



[University of Phoenix](#)

Grants and Scholarships Available.  
Explore Your Options. Get Info Now!  
[Phoenix.edu](http://Phoenix.edu)

[Don't Pay For School](#)

Get A Scholarship For Free. Million  
Are Available For You!  
[ProgramAdvisor.com/Scholarships](http://ProgramAdvisor.com/Scholarships)



PORTLAND, OREGON'S NEWS WEEKLY. NEWS AND CULTURE FOR **JUNE 23RD ANI**

**CLASSIFIEDS**

- [Jobs](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Health & Wellness](#)
- [Community](#)
- [Buy, Sell, Trade](#)
- [Musicians](#)

**FINDER**

[Find a finder](#)

**NEWS**

- [Cover Story](#)
- [News Stories](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Aaron Campbell](#)
- [Rogue of the Week](#)
- [Willamette Week on KATU](#)
- [Willamette Week on KPOJ \(mp3\)](#)
- [Dr. Know](#)
- [Murmurs](#)
- [Inbox](#)
- [Ask the Editor](#)
- [WWire \[Blog\]\(#\)](#)

**CULTURE**

- [Scoop](#)
- [Feature Stories](#)
- [Hot Seat Q&A](#)
- [Headout](#)
- [Cheap Skate](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Special Sections](#)
- [Retail Therapist](#)

**MUSIC**

- [Show Previews](#)
- [Album Reviews](#)
- [Live Reviews](#)
- [Club Spotlight](#)
- [Live Music Calendar](#)
- [On the Radar](#)
- [Cut of the Day](#)
- [Tour Diaries](#)
- [Local Cut \[Blog\]\(#\)](#)

**SCREEN**

- [Film Reviews](#)

## News and Culture

The Blog Formerly Known As WWire

« [Local Designer To Build Balloons To Help Document Gulf Oil Spill](#)  
[Audio File of Police Interview With Gore Accuser](#) »

### Kulongoski Throws Bombs in Final City Club Address

4:22 PM June 25th, 2010 by Nigel Jaquiss

[Legislature / News / Politics](#) | [Email This Post](#) |



In a somber address to **Portland City Club**, **Gov. Ted Kulongoski** today laid out a bleak vision of **Oregon's** present and grabbed hold of Oregon's political third rail with both hands.

The two-term Democratic governor is completing his final year in office and could be forgiven if he took the summer off. Instead, the former labor lawyer drew on the work of his "[reset cabinet](#)" to propose a bold set of approaches to a problem he diagnosed as follows: "the current structure of government is simply **not sustainable** anymore," and "the government we have is too expensive to maintain."

The parts of the speech that were most prescriptive and are likely to generate the most heartburn concern K-12 education. Deviating sharply from his party's orthodoxy when it comes to the third rail of public employees, Kulongoski said

Movie Times  
Brew Views

**DISH**

Restaurant Reviews  
Restaurant Guide 2009  
Food Event Calendar

**PERFORMANCE**

Show Previews  
Live Reviews  
Stage Calendar  
Classical/Opera  
Calendar  
Dance Calendar

**VISUAL ARTS**

Gallery/Show Reviews  
Gallery Calendar

**WORDS**

Book Reviews  
Words Event Calendar

**OUTDOORS**

Outdoors Events

**MATCHMAKER**

Chance Meeting  
Get Love  
Get Lucky

**PROMOTIONS**

Free Stuff / Contests  
Swag Rag Newsletter  
WW Sponsored Events  
Musicfest NW  
Candidates Gone Wild  
Give!Guide  
WW Store

**GET A PAPER**

Subscribe  
Find My WW  
Buy a Guide

it's time to stop focusing on how much the Legislature spends on education and start focusing on outcomes.

"We must end our practice of evaluating the success of our education system based solely on how much money it receives," Kulongoski said. "Rarely does the discussion turn to the number of students who succeed, much less how prepared they are to compete in this demanding economy."

In a direct challenge to the powerful Oregon Education Association that helped to elect him and other Democrats, Kulongoski said, "the first step is to align funding with student outcomes...we must embrace **charter schools...and...online learning and virtual** classrooms." Each of those points conflicts directly with the approach of the OEA, which is a huge player in funding the campaigns of Democratic candidates.

Kulongoski, who won election with strong support from public employee unions, also took aim at public sector wages and benefits.

"My message to state and school employees is this: If you don't want a decade of deficits to turn into a decade of layoffs and wage freezes—work with us to manage the cost of your benefits and keep your pay in line with your counterparts in the private sector," the governor said.

Kulongoski proposed several ways in which to dial back compensation: getting employees to pay the 6 percent pension contribution many public sector entities pay on their behalf; engaging in statewide collective bargaining rather than the current fragmented process; and getting employees to pay more of their healthcare costs — or in some cases, any portion of that expense.

Each of those suggestions challenges cherished—and expensive—benefits for core Democratic constituencies.

It did not take long for OEA, which represents 48,000 employees, to fire back. Here's part of the statement that OEA President Gail Rasmussen made in response to Kulognoski's remarks:

Now is the time when we should be banding together to protect what our communities hold most dear - including our public schools. But rather, it looks as if the Governor has chosen to exploit the economic challenge we are facing to push an agenda that doesn't make sense for Oregon's students.

The governor is suggesting concepts that are wholly untested and have not been proven to increase student achievement. We cannot afford for our classrooms to become laboratories and our students and teachers the potential victims of a failed experiment.

We know standardized testing does not accurately measure the success of a student - how could it possibly measure the effectiveness of a teacher? In fact, research has proven time and again that tying evaluations or pay to test scores does nothing to increase student achievement and does not improve the quality of teaching.

Parents are tired of their children's education



being dumbed down to test scores. Rather than providing solutions that lift up our schools in this time of crisis, the governor is offering Oregonians failed policy ideas that continue the status quo.

The governor shows that he is out-of-touch with Oregonians by suggesting a move to statewide-collective bargaining for educators. Local communities and parents know what's best for their kids. Decisions about local schools should be made by local communities, school leaders, parents and educators.

If these wrongheaded ideas are implemented, the future of Oregon - the lives of our students, the long-term health of the economy - is at risk."

Wrongheaded or eminently sensible, the recommendations Kulongoski made today are more specific than anything voters have heard from the two men vying to succeed him: Kulongoski's predecessor, former Gov. John Kitzhaber, a Democrat; and Republican Chris Dudley.

So while there was not a single applause line in his speech today and a sold-out ballroom at the Governor Hotel seemed stunned by the vigor with which Kulongoski attacked the status quo, he may have succeeded in setting the agenda for the gubernatorial campaign that culminates in the Nov. 2 general election. **WU**

**Share and Enjoy:**



Tags: [Chris Dudley](#), [Gail Rasmussen](#), [John Kitzhaber](#), [Oregon](#), [Oregon Education Association](#), [Ted Kulongoski](#)

This entry was posted on Friday, June 25th, 2010 at 4:22 pm and is filed under [Legislature](#), [News](#), [Politics](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

advertisement

**[Pell Grants for Moms](#)**

You May Qualify for Pell Grants to Earn a Degree Online. Start Today!  
[www.ClassesandCareers.com/PellGrant](http://www.ClassesandCareers.com/PellGrant)

**[Federal Grants](#)**

Get Gov. Money To Pay Bills Start A Business & Much Much More  
[FundingAdvisor.net](http://FundingAdvisor.net)



Ads by Google

advertisement

Next /  
S  
GRA  
Portle  
Altern  
Outdo  
New  
Used  
Closeo  
Gear i  
Tents  
Packs  
Sleepi  
Appar  
Shoes  
Kayak  
Climb  
Bikes  
Discs  
Snowb  
Skiing  
426 St  
503-23

ADV

Spon  
WW  
Mus  
Snow  
L  
Car