

# The Oregonian

## Portland protests Aug. 17: What you need to know

*By Jim Ryan, Shane Dixon Kavanaugh, Jayati Ramakrishnan  
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Civic leaders and law enforcement are bracing for several groups of protesters to take to downtown Portland on Saturday for a planned right-wing rally and left-wing counterprotest that have been advertised for weeks. Here's what you need to know.

### **What, exactly, is going to happen?**

It's hard to say. Portland's largest protests tend to be roving, unpredictable affairs.

But here's what we know:

Two Florida men with large followings in the right-wing movement are holding an "End Domestic Terrorism" rally Saturday at 11 a.m. in Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

An organizer said he expects up to 1,000 people show up for the event, which seeks to draw like-minded people from around the country as a show of force against self-described anti-fascists, or antifa.

Rose City Antifa, Portland's homegrown, amorphous band of anti-fascist activists, is calling on supporters to turn out in opposition to the rally.

Myriad other events are scheduled, which are expected to draw hundreds of peaceful counter-protesters.

### **Who's going to be there?**

Former InfoWars staffer Joe Biggs is organizing the right-wing rally, and he's getting help from Enrique Tarrio, national head of the Proud Boys.

Portlanders should expect a sizable showing of Proud Boys — whose members describe themselves as "Western chauvinists" and who often express disdain for Islam, feminism and liberal politics — and other right-wing figures.

They should also expect a large contingent of left-wing counterprotesters, including anti-fascists and other social justice activists at the center of Portland's protest movement.

Joey Gibson — leader of right-wing Patriot Prayer, which has drawn widespread opposition during previous Portland demonstrations — has said he's uncertain whether he will attend Saturday's event.

Neither Gibson nor Patriot Prayer have been involved in promoting or organizing Saturday's rally, and Gibson has largely shied away from demonstrations in Portland since being sued for his participation in a clash between right- and left-wing groups May 1 at Portland bar Cider Riot.

Gibson on Thursday announced that he was facing a felony riot charge in connection with the May Day incident. He told radio host Lars Larson that he was planning to turn himself in to authorities. As of 8 p.m. Thursday, authorities had not announced whether Gibson had turned himself in.

Some of Gibson's supporters have launched an online fundraiser to help him with legal fees. As of Thursday evening, they had raised more than \$5,000.

Gibson is the latest in a string of right-wing activists who have been arrested in the past week on felony riot charges related to the May Day brawl. Ian Kramer and Matthew Cooper were arrested on Aug. 7 and 8. Cooper was subsequently released. The two face charges related to beating a woman on the head with a baton — the alleged attack left her unconscious. On Aug. 13 and 14, Christopher Ponte and Mackenzie Lewis were arrested. Police and the district attorney's office would not elaborate on the specific roles Ponte and Lewis allegedly played in the May 1 incident.

On Thursday, Cooper was arrested again, and another right-wing activist, Russell Schultz, was also arrested.

Oregon law states that a person can be charged with the crime of riot “if while participating with five or more other persons the person engages in tumultuous and violent conduct and thereby intentionally or recklessly creates a grave risk of causing public alarm.”

Conservative writer Andy Ngo, who was attacked by black-clad demonstrators in Portland earlier this summer, has not publicly said whether he plans to be at the demonstrations.

Video footage of the attack racked up millions of views online, generated days of national headlines and has helped create a surge of interest in Saturday's rally.

### **What are police going to do?**

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Chief Danielle Outlaw have promised a large turnout by police and have vowed to use the full force of the law against those who commit acts of violence and vandalism. City officials have also been working with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to secure the officers and equipment necessary to respond.

The mayor and chief also have gone on video and given interviews, pledging to do what it takes to keep the city safe during the demonstration and urging trouble-seeking participants to stay away from Portland.

### **How's this affecting downtown commerce?**

Several events have been moved or canceled, and police are encouraging Portlanders to spend time other parts of the city Saturday.

Terrapin Events, for example, moved the planned Roses on the River 5k walk/run from the west side of the river to the east side, in anticipation of a melee Saturday.

The Portland Streetcar Scavenger Hunt, which was also scheduled for Saturday, has been postponed.

At least one downtown Portland Starbucks shop plans to close Saturday, as well.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation said it will close northbound Southwest Naito Parkway from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Monday, to allow crews to prepare before and after Saturday's events. Northbound traffic will turn west onto Southwest Jefferson Street or east onto the Hawthorne Bridge.

TriMet, for its part, has said it's working with law enforcement to maintain service during the protest. The transit agency said it will “adjust service” if police determined a particular area is unsafe and advised riders to be prepared for possible delays.

Riders should plan extra time for their trips, even if they're not traveling in downtown Portland, TriMet said.

## Why is this happening in Portland, of all places?

That's the million-dollar question.

Cities across the U.S. have seen street skirmishes erupt between right- and left-wing groups since President Donald Trump entered the White House, yet Portland has emerged as one of the most contested centers in the country's culture wars.

Fanning the flames is the zeitgeist of incendiary political rhetoric, including recent remarks by Trump, that has deepened divisions and resentment as partisan lines harden nationwide.

But a large share of the turmoil is Portland's alone. Its long legacy of left-wing activism, notably its militant anti-fascists, has drawn the ire of the conservative movement as well as the pundits and politicians who lead it.

Meanwhile, the city's liberal free speech tradition has allowed the bitter confrontations to continue while police struggle to keep the peace.

Wheeler acknowledges Portland's protest tradition as a robust form of political expression, but he believes it's been co-opted lately by people more interested in simply causing trouble than having any cogent discourse.

And in picking a fight with antifa, they'll get one.

"I think they come to Portland because it gives them a platform," Wheeler said. "They know that if they come here conflict is almost guaranteed."

## Willamette Week

### A Tranquil Riverside Campground in the Cascades Foothills Closes Down With Little Notice

*By Rachel Monahan*

*August 14, 2019*

**That ends the central public use of what was once among the city's recreational treasures.**

Finding a forest campsite near Portland is a perennial struggle. This year, it got even harder—thanks to a city budget cut that was made with little discussion.

Starting July 1, visitors to Dodge Park, where the crystalline Bull Run River flows into the Sandy River, found its 25 campsites and park restroom closed. That ends the central public use of what was once among the city's recreational treasures.

"I know Dodge Park is not a critical facility," says Tony Jordan, an avid Portland cyclist. "I'm privileged to have the health and fitness to have ridden out there more than 50 times over the last 10 years or so and seen it in all seasons, empty and full. It's a cool place and I just think it's really strange that it was closed with so little notice and transparency."

Dodge Park is an unlikely spot for Portland to operate a park at all. It's not even in Portland—it's deep in the Clackamas County woods, and the nearest town is Sandy, Ore.

But Portland owns the property because of its proximity to the Bull Run Watershed, the mountain wilderness where the city gets its supply of drinking water. In 1911, city officials built a rail line from the Southeast Portland neighborhood of Montavilla to Dodge Park, to haul

supplies for building a hydroelectric dam. The next year, that railway became a tourist trolley—and carried hundreds of bathers to the rivers each weekend.

"A conservative estimate of visitors during the last summer would be thirty thousand," says the annual report for the Portland Water Bureau for 1926. "At times there was hardly room enough to accommodate the crowds that poured into the park on Sundays."

But this year, Dodge Park's campground fell victim to a small but hidden cut as the City Council grappled with a projected \$6.3 million budget shortfall for Portland Parks & Recreation.

The council dealt with the bureau's budget woes by very publicly debating and then voting to close at least two community centers this year—Laurelhurst on July 1 and Sellwood on Sept. 1—and an indoor pool next year.

But officials also shuttered the facilities at Dodge Park, which isn't owned by Portland Parks & Recreation but by the Water Bureau.

City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who oversees the Water Bureau, said she made the decision to close the campground because keeping it open wouldn't have been fair to Portland neighborhoods that face losing their parks facilities.

"With Portland Parks & Recreation facing huge cuts in the 2019-20 budget," Fritz tells WW, "I could not in good conscience put in a budget request for general fund resources for recreational facilities at a Water Bureau property more than 15 miles outside of Portland."

But the amount needed to keep it open was just \$61,700 a year, according to Fritz's office.

In addition to general fund dollars, which come from citywide taxes and fees, campers using Dodge Park also paid a fee: \$23 a night. (Until several years ago, the park didn't spend any general fund dollars. Instead, it was funded by water and sewer ratepayers. But the settlement of a 2011 lawsuit brought by several Water Bureau ratepayers ended that practice and meant the park had to compete again for general fund dollars.)

Fritz's argument for closing Dodge doesn't satisfy everyone. The Water Bureau didn't face the systemwide financial shortfall that paralyzed Portland Parks & Recreation—a shortfall that followed the bureau's aggressive opening of new parks ("Parks and Wreck," WW, July 17, 2019).

It's also unlikely many people knew the Water Bureau had chosen not to keep the park open.

It was discussed at a utility board meeting, but the bureau's budget request mentioned no cuts to Dodge Park, and Jordan argues city residents should have been given time to make their case or at least fundraise.

"I don't know that I would advocate for Dodge Park to remain open if it meant another facility would be closed in the city, either," says Jordan. "It's not clear to me, however, that closing Dodge Park kept any other facilities open, saved any parks employees' jobs, or whether it will end up saving the city money in the long run."

# As Arrests Mount, At Least One Far-Right Paramilitary Group Has Bailed Out of the Aug. 17 Rally in Portland

*By Katie Shepherd*

*August 15, 2019*

**Recent arrests and stern warnings from city officials may be deflating right-wing enthusiasm for the Aug. 17 rally.**

As the number of far-right protesters arrested for a May 1 riot grows, some right-wing groups are thinking twice about coming to Portland on Saturday for a rally targeting antifascists.

Just two days before the "End Domestic Terrorism" rally planned by Florida-based right-wing radio host Joe Biggs, the founder and national president of right-wing paramilitary group the Oath Keepers published a statement warning his followers to stay away from downtown Portland on Aug. 17.

"We have not seen adequate steps taken by the organizers to exclude known or suspected white nationalists from attending this event," says Oath Keepers president Steward Rhodes in a lengthy statement on the group's official website.

He also points to violent memes and threats posted on social media by Biggs and his followers, which Rhodes says puts rally attendees at risk of being arrested or sued.

"Frankly, given the prior statements of Joe Biggs that will be used against all attendees of his rally, it would be best for the patriot/conservative cause if this August 17 rally were simply canceled," Rhodes says.

The Oath Keepers abandoned the Aug. 17 rally shortly after a sixth far-right provocateur faced criminal charges for a May 1 attack on antifascists carried out by supporters of Patriot Prayer, Portland's Liberation and at least one former Proud Boy.

While the Oath Keepers distance themselves from the rally, another paramilitary group complained about the six arrests made in the past week.

"PPB has arrested 6 Patriots and 0 Antifa ahead of PDX Saturday," writes the Three Percent of Washington, a local chapter of the Three Percenters paramilitary group, on Facebook. "They are using sealed indictments to hide Ted Wheeler's bias as Police Commissioner/Mayor and Antifa supporter. Warrants are being executed by U.S. Marshals."

The arrests and stern warnings from city officials who have said violence and white supremacists are not welcome in Portland may be having the intended effect of deflating right-wing enthusiasm for the Aug. 17 rally.

Portland law enforcement officials have arrested and charged some key players in local far-right extremist groups that may leave the local right-wing contingent rudderless. Patriot Prayer's Joey Gibson and five other men—former Proud Boy Russell Schultz, Matthew "Deme" Cooper, Ian Kramer, Mackenzie Lewis, and so-called "cop watcher" Christopher Ponte—all face criminal charges related to the May Day riot they started.

# More Than 600 Additional E-Scooters Are Expected to Hit Portland Streets Today

*By Elise Herron  
August 15, 2019*

**Since April 26, there have been 46 e-scooter related emergency room and urgent care visits, and 16 scooter collisions have been reported.**

It's been 10 weeks since e-scooters returned to Portland for the city's second, year-long pilot program, and the Portland Bureau of Transportation today announced that 655 more scooters are about to hit the streets.

The total number of permitted e-scooters in Portland is now 2,630.

California-based company Bird, which took part in the city's first pilot program but was not initially approved for the second, received a license to operate after re-submitting an application. The company can deploy 525 e-scooters starting today.

Other operators Bolt and Spin have also been approved to expand their fleet sizes after meeting incentives set by PBOT to meet safety, equity and environmental goals. Bolt can add 14 scooters to its fleet of 200, and Spin can add 116 to its fleet of 525.

"PBOT is working to ease congestion and provide environmentally friendly options for people to get around the city," the agency said in a statement. "The yearlong e-scooter pilot program is designed to assess whether e-scooters support these goals."

Due to concerns from community groups like Disability Rights Oregon about the e-scooter complaint processes being deputized to individual companies, PBOT has also decided to re-launch a city-hosted feedback form for people to air grievances.

As well, in response to concerns about lackadaisical rule regulation after last summer's pilot, PBOT has dedicated staff members to issue warnings and fines to e-scooter companies. Between April 26 and July 31, 2019, 240 warnings and fines were doled out, primarily for sidewalk riding and illegal parking.

PBOT reports having received 371 emails from residents regarding "primarily regarding sidewalk riding and improper parking." It noted that e-scooter companies claim to have received 903 reports of parking issues and rider behavior.

Since April 26, people have taken 253,690 scooter rides. There have been 46 e-scooter related emergency room and urgent care visits, according to the Multnomah County Health Department, and 16 scooter collisions have been reported.

Data from the 2019 pilot show that while companies are required to deploy e-scooters to east Portland, the scooters are most frequently utilized in the central city.

# Elections Watchdog Seth Woolley Will Run for Portland City Council

*By Ryan Nguyen  
August 15, 2019*

**Woolley, a Green Party activist and software engineer, will challenge Commissioner Chloe Eudaly next year.**

Elections watchdog and Pacific Green Party activist Seth Woolley will run for Portland City Council in 2020.

Over the past several years, Woolley, 38, who works as a software engineer for Uber, has watch-dogged Portland's elections and filed election-laws complaints with city and state agencies, while pushing for better government. This is reflected in his platform of progressive election reform, government accountability and environmental protection.

"That's where I come from: a good government, sustainability, grassroots democracy and things of that nature," said Woolley, 38, a software engineer at Uber.

He also wants more emphasis on environmental issues in City Hall, citing his work founding Portland Clear Air, a political action committee working to address industrial pollution in Multnomah and Washington counties.

Woolley filed to form a campaign committee Wednesday. He plans to challenge incumbent City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly in the 2020 primary election, as first reported by the Portland Mercury. Kevin McKay, a Portland banker has also filed to run against Eudaly.

Woolley has advocated for various government transparency and environmental issues. A few include: advocating for better access to public records, banning genetically modified organisms in Jackson County and overturning a measure that would have required fluoridating Portland's drinking water supply.

He's interested in removing Portland's commission form of government in favor of another model, such as a model with a city manager. Portland's commissioners have legislative, administrative and quasi-judicial powers, unlike most city governments, and Woolley says that mixing executive and legislative roles is "a terrible idea."

"If you have positions on policies, you shouldn't necessarily have to be the one that is the executive," Woolley says. "You can have people who are experts in executing, and then you can get people who are experts at the policy side."

He also is a member of the Pacific Green Party in Oregon. In 2012, Woolley filed three complaints with a handful of county and state officials, alleging violations of Oregon elections law. He was a member of an Oregon legislative task force on campaign finance reform in 2016.

Woolley also ran as the Green Party nominee for Oregon Secretary of State in 2008 and 2012, respectively losing to Bill Bradbury and Kate Brown in those races. He got about 3% of the vote both times.

## **The Portland Mercury**

# **Campaign Finance Advocate Will Challenge Portland Commissioner Eudaly in 2020**

*By Alex Zielinski  
August 15, 2019*

Seth Woolley, an environmental activist and campaign finance advocate, has confirmed plans to challenge Portland City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly in the 2020 primary election.

"There's a lack of creativity in City Hall leadership," says Woolley. "That's what I can offer.

Woolley, a Green Party member who currently works as a software engineer for Uber, says he wants to see a renewed emphasis on the environment in City Hall. He's interested in creating a free transit system. In the past, Woolley's worked with many Portland neighborhood associations to push City Hall to enact stronger air quality regulations, specifically regarding wood smoke and diesel emissions. It's Woolley's work with neighborhood associations that's make him critical of Eudaly's leadership.

"I think Commissioner Eudaly's attack on neighborhood associations has been irrational," says Woolley, referring to Eudaly's proposal to allow other community groups the same recognition by the city as Portland's long-standing neighborhood associations. "That's not how you run a city."

Eudaly, who joined City Council in 2017, has said she plans on running for re-election in 2020.

Woolley accuses Eudaly of focusing on only "one or two issues" as city commissioner, and ignoring other areas that affect Portlanders. While he supports her interests in affordable housing, Woolley believes she should be doing more work to create public housing instead of reforming the private market through rental-related policies. He also doubts her "understanding of economics."

Woolley is a staunch supporter of campaign finance reform. Over the past several years, he's helped craft two ballot measures that set campaign finance limits—one for campaigns run in Multnomah County and another for Portland campaigns. While voters approved both measures, they've been put on hold until their constitutionality is decided on in court.

Woolley's also the guy that filed a litany of complaints against former Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith in 2017 for actively campaigning for a Portland City Council seat before she was legally allowed to.

This won't be Woolley's first experience running for office in Oregon. In 2012, Woolley ran for Secretary of State against Kate Brown and Knute Buehler, collecting only 2.6 percent of the vote.

Woolley told the Mercury he's eager to participate in the city's publicly-funded election program. Woolley is serving as campaign treasurer for mayoral candidate Sarah Iannarone, who has also committed to the city's new campaign finance program.

Woolley created a committee to collect campaign donations on Wednesday. The committee has yet to report any campaign finance activity to the Secretary of State.

# **Patriot Prayer's Joey Gibson Faces Felony Charge for May Day Brawl**

*By Alex Zielinski  
August 15, 2019*

Joey Gibson, the leader of alt-right protest group Patriot Prayer, has been charged with a felony for his involvement in a violent street brawl that took place on May 1 in front of Northeast Portland's Cider Riot.

Gibson has been charged with a felony for inciting a riot, according to an afternoon interview with Gibson on Lars Larson's conservative talk radio show. Gibson told Larson he plans on turning himself in to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office today. According to the county's inmate roster, Gibson has yet to turn himself in.

Gibson led Patriot Prayer to Cider Riot on May 1 after learning that members of Portland's anti-fascist (commonly known as "antifa") community were meeting there to celebrate a day of peaceful May Day rallies. After yelling insults at Cider Riot patrons from the adjacent sidewalk, the opposing groups engaged in a street fight. In one video, Gibson appears to be playing referee in an organized fist fight. One woman with antifa was knocked out cold by several Patriot Prayer agitators, and sent to the hospital with an alleged vertebrae fracture.

Shortly after the May 1 clash, Cider Riot owner Abe Goldman-Armstrong sued Gibson for negligence and trespassing. Goldman-Armstrong also named five other members of Patriot Prayer as defendants in the suit: Ian Kramer, Matthew Cooper, Christopher Ponte, MacKenzie Lewis, Russell Schultz, and David Willis.

Within the past week, PPB has charged every defendant but Willis for crimes related to the May Day incident—ranging from assault with a weapon to inciting a riot. None of the people associated with antifa or other left-wing groups who were at Cider Riot that day have been charged with a crime.

This string of arrests comes days before a major Portland demonstration by alt-right protesters. PPB predict the August 17 rally, orchestrated by the national far-right extremist group Proud Boys, to devolve into violence akin to the May Day clash.

## **The Skanner**

### **Sara Boone Sworn in as Fire Chief**

*August 14, 2019*

Sara Boone, Portland's first African American fire chief and its second ever female chief, was sworn in Aug. 12 at Portland Community College's Cascade campus. In June city commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty announced her selection of Boone to lead the bureau. Boone is also the first African American female firefighter to serve Portland since the creation of Portland Fire & Rescue in 1883. She replaces interim fire chief Ryan Gillespie, who served a temporary term after the departure of Chief Mike Myers, who left Portland at the beginning of this year but recently returned to direct the city's Bureau of Emergency Management.

During the swearing-in ceremony, Hardesty said Boone initially balked when invited to apply for the position – an idea Hardesty said was originally floated by Gillespie and echoed by others

within the department. She also said the history-making promotion was bittersweet and “at least 100 years overdue.”

Following a moment of silence for victims of recent mass shootings and a firefighter who recently lost his life to occupational cancer, Boone said risk reduction was her number one priority for the bureau.

“Going forward I pledge to you my support in creating a more equitable and inclusive work environment where all voices are heard and trust is restored,” Boone said.

## **OPB**

### **Militia Leader Warns Against Attending Portland Rally, Citing Legal Risks And White Nationalist Presence**

*By Amelia Templeton  
August 16, 2019*

The national president of the Oath Keepers, a prominent anti-government militia, is urging his members to stay away from a far-right demonstration in downtown Portland Saturday.

The event is being billed as a rally against antifa. It’s been condemned by Portland’s mayor and a broad coalition of civil rights, law enforcement and business groups as a pretext for violence.

In a lengthy statement published online, Oath Keepers President Stewart Rhodes said people who attend the event risk associating themselves with white nationalists and could expose themselves to criminal charges for rioting.

“We do not, and cannot, knowingly associate with known or suspected white nationalists,” he wrote.

Rhodes said he does not consider the organizers of the event, a Florida man named Joe Biggs and Enrique Tarrío, the leader of the Proud Boys, a fraternity that describes itself as “western chauvinist” and espouses parts of white supremacist ideology, to be white nationalists themselves. But he faulted the men for not getting a permit for their march and failing to take other steps to exclude known white nationalists from joining it.

“The left in this nation is desperate to paint all conservatives and, especially, all Trump supporters as ‘white nationalists’ to the point of absurdity. Allowing any actual white nationalists into an event where attendees are encouraged to bring Trump flags as well as American flags would be a grave mistake,” Rhodes wrote.

Rhodes also said he was concerned that angry videos and violent memes the organizers of the march have posted online suggest they want to incite violence and could expose attendees to prosecution for rioting under state and federal law.

As he urged organizers to cancel their event, an Indiana group that calls itself The American Guard confirmed it plans to attend.

The group claims to promote states’ rights and the U.S. Constitution. However, the group’s president, Brian James, has a long history of founding neo-Nazi groups and has been involved in violent feuds between rival factions of racist skinheads, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Twitter suspended Biggs's account in July. Antifascists have compiled a public archive of videos and memes posted by Biggs and members of the Vancouver, Washington-based Patriot Prayer, a far-right group that attracts white supremacists and has engaged in violence, including calls for murder and graphic depictions of violence against antifa.

In recent weeks, Biggs has publicly asked his supporters to tone down their rhetoric and refrain from showing up armed, after, he said, he was visited by the FBI.

Rhodes' statement warning his followers to stay away from the demonstration comes as Portland's mayor and police chief have promised a swift investigation of any crimes that take place.

In recent weeks, the Multnomah County district attorney has charged multiple members of the Patriot Prayer group with assault and harassment for their role in a brawl at the Portland pub Cider Riot in May.

Joey Gibson, Patriot Prayer's leader, has said he is turning himself in. He faces a felony charge of rioting. He has disputed the charge, calling it a politically motivated attempt to prevent him from participating in the demonstration Saturday.