

## Heads up

- Getting a vaccine: <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>
- Sign up for Oregon Health Authority Corona Virus updates at: <https://tinyurl.com/sy9petk>
- Questions about boosters and third doses? <https://tinyurl.com/u6tw34b8>

## 2020 Census

# Seniors grow with population changes

Oregon's senior population increased by some four percent, more than 250,000 in the last decade, according to the 2020 Census.

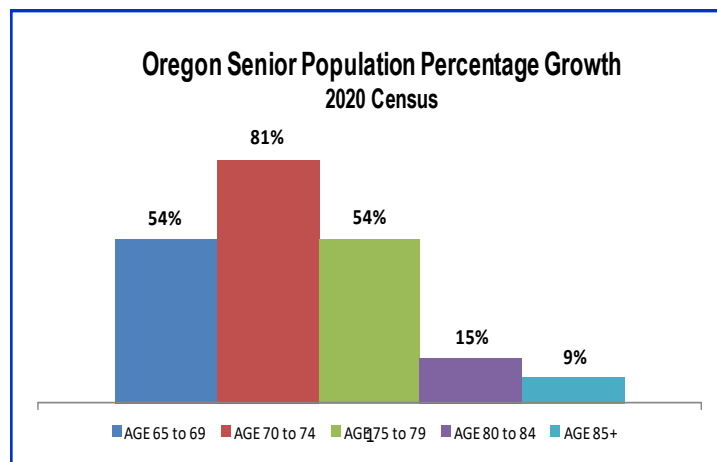
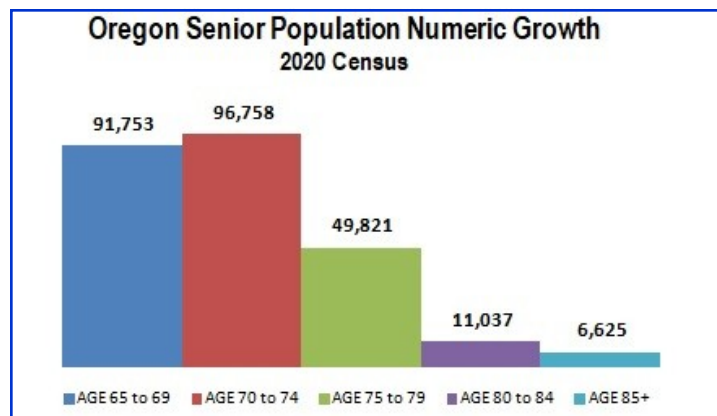
Seniors 65 and older now account for 18.2 percent of Oregon's total population.

At the other end of age categories, the count showed a seven percent decline in the count under age 5.

Among Oregon seniors, the greatest increase at 81 percent since the previous Census was in the 70 to 74 age group. Of that change women comprise 53 percent, men 47 percent.

Most discussion over the 2020 once-a-decade population count focuses on Congressional re-districting (see Page 3, *Legislative Activities*). But population growth speaks to many changes.

Oregonians on Medicare, for example, grew about 42 percent from 2010 to 2020, or nearly some 880,000 recipients. While most assume re-



Source: 2020 U.S.A. Census Data

## Social security up; but Medicare Part B premium?

Social Security recipients, as has been widely reported, will see an increase of 5.9 percent in their monthly benefit in 2022.

Not yet decided, is any change to the premium for Part B, covering medically necessary and preventive services.

Usually overlooked or more often unknown by viewers of Social Security, the premium is automatically deducted from monthly social security payments.

The 2021 monthly deductible is \$148.50, an increase of \$3.90 over

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Louise Currin  
President

## Dear Retiree Members . . .

I had thought that we would be easing out of the Pandemic by now. However, the Delta variant chose to surprise us -- back to masks, social distancing and Zoom get-togethers even for those of us fully vaccinated.

Speaking of vaccinated, most of us can get boosters now, so do it if you are eligible. By the time you receive this newsletter, Eryn Byrum, director of Labors' Community Services Agency (LCSA) will have addressed our October 20, membership meeting. She shared with us

news about LCSA's current annual fund drive in conjunction with the United Way of the Columbia Willamette. You'll be receiving communications from me addressing the drive.

In case you aren't familiar with LCSA, it is a non-profit organization supporting union families who have fallen on hard times. Support sometimes comes as help with rent, utility payments, food, medical bills, and other needs. LCSA also sponsors the great holiday party for needy families.

Volunteer AFT-Oregon retirees for many years have been making and contributing Christmas stockings to add to the holiday spirit.

This year our retirees have cut and sewn more than 400 stockings in two work parties in September and October, coordinated by our first chapter president, Val Jack. We are looking forward to an as yet to be determined fall or winter celebration, I hope in person, with all of you.

In Solidarity,  
Louise

**Members  
volunteering  
for LCSA's  
holiday  
activities have  
produced over  
800 stockings**



*Cookie Cook, left, and Debbi Covert cut material for stockings for Labor's Community Service Agency's Presents from Partners winter holiday event, while Dean Pfaender, right, sews cut pieces into stockings. Others volunteering included Vicki Blevens, Greg Monahan, and Deanna Woods.*

### *Actively Retired in Oregon*

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## Legislative Activities

# Re-organizing the representation maps



Greg Monahan  
VP Legislative  
Activities

*A map of the new sixth district with Oregon's cities and counties included is viewable at:*

<https://tinyurl.com/dhp7nput>

Redistricting was the single focus of the just concluded special session, making Oregon the first state to complete the decennial redistricting required by the U.S. Constitution after a census.

Republicans, as many had expected them to do, did not walk out, at least in part, because the new state house and senate district lines did not always favor Democrats. Many believe they did, but Republican incumbent seats were also largely protected.

Some Republican officials like Senator Tim Knopp (Dist 27, Bend), noted that Republicans probably got a better deal than if the legislative process had failed and defaulted to Democratic Secretary of State Shemia Fagan.

Others noted Democrats were not quite so even-handed in redrawing the map to

incorporate the new U.S. House seat Oregon's population growth attained in the recent census. There, Democrats pushed through a map virtually insuring new sixth district covering a region southwest of Portland, will be a Democratic seat.

Republicans are suing in a Salem court to challenge that map. We will have to see if the courts decide to intervene.

State Rep. Andrea Salinas (Dist. 38, Lake Oswego), who chaired the Democratic-led redistricting committee, is expected to run for the new congressional seat. Salinas has been a supporter of unions in Oregon and can probably expect to receive union support if she runs. No other candidates have yet expressed an interest.

As always, AFT retirees are encouraged to remain informed and active!

## Three laws stand after referenda efforts fall short

Failure to secure the necessary 74,680 signatures needed to put a referendum on the ballot doomed each of three referenda to undo laws enacted by the 2021 Legislature, including one on submission of mail ballots.

Under House Bill 3291, mail ballots postmarked by election date and received within seven days after, can be counted, changing from receipt by election day.

Another referendum attempted to override HB 2681 requiring reports and reasons on moving voters to inactive status, and prohibiting moving to inactive simply for updated reg-

istration or did not vote.

The third effort sought repeal of SB 554 banning firearms in the Capitol building

and provisions and liabilities for firearm storage and transfer, and reporting firearm loss or theft.

## Census numbers and seniors

*continued from Page 1*

recipients are seniors 65 and older, they comprise about only about 87 percent, while the other 13 percent of recipients include those younger with qualifying disabilities and children.

Poverty is another issue. An Oregon State Employment Department November, 2020 report said that "Oregonians age 65 and over make up 19 percent of the state's population," although that slice of the state's population represents "just 13 percent of those in poverty" in Oregon.

## Social Security

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2020. But, depending on modified adjusted gross income, the deductible could range as high as \$504.90. Social Security Trustees last August recommended a \$10 increase in premiums for 2022. No word yet whether that will happen.

## AFT-Oregon Retirees



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Visit us on the web

**AFT-Oregon Retirees**

and AFT-Oregon Retirees on Facebook

### Upcoming Events:

Member Meetings 2022

*(All meetings begin at 10 a.m.)*

- Jan 19 *(Location to be announced)*
- May 18 *(Location to be announced)*

Executive Board Meeting

- Nov 10, 2021, AFT-Oregon Office

Other Programs and Activities  
*To Be Announced*

## Board wants Oregon delegation on board

### ***Covid-19 is a threat still out there***

Links to local sites with Covid-19 updates and information:

- [Multnomah County Health Department](#)
- [Clackamas County Coronavirus](#)
- [Washington County Health Department](#)
- [Lane County Health Department](#)

The Retirees Executive Board is urging everyone in Oregon's Congressional delegation to add their voices and votes in support of companion U.S. House and Senate proposals to expand coverage to include the cost for early screening a range of cancers.

At its October meeting, the Executive Board agreed with other supporters of including costs in Medicare for the early screening and sent a letter to five of the state's seven members of Congress to add their names as co-sponsors of H.R.1946/S.1873. Both House and Senate versions are known as "Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act of 2021." Each was introduced in March, 2021.

Oregon Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-3rd Dist.) and Kurt Schrader (D-5th Dist.) already are among the 96 House co-sponsors, signing on in June and July,

respectively. Oregon's two senators are not among the Senate's 22 co-sponsors.

Early screening, research shows, enables doctors to find cancers in early stages for more effective treatment for all racial, socioeconomic, and geographic groups. Early screening is credited with saving lives.

A multi-cancer screening test is currently being considered for approval by the FDA.

AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter is joining with other local supporters including Cancer Action Network, Ovarian Cancer Alliance, League of Minority Voters, Girls Inc. of the Pacific NW, and Technology Association of Oregon.

For more information, find details at: <https://tinyurl.com/y7k2rf36>.

— Deanna Woods and Dick Schwarz contributed to this story