

Heads up

- Getting a vaccine: <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>
- Questions about boosters and third doses? <https://tinyurl.com/u6tw34b8>
- Reserve your ticket for June 26 Chapter Summer Outing at Hillsboro Hops *See Page 4*

Volume 2022 Issue 2

May 2022

Actively Retired in Oregon

AFT-OREGON RETIREES

Leaders in percentage vote

Highest election participation? Seniors

When it comes to voting, Oregon seniors rule. That's according to the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2020."

Breakdown from the every two-year report, the latest available, showed 81.5 percent of the state's citizens aged 65 and older were registered to vote with 79.5 percent voting. That's the highest turnout among all age groups. Next closest was age 45 to 64 at 77.5 percent voting.

The lowest was age 18 to 24 at 56.1 percent voting, barely half the demographic. The report broke down voter registration and voting for age groups by region and divisions within each region. Seniors generally represented higher turnouts in all breakdowns.

Oregon ranked fourth overall (79.9 percent registered; 71.3 voted) behind Washington DC (86.9 percent registered; 77.8 voted), Minnesota (82.9 percent registered; 74.3 voted), and Mississippi (78.3 percent registered; 72.4 voted).



Census data tables at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8nydye>

Find your spot on political landscape

Ever wonder where — on a line from "solid liberal" to "core conservative," and points in between — your views and values land on the political landscape?

Pew Research Center's quiz can tell you. It developed a "political topology" quiz to help those wanting to know.

Based on a "nationally representative survey of more than 10,000 U.S. adults," it produced and defines nine groupings along the political range, allowing individuals to find their best match compared to the national survey. There's also an option for a classroom or community to take the quiz and compare to the general public.

Pew advises that if some of the questions seem difficult to answer, "pick the answer that comes closest to your view, even if it isn't exactly right."

Take the quiz at: <https://tinyurl.com/59a3zxbv>

Pew says its goal is to "inform the public about issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world" through public opinion polling, demographic research and "data-driven social science research." It does not take positions on public policy.

Dear Retiree Members . . .



Louise Currin
President

Don't forget

Ask friends
from your AFT
Local to join the
Retirees Chapter

I want to publicly express my gratitude to our Executive Board members for all their work and the support they have been to me as your President. They have done an amazing job.

VP for membership Richard Schwarz put together an amazing event for our annual meeting and Founders' Charter Day celebration. He also has been working diligently to increase our membership. VP for Political Action Greg Monahan has been working on a proposal that PERS provide a one-time increase in benefits because of the rise in the cost of living. Treasurer Dean Pfaender and Secretary Deanna Woods continue to provide excellent records.

At the April AFT-Oregon "Spring Training" leadership development program in Salem, our Retiree Chapter newsletter, *Actively Retired in Oregon*, received the state federation's Communications Award for General Excellence, reflecting the high quality efforts of Val Jack, editor, and

Richard Schwarz, associate editor. Thank you Val and Dick for providing this wonderful publication that keeps our members informed on a variety of issues.

I also want to thank AFT-Oregon President Jaime Rodriguez for his important support helping us to organize and to increase our membership.

Speaking of membership, if any of you have friends from your AFT Local, please ask them to join us; or let us know with an e-mail to retirees@aft-oregon.org, with their name and contact information.

We are hoping many of you will take part in our next planned event, a summer outing for members at the June 26, Hillsboro Hops vs. Vancouver Canadians baseball game. Details can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Have a great summer!

In solidarity,
Louise
President

Members adopt amendments at annual meeting

With greetings from the state and national representatives and guests, members tackled several amendments to the Chapter's Constitution and By-laws at the May 3, Founders' Charter Day Celebration and Annual Meeting.

Among the changes are:

- Authorization to award Honorary Membership to "any person who has provided exceptional service to Oregon seniors and retirees."
- Deletion of the position of First Vice-President, which has been

vacant for more than three years, and unfilled for almost one-third of the time since the Chapter's founding in 2004.

- Opening nominations for office for at least thirty days ahead of the annual meeting. Regular elections are in odd-numbered years.
- Conducting elections for contested offices within 15 to 30 days of the close of nominations at the annual meeting.
- Authorizing remote membership and Executive Board meetings instead of in-person, whenever a gov-

ernment declares a health, weather, natural or other disaster emergency. The pandemic demonstrated the need for guidance for conducting remote meetings.

AFT Western Region Director Ramiro Hernandez and AFT-Oregon President Jaime Rodriguez brought greetings from their affiliates to the members gathered at the Colwood Golf Center restaurant for the annual meeting, the Chapter's 18th anniversary. Bonnie Luisi, President of OSEA Retirees, was a guest.

Actively Retired in Oregon

Published quarterly in the months of February, May, July and October, by AFT-Oregon Retirees, 10228 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, Oregon 97219. Office: 971-888-5665 (messages)

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Richard Schwarz

VP Legislative Activities
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Editor
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Associate Editor
Dick Schwarz

*Legislative activities***Election results shape November contests**

Greg Monahan
VP Legislative
Activities

Initiative Approved for Circulation and still active

IP1 - No Fake Emergencies

IP3 - Environmental Quality Commission Reform Act

IP6 - Oregon People's Rebate

IP14 - Legislative Accountability 1

IP17 - Reduction of Gun Violence Act

IP18 - Reduction of Harm from Weapons Act

Find details at:

[http://
egov.sos.state.or.
us/elec/
web_irr_search.
form](http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web_irr_search_form)

Clackamas County's troubled ballot counting disrupted by a blurred bar code printing error finally produced a winner in the Democratic primary. Here's what we now know about primary results:

Congressional races. AFT-Oregon's recommended candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner succeeded in defeating incumbent Kurt Schrader for the Democratic nomination in Oregon's fifth district.

Andrea Salinas defeated Carrick Flynn for the Democratic nomination in the new sixth district, proving that a massive contribution of outside money from a crypto-billionaire could not buy that nomination. Labor-friendly candidate Val Hoyle easily won the Democratic nomination to try to fill the seat of retiring Congressman Peter DeFazio in the fourth district.

Republican candidates in each of these districts tend to be more conservative than past candidates, putting in play whether Oregon will maintain its heavy Democratic majority in the Congress.

Governor's race. This race is historic, featuring three women competing for the four-year office for the first time.

Former House Speaker Tina Kotek easily defeated Oregon Treasurer Tobias Read for the Democratic nomination, while former State House Minority leader Christine Drazan won the Republican nomination.

The race has been unsettled by the entrance of a wild card, conservative Democrat Betsy Johnson, who is running as an independent, unaffiliated with any party.

Johnson is attracting corporate money normally contributed to the Republican candidate and is expected to be a force to reckoned. Historically, she has been unfriendly to Oregon's public employee unions and, in the last session, helped force passage of Senate Bill 1049 that reduced PERS benefits for those future retirees.

State Legislative races. The next legislature will see many new faces as well, after a large number of legislators chose not to seek reelection. Members reading this should stay alert and pay special attention and learn where these many new candidates stand on issues important to union members and union retirees.

Initiatives. So far, no controversial ballot measures have reported meeting the required signatures for the November ballot.

Approved for circulation and still active are three initiatives proposing constitutional amendments, and three proposing laws ranging from a people's rebate to preventing gun violence. July 8, is the deadline for signatures.

As always, I encourage you all to stay informed, stay involved, and above all, vote!!

Exec Board wants PERS inflation bump from next Legislature

AFT-Oregon should "join with other unions and employee groups in the state" to "enact a one-time inflation adjustment to the pensions of PERS retirees," the Retirees Chapter Executive Board wrote in April after its monthly meeting.

In a letter to AFT-Oregon President Jaime Rodriguez and Executive Council the Chapter's Executive Board urged the state federation "forcefully demand" from the 2023 Legislature "an appropriate" adjustment. It called the recent PERS two percent increase "tiny" compared to the Social Security average 5.9 percent inflation adjustment last January.

The Chapter seeks the one-time adjustment "so that employees who have given their working lives to this state do not find themselves seriously harmed by this post-Pandemic inflation."

AFT-Oregon Retirees



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Visit us on the web

AFT-Oregon Retirees

and AFT-Oregon Retirees on Facebook

Upcoming Events:

Programs, Events and Meetings

- June 26, 1:05 p.m., Hillsboro Hops summer outing, Ron Tonkin Field, Hillsboro
- August 9, Invitation to OSEA ROSE summer picnic, TBA
- October 8, 10 a.m. election roundup and forecast, TBA

Other events announced individually

Executive Board Meetings

(Unless announced otherwise, all convene at 10 a.m. at the AFT-Oregon office)

- June 8
- July 13
- August 10

Hillsboro Hops baseball game

Mark calendars for summer membership outing

More about tickets

Click link or scan code to reserve ticket.

When reserving a ticket, members can request an additional ticket if any remain available.

Those making the request will be contacted.

The Chapter requests a \$10 contribution for an additional ticket.

Take a relaxing Sunday outdoors. Have a snack. Hang with retiree friends. Enjoy some baseball.

AFT-Oregon Retirees Chapter is sponsoring a summer outing June 26, for a game between Hillsboro Hops and visiting Vancouver Canadians at Ron Tonkin Field, Hillsboro.

The Chapter has 25 tickets for members to request first-come, first-served.

Each ticket includes a \$5 voucher usable at any of the ballpark's concession stands.

Seating is in the Field



Grandstands Section 14, in consecutive rows and seats right behind the visitor's dugout .

The summer outing is part of the Chapter's efforts to expand and add variety to its programs and activities.

Reserve a ticket by June 22, at: <https://tinyurl.com/7v4kx6rf>.

