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Oregon News

[County clerks in Oregon inundated with calls for audit of 2020 presidential election](#)

Statesman Journal

Eleven months after the 2020 election, county clerks in Oregon are getting a new round of calls and emails disputing the results.

Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess said the requests for audits and canvasses of election results in the county have been coming since June. But he said they've picked up in the past few weeks following an audit of a county's election results in Arizona.

"People, they'll come and they'll start asking the question and then they won't wait for an answer," Burgess said. "They'll start railing away and sometimes with a lot of obscenity and all, too."

In the 2020 presidential election, voters in Marion County swung to Democrat Joe Biden over Republican Donald Trump by 49.2% to 48%, a margin of 1,870 votes out of 164,308. That was a reversal from the 2016 election when Trump carried the county.

Burgess said the calls and emails have also become threatening, including some he's forwarded to the FBI in the past few weeks. He said some of his election staff don't want their photo taken for fear of being tracked.

"It seems to go in waves," he said. "Sometimes you can't tell if these are direct threats or not."

[Oregon Nurses Association proposes new policies to retain employees](#)

KPTV

As the health care staffing shortage continues to impact the state of Oregon, the Oregon Nurses Association is proposing new policies to better retain its employees.

The Oregon Employment Department says health care has consistently had the most vacancies of any industry in the state since 2013, the pandemic burn out and vaccine mandates have only made things worse.

One of the policies proposed by ONA during a meeting Thursday includes asking hospitals to pause their plans of returning to operating at maximum capacity. This comes as 60 percent of nurses at OHSU indicated they are considering leaving the profession entirely, that's according to Matt Calzia, a registered nurse and member of ONA.

[Oregon nurses union floats plan to reduce burnout](#)

OPB

Oregon's largest nursing union announced plans Thursday for dealing with a chronic shortage of nursing staff tied to exhaustion.

Leaders of the Oregon Nurses Association said their 15,000 members are stretched to breaking point. A recent survey of nurses at Oregon Health & Science University found 86% reported fatigue, burnout and moral distress, and 60% said they are considering leaving the profession.

Union president Lynda Pond said going back to business-as-usual as the number of COVID-

19 virus cases drop is not enough.

[Oregon reports record 59 COVID-19 deaths](#)

The Oregonian

The Oregon Health Authority on Thursday reported more COVID-19 deaths -- 59 -- than it had reported on any previous day of the pandemic.

Officials haven't yet released the dates of death for the 59 people. But it's extremely unlikely they all died on the same day, given common delays in collecting and reporting data. In fact, Thursday's tally might include some weeks-old fatalities that had gone unreported.

The previous record for most COVID-19 deaths announced in one day was 54 on Jan. 12 and again on Sept. 7.

Meanwhile, the health authority reported Thursday the number of new known daily cases continued to fall, to 1,453 cases, one of the lowest numbers reported on a weekday over the past two months.

Breakthrough cases: The health authority's weekly report on breakthrough cases found that about 76% of infections identified between Sept. 26 and Oct. 2 were in people who were unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. Some 24% of known infections were in people who'd received one Johnson & Johnson dose or two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines at least 14 days before they tested positive.

That amounts to 2,542 weekly breakthrough infections out of a fully vaccinated population of about 2.5 million Oregonians, versus 7,869 weekly infections among the roughly 1.7 million people who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.

So far in the pandemic, 4.5% of all people who've experienced a breakthrough case in Oregon have been hospitalized, and 0.8% have died, according to the health authority. Read the full report here.

[Judge rejects request from 33 state troopers to halt Oregon vaccine mandate](#)

KVAL

A judge has rejected a request by 33 Oregon State Police troopers to temporarily halt a mandate that requires them to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Oct. 18.

Retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice Jack Landau said in a written opinion Thursday that based on case law "the police power of the state includes the authority to enact public health laws that may have the effect of curtailing individual rights," The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

[Oregon redraws congressional, legislative districts](#)

Tillamook Headlight Herald

Republican reaction

House Republican Leader Christine Drazan (R-Canby) said the partisan maps are a wake-up call for Oregonians.

"They know Democrats had to cheat to get these maps across the floor," Drazan said.

"Democrats in Oregon have passed rigged political maps that will guarantee super-sized majorities in the legislature and immediate control of more than 80 percent of Oregon's congressional seats. They should be ashamed that they have gerrymandered Oregonians out of their shot at fair elections for the next decade. This is by no means over."

Drazan said the congressional map adopted by the legislature is illegal, drawn for partisan benefit and will not survive legal challenge.

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