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Statesman Journal

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There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today's puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.

First-year results of paid downtown parking in Salem



Paid on-street parking started in downtown Salem in July 2025. According to information submitted for the Oct. 12 city council meeting, on-street paid parking collected about \$2.4 million during its first fiscal year of operation — about \$1.03 million more than initial projections. KEVIN NERI/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Whitney Woodworth
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Salem City Council will get an update Oct. 12 on the outcome of downtown's first year of paid on-street parking.

The city ended free on-street parking in the Downtown Parking District in July 2025 after 50 years.

City officials said they made the

switch to a paid system to make parking more available and fix a "broken model" that funds the current system. The old system was not sustainable and left little money for security, repairs and beautification efforts.

After revenue outpaced projections in the first six months of paid parking, city leaders moved to end the downtown business parking tax and refunded businesses for taxes paid after July

2025. The average parking tax paid by downtown businesses was \$1,043 a year.

According to the information submitted for the Oct. 12 meeting, on-street paid parking collected about \$2.4 million during its first fiscal year of operation — about \$1.03 million more than initial projections.

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MONMOUTH MAYOR Challenger Strouth faces incumbent Koontz

Bill Poehler
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

This is part of a series of stories on the candidates running in the Nov. 3 election. Ballots will be mailed to voters Oct. 14.

Incumbent Cec Koontz has competition from newcomer Belinda Strouth in the race for Monmouth mayor in the Nov. 3 election.

The two-year, non-partisan position is unpaid.



Koontz

Koontz has been mayor of Monmouth since 2018 and said her experience in the position is an asset for the community.



Strouth

"I think as we face continuing constrained resources and we are competing in every way for federal dollars, state dollars, regional support, the relationships and the history that I've built with people, with organizations, the credibility I have and, frankly, my understanding of public finance and public operations is an asset right now," Koontz said.

"There's some advantage in already having a name plate at that table when you walk in the room."

Strouth, who is on the city's library

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OREGON HOUSE DISTRICT 19 Munson challenges incumbent Andersen

Katie Livermore
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

This is part of a series of stories on the candidates running in the Nov. 3 election. Ballots will be mailed to voters Oct. 14.

Legislative aide Anna Munson, who is running as a Republican and Libertarian, is challenging incumbent Rep. Tom Andersen, D-Salem, as he seeks a third term representing Oregon House District 19 in the Nov. 3 election.

Andersen was reelected in 2024 with 54.3% of the vote against David Brown to represent the district which covers south Salem from the Capitol to the area just shy of the southern city limits. Andersen has held the seat since 2023.

He previously served on Salem City



Andersen

Council for eight years. Candidates were asked about a moratorium on data center development in Oregon, commercial air service at Salem Airport and the proposed drawdown of Detroit Reservoir.

The Statesman Journal conducted in-person interviews with both candidates. Here's what they said.



Munson

Who is Rep. Tom Andersen?

Andersen, 75, moved to Oregon in 1973 and graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law. He worked as

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OREGON HOUSE DISTRICT 21 Welsh challenges Rep. Mannix in race

Whitney Woodworth
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

This is part of a series of stories on the candidates running in the Nov. 3 election. Ballots will be mailed to voters Oct. 14.

Rep. Kevin Mannix, R-Salem, will face Democratic challenger Michael Welsh in the race for Oregon House District 21 in the Nov. 3 election. The contest has already garnered more than \$1 million in contributions combined between the two candidates.

The district includes central Salem and Keizer along with parts of north and east Salem.

Mannix says his legislative experience, decades of owning a business and bipartisan collaboration set him apart from his opponent.



Mannix



Welsh

"I've had extensive experience and I've had results," he said. "I've managed to get a number of things done as a legislator, and I think I can be helpful in the process in getting Oregon back on the right track."

Welsh said his working-class background and experience as a husband, returning student and father of two children in the school district set him apart from Mannix.

"I really believe that I represent the working-class folks," he said. "Coming from a nearly 20-year manufacturing

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