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Secretary of State Kate Brown Cheers 41 Percent Turnout *Oregon turnout well ahead of three states with Tuesday primaries*

SALEM -- Secretary of State Kate Brown said Wednesday that she was gratified that Oregon voters proved her wrong and easily exceeded her turnout projection for the Tuesday primary election.

After the first six days of voting, Brown projected that turnout, when all the votes were counted, would reach 37 percent. But the results Wednesday showed turnout at 41 percent, a number that may increase by the time the official vote is tabulated.

"I am grateful to be proven wrong," Brown said. "A 41 percent turnout surpasses the 38 percent turnout in the primary four years ago and puts Oregon in the top tier of states for turnout in this primary season. We can certainly do better. But this is a reminder that Oregon voters not only pay attention to the issues but, thanks in large part to vote-by-mail, make their voices heard."

Oregon easily exceeded the turnout in three states that had highly visible, contested primaries Tuesday for the U.S. Senate. The turnout in Kentucky was 33 percent; in Arkansas, 25 percent; and in Pennsylvania, 22 percent.

Brown said that the turnout confirms that Oregonians find the vote-by-mail system a convenient fit to their busy lives.

"I am heartened that so many Oregonians wanted to make sure their voices were heard," Brown said.

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