



NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon State Capitol Foundation participates in Oregon's Kid Governor race

Genoa Ingram, OSCF executive director, served on a panel of judges that narrowed the pool of applicants for Oregon's Kid Governor election

SALEM, Ore. 15 Dec. 2020 — As our country voted for its 46th president this fall, fifth graders participated in their own election. Students throughout the state voted on and elected their next Oregon's Kid Governor®.

Oregon State Capitol Foundation Executive Director Genoa Ingram was one of seven judges on a panel that reviewed applications for Oregon's next Kid Governor. The panel reviewed 15 applications from fifth graders at 46 schools throughout the state. They chose seven candidates to continue in the race.

Each candidate chose an issue important to them and developed a three-point plan to address the cause. Short videos explained their cause and why they would make a good Oregon Kid Governor. Students had two weeks to watch the finalists' videos before voting as a class for the next Kid Governor.

Students must register before they can vote in the Kid Governor election each year. This year, 1,878 students from fifth grade classrooms all over Oregon voted in November and elected Taneesh Garg the Oregon Kid Governor for 2021.

Garg is a fifth grader at Springville K-8 school in Portland. After his inauguration in January for a one-year term, he will work with students throughout the state on his three-point plan to fight racism.

"There were a number of very qualified candidates who would have made excellent Kid Governors," said Ingram. "I appreciated Taneesh's passion for equality and believe he will bring young people together and lift them up."

Past Oregon Kid Governors have taken on many important issues. Bullying, finding forever homes for shelter pets and transitioning the homeless to permanent housing are just a few.

Oregon's Kid Governor is an annual program led by the Oregon Secretary of State. It teaches fifth graders about government, state history, mail-in voting and the roles of elected officials. It's all part of an award-winning program created by the state of Connecticut. This is Oregon's third year participating in the Kid Governor program.

"The ORKG program teaches fifth graders how their government works," said Mary Beth Herkert, director of Oregon's Kid Governor program. "It also teaches them how to get involved and make a difference in their community."

The Kid Governor program teaches kids to actively participate in government and be lifelong agents of change. It also encourages them to register to vote when they turn 18.

“The Oregon State Capitol Foundation was proud to be play a part in this year’s Kid Governor selection,” said Ingram. “It was an honor to learn about these talented young people and the determination they represent for the next generation of voters.”

For more information about Oregon’s Kid Governor program, visit www.or.kidgovernor.org.

About the Oregon State Capitol Foundation

The nonprofit Oregon State Capitol Foundation works to enhance the beauty of the Oregon State Capitol and preserve the history it represents. We also fund educational programs focused on Oregon's heritage and democracy. Our volunteer board of directors shares a deep love for the Capitol and its history. Board members include current and past elected state officials, former state agency staff and current and former legislative advocates. For more information, visit www.oregoncapitolfoundation.org or call 503-363-1859.

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