became clear she did not have the votes.

Bynum says she intends to try again, but would not call on Kotek to resign. "That's up to her," Bynum says.

But after repeated Republican walkouts and tension between the GOP and Democrats, Bynum adds, it is time for new leadership.

"I think having different players at the table, or maybe having a different way of bringing together the standard players, is in order," Bynum tells WW.

### [Advocates warn of excessive exposure to air pollution in Oregon](#)

*KATU*

A new report from several environmental and health advocacy groups says the Portland metro area suffered through 55 days of elevated air pollution in 2020.

The groups say air pollution increases the risk of premature death, asthma attacks, cancer, and other adverse health effects.

"Even one day of breathing in polluted air is dangerous for our health," wrote Jessie Kochaver, Campaign Associate with Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center, in a news release. "Fifty-five days is unacceptable and we need to do more to deliver cleaner air for our communities."

### [Oregon OSHA administrator resigns to take job with Washington state](#)

*KTVZ*

Oregon OSHA Administrator Michael Wood will leave his post at the end of this month to take a job with the State of Washington, the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services announced Tuesday.

The department said it expects soon to name an interim administrator of the workplace health and safety division, with a national recruitment for the position planned.

"Michael has dedicated his career to public service, has skillfully steered Oregon OSHA through many challenges, and is leaving behind a strong team of highly skilled professionals who are ready to address new challenges," said Andrew Stolfi, DCBS director. "We will miss him and wish him well as he moves into a new phase of his impressive career in public service."

### [California company buys Oregon wood products firm](#)

*SF Gate*

A California forest products company has bought Seneca, a Eugene, Oregon-based company that had owned more than 100,000 acres of land in southwestern Oregon.

The News-Review reports Sierra Pacific Industries announced last week it had completed the acquisition. The combination of the two companies means Sierra Pacific Industries will have than 2.3 million acres of timberlands, 18 sawmills and eight renewable biomass energy cogeneration facilities, along with millwork and windows operations.

"This is a meaningful day for Sierra Pacific Industries, as well as for Seneca," Sierra Pacific

President George Emmerson said in a statement. “The combined company brings together an outstanding team of people that will leverage our shared expertise in sustainable forest management and innovation in manufacturing, working together to provide quality lumber and wood products to the marketplace.”

Sierra Pacific Industries is based in Anderson, California. It owns and manages timberland in California, Oregon and Washington and is one of the largest U.S. lumber manufacturers.

### [The Oregon Medical Examiner Says Deaths Related to Alcohol Rose Even Faster Than Fatal Drug Overdoses Last Year](#)

*Willamette Week*

The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission sold a lot more liquor in 2020 than it did before the pandemic—about 12% more, despite the widespread closure of bars and restaurants for parts of the year.

Lawmakers and the OLCC did their part to keep Oregonians lubricated, loosening the state’s notoriously strict liquor laws to allow cocktails to go and curbside delivery. All that made Mike Marshall, executive director of the advocacy group Oregon Recovers, wonder what the outcomes were.

It’s not pretty. State and national increases in drug overdoses during the pandemic have been well publicized but, according to the Oregon State Medical Examiner’s Office, alcohol fatalities rose even more.

### [Southern Oregon is plagued by illegal cannabis](#)

*OPB*

Since the legalization of marijuana, authorities have reported an influx of illegal cannabis growing in Southern Oregon. This has led to detrimental effects, such as fire hazards, clear-cutting and water theft. Sgt. Brandon Boice of the Oregon State Police joins us to share details on what is happening in the southernmost part of the state, and Chris Kaber of Klamath County will share what he’s seen as a sheriff.

### [Oregon's rural counties on their own if Covid vaccine mandate causes staff shortages](#)

*Salem Reporter*

Rural counties that fear first responders will quit in bulk ahead of a mid-October vaccine mandate need to come up with their own solutions instead of relying on the state, according to state officials.

Several rural counties have already declared emergencies based on their conclusion that firefighters, paramedics, teachers and health care workers will resign by Oct. 18 instead of getting vaccinated for COVID-19. In central Oregon, Jefferson County emergency manager David Pond, a sergeant with the sheriff’s office, estimates only 50% of the county employees subject to vaccination requirements have received vaccines. That number may tick up slightly before Oct. 18, but he said he still expects close to half of the county’s first responders will choose to be fired or resign rather than comply with vaccine mandates.

“On our best day, with nobody on vacation, nobody sick and a full staff, we’re still a really busy office,” he said. “If we had to work in a 50% capacity, people are going to wait a long time for their services, and some of those services may be critically important to you as someone calling 911.”

[OHSU's updated COVID-19 forecast shows case predictions in Oregon through March 2022](#)

*KATU*

OHSU released their latest COVID-19 report that shows Oregon's estimated positive case rate through March 2022.

According to the report, Oregon is the 26th highest in the U.S. in the number of new cases per day.

The total number of people hospitalized in Oregon due to the virus is currently 769. Of those, there are 207 coronavirus patients in Intensive Care Unit beds.

[Oregon's reported COVID-19 cases continue to decline](#)

*KTVZ*

The number of newly identified coronavirus cases has declined in Oregon for a fifth week in a row.

Oregon recorded about 10,400 cases in the last week, a 9% drop from a week earlier. That includes the 3,286 cases announced Monday by the Oregon Health Authority for the preceding three days.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the state's summer coronavirus rise and autumn decline generally mirror the national trend. But the highly transmissible delta variant proved troublesome for Oregon, producing the state's highest case counts and hospitalizations of the pandemic.

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