

Opinion: Statewide regulation of rideshare would move Oregon forward safely

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Susan McLain

McLain, D-Hillsboro, represents House District 29 in the Oregon Legislature

Recently, I have heard from seniors in my district who are looking for easier ways to access critical services like medical care, grocery stores and other necessary errands. My friends

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from friends, children and grandchildren, they have been able to greatly improve their mobility through rideshare services.

Now more than ever, Oregonians are turning to rideshare as an efficient, reliable and affordable transportation option. Unfortunately, the benefits that rideshare has brought to cities such as Portland, Eugene and Corvallis aren't available to all Oregon communities and the thousands of tourists who come to explore our state's natural wonders and local businesses in places like The Gorge and along the coast.

A recent statewide poll found that 82 percent of Oregon voters support a framework that would allow ridesharing across the state. Further, 91 percent said rideshare is beneficial to Oregon because it offers an easy alternative to people who are intoxicated or unable to drive, reducing the amount of impaired driving.

With such strong public support for ridesharing, it is time that state legislators move forward to extend ridesharing to all of Oregon. This effort to create statewide rideshare legislation has been years in the making, includes multiple stakeholders from both urban and rural communities and is an issue that rises above party politics that too often dominate the Legislature.

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equity across the state, by bringing an additional transportation option to cities large and small. Because not every community will have the same needs, nor will every city have the capacity or desire to individually work with ridesharing services to create its own regulations, the legislation gives cities a level of flexibility to manage local streets, enforce local code and develop new options to better serve Oregonians with disabilities.

Salem, OR:

Did You Know If You Have No Tickets In 3 Years, We Hope You Know This Genius Tip

TAP YOUR AGE:

18-25	26-35	36-45
46-55	56-65	Over 65

EVERQUOTE

HB 3023A requires safety measures and oversight of ridesharing services including insurance requirements, vehicle safety and environmental standards, driver background checks, records and data, and accessibility and equity. In short, this legislation helps streamline the process of regulating ridesharing for drivers and governments, while keeping safety at the forefront.

With the legislative session quickly drawing to a close, it is important that legislators act quickly to ensure equal and consistent access across Oregon to Lyft and Uber. It's past time that all Oregonians enjoy rideshare, not just the big cities.

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