

OREGON

Voters in Oregon will elect a Governor this cycle. All 60 House seats will be on the ballot as well as all half (15) of the Senate. The gubernatorial race is expected to be competitive. Republicans have a chance to make gains in the legislature as well.

Governor

Unaffiliated Candidate

[Betsy Johnson](#)

Former state Senator Betsy Johnson is seeking to replace term limited Governor Kate Brown (D) this cycle. She has served as a state representative and most recently as a state senator for 20 years before retiring last year to launch a bid for the governorship. She left the Oregon Democratic Party last year changing her party affiliation to run in this election.

Building off her lengthy career in state politics—she was considered to be a moderate and business-minded legislator unafraid to vote with Republicans even on wedge issues—Johnson’s message is all about bi-partisanship and finding common ground. Her campaign issues revolve around curbing homelessness, crime and public safety, and easing business regulations.

Johnson has proposed setting up emergency shelters, increasing job training, and reducing regulations for building houses as methods to curb homelessness.

Oregon decriminalized personal-use amounts of hard drugs in 2020 through a ballot initiative (Measure 110). Johnson’s campaign has tied this law to an increase in crime – casting blame on the Brown administration for ineffectively rolling out the initiative. Although, she has promised to work and repeal this law, in the meantime she has pledged to direct funding to treatment and recovery programs to treat those suffering from addiction. She has also pledged to increase training and the size of the state’s police force to reduce crime.

Johnson has additionally promised to work with companies committed to growing in Oregon pledging to decrease taxes and ease regulation. She has signaled, with companies such as Intel leaving the state, the next governor will need to be willing to find the middle ground with the legislature and the private sector in order to protect jobs in the state.

The [first debate](#) of the general election was held on July 29. The three major gubernatorial candidates will take to the debate stage once again on October 6.

Trivia: Johnson is a pilot, who represented the United States in the world helicopter championships in Vitebsk, USSR in 1978.