

# voters' pamphlet



Oregon Vote-by-Mail Special District Election | **May 16, 2023**

## **Letter from the County Clerk**

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Jackson County Voters:

At the **May 16, 2023 Special Election**, you will be voting on numerous candidate races to fill positions on the boards of Rogue Community College District, Southern Oregon Education Service District, School Districts, Fire Districts, Water Districts, Rogue Valley Transportation District, Jackson County Library District and Rogue Valley Sewer Services District.

This pamphlet is published to provide voters with information about local candidates and measures. However, candidates are not required to be included in the voters' pamphlet. Voter pamphlet statements and photos are optional and are submitted along with a filing fee. Therefore, you will not find every candidate that you will be voting on in this pamphlet. Likewise, you will not be voting on every candidate in this pamphlet, but only the applicable candidates and measures for your precinct. The candidate filing forms of all candidates on the ballot are available at:

<http://jacksoncountyor.org/clerk/Home>. Click on the election logo to direct you to the elections page.

Your ballot, which will be delivered to you beginning **Friday, April 28, 2023** will only include your applicable candidates and measures. Ballots must be postmarked by the USPS no later than election day or deposited in an official Oregon ballot drop box no later than 8:00 p.m., **Tuesday, May 16, 2023** in order to be counted.

The deadline to register to vote in this election is **Tuesday, April 25, 2023**. This pamphlet has been delivered to post-office mailing addresses. Therefore, the fact that you received a voters' pamphlet does not necessarily mean that you are a registered voter. You may check your registration status online via **My Vote** at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov).

Vote by mail ballots cannot be forwarded. Voters currently registered in the State of Oregon, but who have moved, changed their residential address, mailing address or name must update their registration by close of business on Election Day in order to vote. If you need to register or update your registration, you can do so online via **My Vote** at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov). You can also find a voter registration card in this pamphlet, at your local post office, or at the DMV. If you would like to register or update your voter registration card in person, we are located at 1101 West Main St., Suite #201, Medford.

If you have any questions regarding the status of your voter registration or the election process, please contact the Elections Office at 541-774-6148.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Walker'.

Chris Walker  
Jackson County Clerk

# Translation Information

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Selected portions of this county voters' pamphlet are available in Simplified Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. These translations can be found online at [oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP](http://oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP)

本县选民手册的部分内容提供简体中文版本。可以访问 [oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP](http://oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP) 获取译本。

주 유권자 팜플렛의 선택된 부분은 한국어 준비되어 있습니다. 번역은 온라인 [oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP](http://oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP)에서 찾아볼 수 있습니다.

Отдельные части брошюры избирателей этого округа доступны на русском языке. С данными переводами можно ознакомиться в Интернете по адресу: [oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP](http://oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP)

Algunas secciones de este folleto para votantes del condado están disponibles en español. Estas traducciones están disponibles en línea en [oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP](http://oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP)

Ang mga piling bahagi ng mga pamphlet na ito para sa mga botante ng county ay mababasa sa Tagalog. Makikita online ang mga pagsasaling-wikang ito sa [oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP](http://oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP)

Các phần được chọn trong tập tài liệu cử tri quận này có bản ngôn ngữ tiếng Việt. Các bản dịch có thể xem trực tuyến tại [oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP](http://oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP)

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In 2021, the Oregon Legislature passed the Voter Language Access Bill (HB 3021) requiring the Secretary of State to translate portions of state and county voters' pamphlets into Oregon's and the county's most spoken languages. The law seeks to remove barriers to voting for those who are not fully proficient in English.

To help in this effort, the Translation Advisory Council was created. The Council is made up of volunteer community members who represent the ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversity of Oregon voters. Council members make sure state and county translations are accurate and retain the original tone and meaning in a culturally appropriate manner.

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All candidates had the opportunity to submit a picture and statement regarding their candidacy in this pamphlet. The following candidates submitted information. The text of the candidate statements, measures and arguments were printed as submitted.

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# Returning Your Ballot

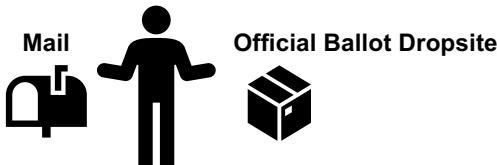
## Election Day is Tuesday, May 16, 2023

### After voting your ballot:

1. **Review** your ballot for mistakes;
2. **Insert** your ballot into the ballot return envelope;
3. **Seal** the ballot return envelope;
4. **Sign** the ballot return envelope;
5. **Return** your ballot.

### You have two ways to return your ballot:

1. **Mail** your ballot so it is postmarked by the USPS by Election Day; or
2. **Deposit** your ballot in an official Oregon ballot drop box by 8 pm on Election Day.



**Important!** Your ballot must be returned in the ballot return envelope provided with your ballot packet. **Make sure you are signing the ballot return envelope issued to you!**

If you have lost or damaged your ballot return envelope, please contact our office at 541-774-6148.

# Dropsite Locations

## Election Day is Tuesday, May 16, 2023

### Official Jackson County Ballot Dropsites

<b>Jackson County Elections</b> 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201 Medford, OR 97501  (Office located on 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor)	<b>Opening</b> Monday, May 1, 2023	<b>Curbside</b> and walk up ballot drop boxes open 24 hours daily (left lane - W. Main) Closes at 8 pm Election Day <b>Interior</b> ballot drop boxes in Elections office open 8 am to 4 pm, Monday - Friday (7 am - 8 pm on Election Day)
<b>Ashland Library</b> 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Ashland, OR 97520	<b>Opening</b> Monday, May 8, 2023	<b>Curbside</b> ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (alley off Gresham St. by book drop) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
<b>Central Point Library</b> 116 S. 3rd St. Central Point, OR 97502	<b>Opening</b> Monday, May 8, 2023	<b>Walk up</b> ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (south side of library building, main entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
<b>Eagle Point Library</b> 239 W. Main St. Eagle Point, OR 97524	<b>Opening</b> Monday, May 8, 2023	<b>Walk up</b> ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
<b>Medford Library</b> 205 S. Central Ave Medford, OR 97501	<b>Opening</b> Monday, May 8, 2023	<b>Curbside</b> ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (parking lot entrance off 10th St.) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
<b>Phoenix Library</b> 510 W. 1st St. Phoenix, OR 97535	<b>Opening</b> Monday, May 8, 2023	<b>Walk up</b> ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
<b>Rogue River Library</b> 412 E. Main St. Rogue River, OR 97537	<b>Opening</b> Monday, May 8, 2023	<b>Walk up</b> ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day

# Measure 15-212 Charlotte Ann Water District

## Ballot Title

# 15-212

### Charlotte Ann Water District Dissolution and Transfer of Water Service

**QUESTION:** Should Charlotte Ann Water District dissolve, liquidate and transfer its service responsibilities to the Cities of Phoenix and Medford?

**SUMMARY:** The District is obligated under Oregon statutes to relocate nearly all of its waterlines to facilitate ongoing ODOT construction projects along Hwy 99N. The District is also advised that substantial improvements need to be made to the District's pumphouse facility in order to continue to provide adequate and safe water to District customers. The District is unable financially to meet these future obligations at a reasonable cost to District customers. If the District dissolves, its service responsibilities would be transferred to the cities of Phoenix and Medford, initially by agreement with the Medford Water Commission and the city of Phoenix, in anticipation of a future annexation petition by the city of Phoenix, or, if annexation fails, by agreements with the cities of Phoenix and Medford. Distribution of the costs of the future District ODOT construction obligations will depend on the result of any annexation process.

Initially water service would continue to the District through an agreement between Medford Water Commission, the City of Phoenix and the District in anticipation of a petition by the City of Phoenix to annex and withdraw those portions of the District within the Phoenix Urban Growth Boundary. Any remaining District customers within the Medford Urban Growth Boundary would be served by the Medford Water Commission and would pay the outside rate charged by the Medford Water Commission for water service.

The District has no outstanding indebtedness. The plan of dissolution and liquidation is available for examination at the Office of the County Clerk, 1101 W. Main Street, Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501.

*(This information furnished by Charlotte Ann Water District.)*

## Explanatory Statement

Jackson County and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) plan to perform improvements to South Pacific Highway (99N), Medford, Oregon. Improvements have begun and are currently scheduled to be completed by 2025. As part of these improvements, the District is required to relocate waterlines currently located in the roadway. Pursuant to ORS 758.010 and 758.025, the District is required to relocate the waterlines primarily at its expense. The District, with the assistance of the Medford Water Commission has researched options for relocating and/or replacing the waterlines.

The Medford Water Commission and ODOT estimates that non reimbursable costs to the District to relocate the lines would cost approximately \$1.7 to \$3.7 million dollars. The actual or true cost of construction will not be known until the project is bid and constructed, and may exceed the estimated cost. The September 8, 2020 Almeda Fire caused the District to lose nearly two-thirds of its customer base. While revenues are gradually returning to pre-fire levels the District does not have enough cash on hand to relocate or replace the necessary existing water lines.

If the District does not dissolve, the District would pursue bond funding to relocate the waterlines as required, and would need to either apply a substantial surcharge or substantially raise fees in order to repay such bond funding. If the District is unable to obtain bond funding to relocate the waterlines, the District will be unable to pay its expenses and will be unable to continue to operate. If, as the District is informed, some significant repair or improvements to the pump house are needed in the near future, the District may not be able to obtain funding for these expenses, in which case, the District would be unable to continue to operate.

If the District dissolves, it is anticipated all of its personal property, as well as its service responsibilities, would be transferred to the City of Phoenix. The District owns real property on which a pumphouse is located and it is anticipated this real property would be deeded to the City of Phoenix.

# Measure 15-213 Rogue River School District 35

## Ballot Title

# 15-213

### Bonds for Safety Improvements, School Facilities Preservation, Renovations, and Construction.

**QUESTION:** Shall Rogue River School District improve safety, construct and renovate schools and classrooms by issuing \$4,465,000 in general obligation bonds? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**SUMMARY:** Due to the retirement of existing bonds, approval of this bond measure is expected to maintain the current tax rate, rather than increase it. If bonds are approved, the State will provide a \$4,000,000 matching grant. Approval will help support safe, healthy teaching and learning environments by:

- Making district-wide safety upgrades, including creating single campus entry points for the elementary campuses.
- Protecting community investments in schools through repairs, maintenance and preservation of existing buildings district-wide, including upgrades or replacement of plumbing, kitchen, and electrical system components.
- Constructing a new building at the high school (campus) to create a separate space for junior high students, including classrooms, locker rooms, and common space.
- Additional capital costs, including site improvements, demolition, furnishings, equipment, and bond issuance costs.

Actual levy rate may differ due to final interest rates and changes in assessed value. Bonds may be issued in multiple series; each maturing within 9 years from issuance.

## Explanatory Statement

The Rogue River School District has referred a measure for the issuance of an aggregate principal amount of \$4,465,000 in general obligation bonds to preserve the existing buildings of the school district by replacing or upgrading aging plumbing and electrical systems, to upgrade the security district wide, and to build a separate building for junior high students. If voters pass this bond, the District would receive an additional \$4 million from the State. This bond would serve as a replacement for the bond expiring in June 2023 and is currently not estimated to increase property taxes compared to what the property owners are currently paying.

A large portion of the buildings in use by the school district were built in or prior to the 1970's. Rogue River High School is nearing its 50th year of service, and even though the building has been well maintained, portions of the plumbing system and electrical systems have reached the end of their useful life and are beginning to fail. The bond is expected to pay for replacements or upgrades to these systems. The bond is also expected to pay for plumbing and electrical upgrades at the elementary campuses.

Both Elementary East and West are in need of security updates. Bond proceeds are expected to allow the District to modify the fences and entry points of each campus to create a single point of entry where visitors will need to check in with the office before entering the campus. Currently, the campuses are very open to entry. The District intends to incorporate into the design a way for the community to still easily access the

outdoor spaces of both campuses during non-school hours. Currently, junior high students attend school in a single hall of the high school. The bond is intended to pay for a new building on the high school grounds that would be dedicated to junior high students. The new building would contain classrooms, bathrooms, locker rooms, and common areas that are exclusively for the use of junior high students. Currently, junior high students share bathrooms, locker rooms, and common spaces with the high school students. Building the additional space for junior high students on the high school grounds will allow the District to utilize and share existing staff from the current junior/senior high school to staff the new building. If the District were to place junior high students somewhere other than the high school grounds, the District would need to hire additional staffing for the new junior high location.

*(This information furnished by Rogue River School District 35.)*

## Argument in Favor

### How Will This Affect My Taxes?

This bond will go into effect after the current bond expires in July. It is designed to be a **replacement bond**. **It will keep your local school tax rate at current levels. It will not raise your taxes beyond what they currently are.**

### State \$4 Million Matching Grant

If voters pass this bond, the state will provide an extra \$4 million dollars on top of the \$4.465 million raised from local taxes.

**The total revenue from this bond will be \$8.465 million if voted in. This is a win-win for our schools!**

### Safety and Security

#1 priority for the Bond Proceeds would be creating single points of access for the elementary schools. This would increase security and reduce public access to our children during the school day. **Every day there is a school safety incident in the news-we need this!**

### Plumbing and electrical upgrades

The recent facilities condition assessment identified critical needs for plumbing and electrical upgrades throughout district buildings. Some portions of the plumbing are already starting to leak. Electrical service at the high school is outdated and inadequate. **These are safety issues in our buildings that need correcting.**

### Junior High Annex

The district has received significant community interest in separating the Junior High from the High School students that currently share the same building. It would be financially detrimental to relocate the junior high students back to the middle school location. This allows teaching and administrative staff to be shared between the grade levels reducing year to year costs. **I agree that the 7-9th graders need their own space separate from the 10-12th graders!**

*(This information furnished by Dee Copley.)*

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Jackson, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.*

# Measure 15-214 City of Ashland

## Ballot Title

# 15-214

### Proposed Amendments to Ashland's Food and Beverage Tax Ordinance

**QUESTION:** Shall the ordinance be amended to dedicate revenues to city parks, open space, recreation, and senior service purposes?

**SUMMARY:** A "Yes" vote for this measure authorizes the City of Ashland to use the Food and Beverage Tax for city parks, open spaces, recreation, and senior service purposes as follows, consistent with City policies and practices: twenty-five percent (25%) for capital expenses including acquisition, planning, development, repair, and rehabilitation; seventy-three percent (73%) for operations, maintenance, or capital expenses. Two percent (2%) of the tax will be used for administration of the tax.

The tax rate will remain unchanged at 5%, and any increase to the tax rate or change of its use will require voter approval. The expiration date of the tax will be December 31, 2040.

A "No" vote means the existing Food and Beverage Tax allocation will stay the same, with tax revenues going towards park capital expenses (not less than 25%), street repair debt or parks capital expenses (up to 73%), and tax administration (2%).

## Explanatory Statement

The Food & Beverage Tax has been authorized by a public vote of the City of Ashland's residents since 1995 to be used for major capital improvements, including to the city's wastewater system, streets, and City parks. The City's current Food and Beverage Tax Ordinance requires that not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the tax collected be appropriated for the capital expenses of acquisition, planning, development, repair, and rehabilitation of City parks. Up to two percent (2%) may be appropriated for administration of the tax. The remaining amount, seventy-three percent (73%), may be appropriated for street repair or for City parks capital expenses.

This Measure authorizes the City to appropriate twenty-five percent (25%) of the tax collected exclusively for City parks capital expenses and two percent (2%) for administration of the tax. The remaining amount, seventy-three percent (73%), will be appropriated more broadly for parks, open space, recreation, and senior services purposes, including for these purposes' operations, maintenance, and capital expenses.

This measure also extends the expiration date of the Food and Beverage Tax to December 31, 2040. The tax rate remains unchanged at 5%. If passed, this ordinance will become effective upon approval and any future changes to authorized uses, tax rate or expiration date will require Ashland voter approval.

### Result of a "No" Vote

If this measure does not pass, the existing food and beverage tax ordinance will remain in place, with tax revenues directed to City parks capital expenses (at least 25%), street repair debt (up to 73%) and for tax administration (up to 2%), and the expiration date remains December 31, 2030.

*(This information furnished by the City of Ashland.)*

# Measure 15-214 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

### Vote for Ashland Livability

A town's livability requires focused intentionality and commitment. In February 2020, the City of Ashland joined the WHO/AARP Network of All-Age Friendly States and Communities that commit to improvements in 8 Domains of Livability.

As champions of Ashland's livability, we urge you to vote YES on Measure 15-214. Approval of this measure will directly or indirectly support all 8 Domains of Livability by providing Ashland Parks and Recreation (APR) with predictable funding from the Food & Beverage Tax and extending use of these funds to include operations and maintenance.

**Outdoor Spaces and Buildings:** APR provides green spaces and gathering spots for conversations, connections, and activities for residents and visitors.

**Transportation:** APR supports walking, hiking, and biking.

**Housing:** APR serves the human need for nature and fresh air as we meet our housing goals through denser housing that may provide smaller or no backyards.

**Social Participation:** APR provides youth programs and senior programs, as well as venues for picnics, weddings, concerts, sports, and city-wide celebrations.

**Respect and Social Inclusion:** APR programs serve the public of all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, abilities, social circumstances, and incomes.

**Work and Civic Engagement:** APR is an employer, attracts tourists, and engages citizens through volunteer opportunities, in electing its commissioners and serving on advisory groups.

**Communication and Information:** APR programs provide meeting spots, information about senior supports and navigation to services, as well as nature education for school-age children.

**Community and Health Services:** APR offers varied exercise options, social connections, solo contemplation, and a site for Food & Friends meals.

Ashland citizens highly value our robust parks system. In the regularly-fielded Ashland Livability Report of the National Citizens Survey, this facet is consistently rated the highest in terms of satisfaction and utilization—and significantly higher than other benchmark cities. For many of us, livability factors like this are why we live here.

Anne Bellegia  
Saundra Theis

*(This information furnished by Anne Bellegia.)*

## Argument in Favor

### Please join me in Support of Measure 15-214

For the past 117 years our community has invested in a variety of parks, open space and trails to benefit Ashlanders of all ages and incomes. Our current neighborhood parks system provides needed outdoor space and recreational opportunities for many of our citizens living in apartments, smaller auxiliary dwellings and affordable workforce housing.

- Citizens living in workforce housing and smaller multi-unit dwellings benefit from their proximity to our neighborhood parks and open spaces.
- Students living in student housing depend on our neighborhood parks for recreation.
- Our kids thrive in our community parks.
- Our families rely on our community parks and recreation programs for daily activities.
- Seniors living on fixed incomes depend on our Senior Center and the essential senior services supported by Ashland Parks & Recreation employees.
- Citizens with dogs use community parks every day.

The Ashland Food & Beverage Tax was originally drafted in 1993. For 30 years these funds have supported our city services and our local businesses. Ballot Measure 15-214 asks Ashland citizens to approve directing the future F&B Tax to support Ashland Parks & Recreation. Dedicating this tax to Ashland Parks & Recreation for the coming decades will continue to benefit our city and our community.

Please join me in voting YES on Ballot Measure 15-214 in support of our neighborhood parks and the many services provided by our Ashland Parks & Recreation employees and our elected Ashland Parks & Recreation Commission (APRC).

Mike Gardiner

*(This information furnished by Michael A Gardiner.)*

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# Measure 15-214 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

### Support Parks and Recreation Vote Yes on 15-214

Measure 15-214 asks voters to dedicate Ashland's Food and Beverage Tax proceeds to support parks, recreation, and open space. Currently the revenues can be used for both Ashland parks capital projects and debt payments for large street projects.

In response to concerns that Ashland streets will deteriorate if Food and Beverage Tax revenues are dedicated *entirely* to Ashland Parks, I checked with city officials, both elected and appointed, regarding this assertion and this is what I was told:

--Ashland streets have three funding sources: gas tax, a dedicated utility fee, and franchise fees generated by anyone using the city's right of ways (gas, water, electric utilities, cable providers, etc.).

--Previous voter approval for use of the Food & Beverage Tax for streets was to fund capital improvement bonding for *large* projects on arterial roadways, not filling potholes on residential streets.

--Franchise fees are now dedicated to streets so public works has a consistent and predictable revenue stream necessary for bonding large street projects, and no longer needs the Food and Beverage Tax proceeds.

Further, in February Ashland's city manager urged council approval of this proposal as it would free up an additional \$2.2 million for fire, police, administration, and other general fund requirements.

It also provides a dedicated funding source that can be used for all aspects of our parks and recreation services, including capital projects, maintenance, and park programs.

Finally, this directive will connect a less-predictable funding source (the Food and Beverage Tax) to a program that is more flexible (Parks & Recreation) and better able to adapt to unexpected disruptions and shifts.

Ashland's Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, and administration are asking for our approval. Let's help.

### Vote Yes!

**Cathy Shaw**

**Former Mayor of Ashland**

(This information furnished by Cathy Shaw.)

## Argument in Favor

The Ashland Food & Beverage Tax was first approved by voters in 1993. Since that time, a portion of this tax has been allotted to Ashland Parks & Recreation for capital improvement projects.

Currently 25% of F&B is allocated for capital improvements - purchasing property, developing property, rehabilitation of park assets and deferred maintenance. As Ashland's parks system has gone from parkland poor in 1993 to one of the more robust park systems in the state, land purchases are now a low priority and rehabilitation and replacement of aging assets have become high priorities.

A critical need for APRC is operating expenses. Measure 15-214 would continue the 25% for capital improvements and would authorize the other 73% for APRC operating expenses (2% goes to administrative fees) to help fund salaries of employees who maintain the parks, run the recreation facilities like the pool, ice rink, nature center and golf course, and provide services for seniors.

This 73% would provide about one-third of funding for operating expenses. The remaining two-thirds of funding would continue to come from property taxes, requiring approval from the Citizen's Budget Committee and the City Council.

APRC has already submitted its budget request to City Council. This budget request will be unaltered by the outcome of the vote. If Measure 15-214 passes, the 73% of F&B funds will pay for part of APRC operating costs, leaving more money in the General Fund for other City priorities.

Measure 15-214 provides dedicated funding to pay for a portion of APRC operating expenses. The funding could only be withdrawn by a vote of Ashland citizens.

Please join us in supporting our parks by voting YES on Measure 15-214.

Jim Bachman, APRC Commissioner

Leslie Eldridge, APRC Commissioner

Rebecca Kay, President Southern Oregon Aquatic Community

Rick Landt, APRC Commissioner

(This information furnished by Rick Landt, Preserve Our Parks PAC #22377.)

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# Measure 15-214 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

As former chairs of Ashland's Citizens Budget Committee, we offer a simple, but compelling 1 reason for voting NO on Ballot Measure 15-214, Food and Beverage Tax - Give the City Council flexibility in allocating all the revenue from the various city taxes.

Only the mayor and the Council, with the advice of the Budget Committee, have responsibility for assessing the full needs of the city residents. Juggling budget requests of all city departments is not an easy job any year and it's getting harder.

Giving one department an advantage with dedicated food and beverage tax income is not fair to all the others.

For the past 25 years, most food and beverage tax revenue went to paying off bonds issued to fund the construction of a new sewage treatment plant. After the last bond payments were made voters approved extending the tax to 2030 and dedicating the income to street repairs and parks.

This ballot referendum would extend the tax to 2040 with all the revenue, except for a two percent administrative fee, going to the Parks and Recreation.

But, why continue to restrict use of this tax revenue to a specific department or specific city function? It's not necessary and it needlessly ties the hands of the Council.

We elected the mayor and six councilors to oversee our city government and to approve a balanced city budget as required by state law. We should have faith in their ability, with the advice of the Budget Committee, to allocate all the resources available for police, fire and rescue, street repairs, parks and recreation, community development, tourism promotion and other services.

Have confidence that the Council will fund all departments fairly allocating all available tax and fee revenues. VOTE NO on this ballot referendum, a necessary step in getting the city's fiscal house in order.

Roberta Stebbins  
Lynn Thompson  
David Runkel

*(This information furnished by David R Runkel.)*

## Argument in Opposition

Don't Be Fooled!

This measure is about one thing only: mortgaging our city's finances.

It has nothing to do with the level of parks funding. That is solely determined by the city council.

This measure will allow APRC to commit seventeen years of Food and Beverage Tax revenues, potentially \$50 million or more, as collateral for revenue bonds in order to finance their pet projects. That includes the swimming pool replacement at a cost that has ballooned to \$10.5 million at current estimates. It is sure to cost more when and if construction finally begins.

What this means is that the vote of only THREE APRC commissioners, followed by the vote of only FOUR city councilors, can legally allow APRC to attempt to source revenue bonds to finance anything they wish without a confirming vote of the taxpayers. For example, a 15 year revenue bond at 5% interest for \$10.5 million could easily wind up costing the taxpayers \$15 million dollars.

A revenue bond is secured by future income, and that is why APRC is so desperate to find a "guaranteed revenue source". That has been one of their primary goals, as stated in public documents, for years. This measure will allow APRC to commit future revenue to projects that they could not finance without this measure.

The alternative to a revenue bond is a general obligation bond. The difference is that the taxpayers must approve a general obligation bond, and it is paid for by additional taxes. The infamous city hall bond issue of 2020, which was resoundingly defeated, was for a general obligation bond.

Large capital improvement projects should always be approved by the people who will pay for them: YOU, the taxpayers. Do not allow APRC to circumvent the will of the taxpayers with this back door method of financing! This may be your only opportunity to stop this blatant money grab.

Vote NO for the financial health of our city!

*(This information furnished by Dean Silver.)*

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# Measure 15-214 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

Covid, fires, and city staff shortages have affected every person in Ashland over the recent years. In an attempt to rebuild a new sense of normal we need to share resources and help lift each other up. Just like our citizens, every department in the city could use a little more help.

Fire and Police continue to struggle to fully staff. Our Billing Department has been rebuilding after being completely closed for months. Our Travel Ashland tourism program can use all the help it can get to lure back visitors from our region and beyond. And we only have temporary directors at Finance, Human Resources, and Community Development.

With all the various needs for assistance throughout town, the Parks Department is selfishly asking voters to single them out, and give them 98% of all the city Food and Beverage tax for the next 17 years. Parks already gets 25% of that money. We should be looking for ways to share the limited resources Ashland has available, not lock some into one department.

The timeframe of 17 years is also selfish and limiting. Giving that estimated \$3 million per year exclusively to Parks for 17 years restricts our ability to be nimble with our General Fund budget. Every two years we readjust the city budget and this puts an unnecessary burden on the rest of the city. We should be trying to increase funding options, not reduce them.

Don't forget that only two cities have a Restaurant Tax in the State of Oregon. We shouldn't be so quick to assume that we want to continue it in virtual perpetuity. If all other cities have found ways to thrive without burdening local restaurant owners and their employees, Ashland certainly should be committed to reconsidering this tax on a regular basis.

VOTE NO on this selfish Parks ordinance and we can then work together to spread our limited resources among all departments on an as needed basis.

*(This information furnished by Jim Falkenstein.)*

## Argument in Opposition

Priorities, or You Can't Always Get What You Want

But will we be able to get what we need without massive new taxes and fees?

Public Works has informed us that all of our utility bills will be growing in the near future in order to pay for needed infrastructure maintenance. That is unavoidable. The police and fire departments are underfunded and under staffed. Many of our streets, which were previously funded in part by the food and beverage tax, are falling apart. We are about to embark on two major, multimillion dollar reconstruction projects on Ashland St. and North Mountain. Personnel costs rise annually. Materials and services necessary to keep the city running also increase every year.

Meanwhile, the city budget faces a multimillion dollar budget shortfall which must be balanced by law. Faced with similar situations, Ashland's two other major employers, SOU and OSF, are taking aggressive action to bring their budgets back into long term balance.

This is no time to be taking inadequate city revenues and committing them to things that we might like and want, but certainly don't need: new parks capital improvement projects. What we NEED from parks and rec is to maintain what we already have. This measure, however, will inevitably provide money for new parks projects that this city cannot afford at this time. It will remove money that was earmarked for streets, money that will have to be found elsewhere, and dedicate it to APRC without restrictions.

During this time of financial crisis in our city, the council must not be limited in the approaches it can take to address the shortfalls. Rather than designating more money for parks and rec, the council should be taking steps to ensure that the money APRC is allocated is spent efficiently and appropriately on maintenance and operations, not new projects.

Don't allow misguided, special interest city budgeting to ruin YOUR personal budget.

It's YOUR money.

Vote NO on 15-214!

*(This information furnished by Dean Silver.)*

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# Measure 15-214 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

Vote "NO", make sure the Food & Beverage tax (FBT) end date remains 2030!

There is still 7 years remaining on the FBT. No need to extend it now.

We Ashland voters need to remember the FBT is a sales tax we voted to put on ourselves. We pay this tax every time we go out, visitors only pay it when they visit Ashland. If there becomes a need as we get closer to 2030, voters can always extend FBT.

Vote "NO".

Extending the FBT end date to 2040 would create 17 more years of tax life our local businesses charge sales tax. This Food & Beverage tax extension could be used as collateral for Parks revenue bonds (up to \$20M or more) and put Ashland's taxpayers (YOU!) further in debt. Ashland at present has a projected \$4.3 Million budget deficit (Per Town Hall 1/30/23). Bond debt will make deficits catastrophically worse. Any voter passed FBT bonds reduce funds available for City or Park operations, rehabilitation or maintenance and other day to day bills.

This referendum makes the FBT a dedicated revenue source for Parks only and removes streets repair from FBT fund uses. And instead of FBT paying for streets as originally promised, you now pay a Street User Fee on your utility bill of \$9.58 per month per family. This generates more than \$1.3 Million in added taxes on Ashland families. Let's use FBT revenue to pay for family's Street User utility fees instead of double taxation. A FBT extension to 2040 is also a risk to maintaining our current beautiful parks with funds tied up buying more land and funding capital projects. At its 2/8/23 ARPC meeting, Director Black presented a CIP wish list of \$16million! Increased debt!

Let's reduce Ashland family debt, not increase it.

Vote "NO" on this ill-advised referendum.

*(This information furnished by Ted S Hall.)*

## Argument in Opposition

Vote "NO" to extend the Food & Beverage tax end date from 2030 to 2040!

We Ashland residents pay the Food & Beverage (F&B) tax every time we go out, visitors only pay it when they are here in town. We pay it every time we buy an almond croissant at our bakery in town, sandwiches, salads and drinks from our local deli, take out food from our favorite burrito shop & hamburger joint plus dinner from every local restaurant.

We are happy to support our businesses IF it means we CONTINUE to spend 73% of the F&B tax on park maintenance and to support our recreation facilities, senior services and STREET REPAIRS. This is what we approved the Food & Beverage tax to pay for through 2030.

Vote "NO" on Measure# 15-214 to keep the CURRENT language unchanged.

Measure# 15-214 is being sold to you as an improvement on how to spend the 73%. It strikes out street repair & rehabilitation debt. It hands 73% over to the Parks dept. (APRC). NOTE: Parks already gets 25% of the F&B tax to spend. Now they want it ALL!  $25\% + 73\% = 98\%$ ! The new language allows the 73% to be used by Parks for capital expenses, including acquisition, planning, development, repair and rehabilitation. No more money to STREETS. Changing the language gives Parks 73% more to spend on exactly the same things that Parks currently receives 25% to finance.

Parks is dreaming of spending the 98%! Go to the Video archive (City website) and watch the APRC meeting (2/8/23) at which Director Black presents a slide wish list of over \$16 MILLION of capital expense proposals. Parks wants 98% of the F&B tax as collateral for project bonds, which it can get if Measure # 15-214 passes.

HOW?

Passage of Measure# 15-214 EXTENDS the F&B tax on us to 2040!

Vote "NO"!

*(This information furnished by Susan R Hall RN.)*

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# Measure 15-214 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

Save Our Parks!

What do our beautiful parks need? They need to be maintained properly.

We all love our parks, and appreciate that over the years, they have been developed for us all to enjoy. But lately they have fallen into serious disrepair and neglect by the parks department.

Why is this happening? The mismanagement of funds has been well documented. The emphasis on upper level management at the expense of working technicians is a large part of the problem. But one of the biggest factors is the parks department's insatiable appetite for capital improvements to satisfy the many narrowly focused recreational user groups in the city. Parks provides the pork.

The emphasis of the parks department must change from planning new, extravagant capital projects. It needs to concentrate on responsible maintenance of what we have to enjoy right now.

This measure will not increase the parks department's budget. Only the council can do that. But this measure will make more of the department's funding available for capital projects, and that is exactly what we cannot afford.

When APRC commits this money to capital improvements, it cannot be spent on the critical function of the parks department: maintaining our beloved parks. We can all see how badly the condition of all of the parks has deteriorated over the past decade.

Dedicating this revenue flow to the parks department will only accelerate the parks department inclination to focus on new projects at the expense of current parks and programs.

Dedicating this revenue flow to parks will eliminate an important tool for the city council to manage our finances.

The city is facing a tremendous amount of spending on infrastructure maintenance in the coming years. Taxes and fees will unavoidably rise significantly. Unless the taxpayers have unlimited resources, tough choices will have to be made.

It's a question of "needs" versus "wants". We cannot "have it all". This is where we must draw the line.

Vote NO!

*(This information furnished by Dean Silver.)*

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# Measure 15-215 City of Ashland

## Ballot Title

# 15-215

Change compensation for City of Ashland Mayor and City Councilors.

**QUESTION:** Shall compensation for positions of City of Ashland Mayor and City Councilors change to \$900 each monthly?

**SUMMARY:** Under the Ashland City Charter, the Mayor and City Councilor positions' annual compensation is \$500 and \$350 respectively for their work on behalf of the citizens of Ashland. These compensation amounts were adopted in the City Charter in 1954. The current City Charter requires any change to the Mayor and City Councilors compensation "shall be submitted to the vote of the people" of Ashland.

A "Yes" vote changes the Mayor's and Councilors compensation to \$900 for each position monthly for preparing for and participating in City Council meetings; completing Council liaison assignments with City committees, commissions, and external organizations; representing the City at other public meetings or community events; and undertaking other tasks required to fulfill their duties as Elective Officers of the City.

A "No" vote means the City of Ashland's Mayor's and City Councilors' annual compensation will not change from the current annual amounts of \$500 and \$350 respectively.

## Explanatory Statement

Under the Ashland City Charter, the Mayor and City Councilors' annual compensation is \$500 and \$350 respectively. These compensation amounts were originally adopted in the City Charter in 1954 and are currently paid once annually for the prior calendar year's service. The current City Charter requires that any change to the amount of the Mayor and City Councilors' compensation "shall be submitted to the vote of the people" of Ashland.

This measure will change the Mayor and Councilors' compensation to \$900 monthly for the work they do as members of the governing body for the City of Ashland. This work includes preparing for and attending City Council meetings and advisory committee meetings, overseeing City operations, meeting with other elected or appointed governmental officials, representing the City in regional planning or other government processes, informing the local media on City issues, attending public events, and undertaking other Council policy development or liaison assignments. This proposed compensation amount is also intended to enable any citizen of Ashland the opportunity to serve on the City Council without experiencing undue financial impact. Any future change to the Mayor and City Councilors' compensation amount will be subject to another public vote by the voters of Ashland.

If this measure does not pass, the City of Ashland's Mayor and City Councilors' annual compensation will not increase from their current annual amounts of \$500 and \$350 respectively.

*(This information furnished by the City of Ashland.)*

# Measure 15-215 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

We had the privilege of serving Ashland as elected officials in the past. We were each given a mandate by voters to examine the facts and cast well-informed votes in the community's best interests. Sometimes we reached consensus, sometimes we disagreed - this is democracy in action and how elections influence public discourse.

**Regarding Measure 15-215, we unanimously urge you to vote "Yes."**

The current compensation for Ashland City Councilors is \$350 per year; the mayor receives \$500 per year. These compensation levels were set in 1954 and have not been updated since. Measure 15-215 establishes a modest \$900 per month stipend for the mayor and each councilor.

**Passing Measure 15-215 accomplishes three important things:**

- It makes elected office accessible for low-income Ashland residents who cannot afford to volunteer large amounts of time on a weekly basis as an elected official without compensation, which aligns with social equity and racial justice goals.
- The mayor and councilors attend dozens of meetings each year. The stipend helps offset the cost of childcare if the elected official has young children, as well as transportation costs.
- It saves money. Due to the recent discovery that our current City Charter does not authorize a stipend greater than the 1954 allowance, the health insurance benefit for our elected officials was discontinued. Instead of asking voters to approve an increasingly costly healthcare benefit, this measure delivers a fair and manageable amount that respects budget constraints.

Good governance requires a significant time commitment. For an elected leader averaging 20 hours per week on City Council-related business and meeting preparation, this stipend amounts to \$10.38 per hour.

**For the sake of having the best representative government, please vote "Yes" on Measure 15-215.**

Cathy Shaw, former mayor

Mike Morris, former City Councilor

Stephen Jensen, former City Councilor

Rich Rosenthal, former City Councilor

Stefani Seffinger, former City Councilor

*(This information furnished by Rich Rosenthal.)*

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# Measure 15-216 City of Talent

## Ballot Title

# 15-216

### Advisory Vote on the Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan

**QUESTION:** Should Talent implement the Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan using urban renewal tax increment financing?

**SUMMARY:** Passage of this advisory measure would indicate voter support for using tax increment financing to implement the Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan. This is a plan for expediting affordable housing construction, commercial area revitalization, public infrastructure upgrades, and natural disaster preparation within Talent.

Under Oregon's urban renewal statute, tax increment financing dedicates only that portion of property tax revenues attributable to new development and increased property values within the designated urban renewal area to paying for projects benefiting that area. Tax increment financing will affect other taxing districts. Urban renewal does not increase existing property tax rates or impose any new property tax.

If this measure passes, the Plan will be adopted by the Talent City Council. If it fails, the Council will not consider adoption.

If adopted, any subsequent modification of the Plan would have to comply with amendment procedures outlined in Oregon statutes, and any proposed changes to maximum indebtedness would be brought to the public for a subsequent advisory vote.

The Plan and additional information can be found at [www.cityoftalent.org](http://www.cityoftalent.org).

If you are a property owner in the urban renewal area, you would not pay additional property taxes. Instead, the impact falls on the government districts that receive property taxes from within the urban renewal area. They would continue to receive their current levels of property tax revenues from within the designated area but increases in property tax revenues from within that area would be placed in a separate account used for financing the sixteen urban renewal projects. These are the main government districts whose current property tax revenues from within the urban renewal area would be frozen for a period of approximately 20 years: City of Talent (\$140,000 per year), Jackson County Fire District 5 (\$139,000 per year), Jackson County (\$87,000 per year), Jackson County Library District (\$23,000 per year), and Rogue Valley Transportation District (\$7,700 per year). The dollar figures shown in the foregoing parentheses indicate the estimated amounts of increased property taxes revenue (in 2023 dollars) from within the urban renewal area that would flow annually into the urban renewal fund instead of going to those government districts, on average.

While tax revenue would also be diverted from schools and education service districts, schools do not directly lose funding due to urban renewal in their community. They are funded through the State School Fund based on per student counts, and state-wide property taxes are a portion of that fund, but not all of it.

The proposed urban renewal district for the Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan would generate up to \$19 million over an estimated 20 years.

**A Yes vote** would signify that you do want the City of Talent to use urban renewal financing to implement the Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan.

**A No vote** would signify that you do not want the City of Talent to use urban renewal financing to implement the Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan.

*(This information furnished by the City of Talent.)*

## Explanatory Statement

### Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan

The Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan outlines goals and sixteen projects designed to help the Talent community recover from the September 2020 Almeda Fire. The goals of the plan are to:

Recover affordable housing. The plan identifies capital projects that help increase buildable land and incentive programs to encourage affordable housing developments.

Revitalize commercial areas. The plan identifies incentive programs that would provide grants and low-cost loans to encourage commercial development and support businesses.

Upgrade public infrastructure. The plan identifies public infrastructure projects that are needed to support the higher density redeveloped areas, such as sidewalks, upgraded fire lines, and increased stormwater capacity.

Increase resilience and decrease risk. The plan identifies projects to recover lost tree canopy, install warning systems, and establish walking paths to better maintain natural areas.

### Urban Renewal Financing

Urban renewal tax increment financing is proposed to be the primary funding source for implementing the projects in the Almeda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan.

Urban renewal is a designated area in which the City Council has determined extra investment is needed to speed-up redevelopment.

# Measure 15-216 Arguments

## Argument in Favor

### A Plan for Recovery

The Almeda fire of September 2020 destroyed a third of our small town. Urban Renewal can help our city to ...

- **Recover affordable housing.** Talent lost 47% of our manufactured housing – one of our primary sources of affordable housing. The manufactured homes that are returning to Talent are not affordable for low income households. Urban renewal can make new affordable housing developments possible.
- **Boost business.** Talent lost 60% of our brick-and-mortar businesses. Two years after the fire, only 14% have filed for a building permit. Urban renewal can create grants and low-cost loans to support our local small businesses.
- **Increase resilience and decrease risk.** The Almeda Fire showed us that we need to improve our response to and decrease our risk of natural disasters. Urban renewal can help us install warning systems, recover our lost tree canopy, and establish walking paths to better keep our natural areas free of invasive and fire-fueling vegetation.
- **Upgrade infrastructure and fire lines.** As neighborhoods build back, the city can use Urban renewal to upgrade fire lines and perform other infrastructure improvements in the burn scar.

### Transparent Process

The city of Talent conducted two 45-day consultation periods with taxing districts, and held multiple town halls to encourage robust community dialogue. The result is an extremely scaled-back version of the original plan, which incorporates changes requested by the districts and the community.

### Small Impact to Other Districts

Talent's urban renewal plan has been timed so that district tax revenues have largely recovered from the impact of the Almeda fire.

With an approved Urban renewal plan in effect, the property tax revenues of every district, including the fire district, will **increase** every year – only a little less rapidly. The impact to the Fire District, for example, is estimated to be a little over two cents on the dollar on average, over the life of the plan.

With a little help from our friends, we CAN recover.

*(This information furnished by Beowulf Rochlen.)*

## Argument in Favor

### Who Profits from the Almeda Fire?

Like most of us, I had no idea what Tax Increment Financing (TIF) was until I learned of Talent's search for recovery solutions after the Almeda fire. Talent's Urban Renewal District staff discovered that TIF can be used to help a community recover after a natural disaster, and not just to address blight.

I learned:

- TIF is not a new tax;
- TIF shifts future **increases** in property tax revenues, so taxing districts continue to receive **at least** the same revenues they get today;
- TIF is temporary;

### Property Taxes after the Fire

Right after the fire, property taxes dipped, and state legislators moved quickly to replace the lost revenues. FEMA and nonprofits provided additional funds to help jurisdictions make ends meet.

Now more than two years later, many homes have been rebuilt, and tax revenues have nearly returned to their previous levels.

### More Revenue over the Long Term

But over the long term, the property tax revenues will likely be **far higher** than they would have been without the disaster. Increased construction costs, a housing shortage, and a trend to build back bigger have caused newly assessed home values to jump dramatically.

In fact, because of the fire, taxing districts like Fire District 5 will start to receive **more** in property tax revenue than what they would have without the fire.

### Investing in Talent's Recovery

We all know folks in the burn scar who have lost their homes. Of the lucky ones able to rebuild, many did so at a financial loss. Higher tax bills paid by our neighbors in the burn scar will help support all the taxing districts – including Fire District 5 – in the years ahead.

Tax Increment Financing is a way for a community like ours to invest a very small amount of that increase to help Talent recover.

Is that too much to ask?

*(This information furnished by David Hampton.)*

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# Measure 15-216 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

### YOUR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS AGREE, MEASURE 15-216 IS THE WRONG MOVE FOR FIRE PREVENTION.

Our Fire District has a history of providing service from three fire stations in the communities of Phoenix, Talent, and unincorporated Ashland. Last year, our firefighters responded to over 2,800 calls for service, including fires, rescues, and cardiac emergencies.

**The proposed urban renewal district will cut vital funds from the Jackson County Fire District over the course of 20 years.** This will shift \$139,000 each year (that's approximately the total cost of one full-time firefighter) from the over 130 square miles of the Fire District to the City of Talent (1.3 miles). This will also impact the following areas:

#### Less Staffing During Extreme Weather Conditions

Call back of firefighters and hiring extra help during extreme weather conditions is critical to prevent large scale wildfires and provide a safer work environment during inclement weather. **Less funding means less on duty staffing and additional supervision during critical periods.**

#### Delaying Replacement of Engines and Equipment

The cost of fire apparatus increased by over 20% from 2021-22. The Fire District's ability to leverage discounts and take advantage of group purchasing is severely impacted by the loss of this funding. **We can't afford deferred maintenance of our equipment when lives are on the line.**

**We can't go back to the way things were before the unprecedeted loss to our community.**

With FEMA funding, we were able to bring staffing levels up to recommended Fire Protection Agency standards. Coupled with an apprenticeship program, we have an opportunity to protect and save more of our community from future fire disasters. However, the proposed cuts will set back those efforts.

**No one wants to be caught in another fire disaster again.**

**Join us in voting NO on Talent Urban Renewal District.**

IAFF Local 2596

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

## Argument in Opposition

### Protect those that protected us Measure 15-216 is not the answer for Talent

I am a resident of Talent, and I was one of the lucky ones.

During the tragic Almeda Fire when so many lost their homes, I watched our brave firefighters work through the night to save my and five other people's houses from the blaze. I had always respected our public safety individuals who keep our community safe, but after having my life and livelihood saved, I feel so incredibly fortunate.

The City of Talent is asking us to decide whether these brave individuals deserve to be fully funded. As a member of the medical field, I know how much firefighters do — well beyond saving homes, and fighting fires. They are the first on the scene during emergencies, saving lives.

The City of Talent urban renewal district scheme will shift money away from critical public services beyond fire and police protection, such as schools, libraries, and other important basic services, for the next 20 years. Jackson County Fire District 5 would see one of the biggest budget hits — losing \$2.8 million in funding.

**As our city continues to grapple with the devastation left by the Almeda Fire, Talent cannot afford to cut funding to our first responders.**

We all want Talent to recover and thrive — but rebuilding will take more than replacing homes and buildings. **Cutting funding from Talent's fire department will weaken crews and deplete resources desperately needed to protect people and property during fire season.**

I am one of the lucky ones. Without the help of the fire department, I'm not sure I could still be in this city. I love this community, and I want my friends, neighbors, and family to be here for a long time.

We need to protect those that protected us.

**Vote NO on Measure 15-216.**

Daniel Nickels, RN

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

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# Measure 15-216 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

### We need to recover *TOGETHER* Measure 15-216 leaves the region behind

As a neighbor to the City of Talent, we both bore the brunt of the losses from the devastating Almeda Fire. We want our region to recover, but as Talent seeks to pass this measure, it forgets the impact on its neighbors.

We were proud to work together to recover from the awful events of September 2020. With this ballot measure, **the City of Talent leaves us behind**. Rebuilding requires regional thinking, with the memory of the past, and a vision for the future. Tax increment financing siphons money away from vital services that cover both of our cities.

**There are other ways to fund rebuilding.** Recently, 128 units of affordable housing went up just north of Phoenix, and without a single dollar of urban renewal money. Phoenix utilized general obligation bonds and other resources to rebuild. We did use urban renewal funding, and we made these decisions so that we would not negatively impact our neighbors or the region.

While property taxes will largely stay the same, this **takes money away from taxing districts like the fire department, safety, and schools and impacts services we share**. Those districts may be forced to go out for a bond or levy, that would end up raising taxes not just for Talent, but all of us in the district that depend on these services.

We urge you to think about your neighbors, and tell the council that urban renewal is not the right tool to rebuild for the future of your city or the region. Please vote NO on Measure 15-216.

Krista Peterson, Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency Board Chair

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

## Argument in Opposition

### LOCKING IN THE WRONG PLAN HAS REGIONAL CONSEQUENCES

#### We urge you to vote NO on measure 15-216

Everyone still feels the effects of the tragic Almeda Fire. We agree that it is time to rebuild and revitalize our cities and this county, but not at the expense of our public services. While the current plan attempts to mitigate many of our concerns, it does not act with the citizens in mind.

We strongly oppose this measure.

#### IMPROVEMENTS FOR A FEW, NOT FOR ALL

With this proposed plan, the County will lose \$1.74 million over the duration of the implemented plan. The loss of this revenue is truly a loss of revenue. The replacement of destroyed improvements in the particular area for the urban renewal district will not replace lost revenue for these districts. The Fire District will lose roughly \$2.78 million, with the City of Talent losing another \$2.8 million. Our entire county relies on the Fire District for service, and with the inability to vote on this measure, we are

#### GIFTING PUBLIC FUNDS TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS AT THE COST OF OUR BASIC NEEDS

It is our understanding that many of the public improvements identified (in the most recent plan available to the public) are the direct result of the City of Talent's failure to require developers to pay for impacts of private development on the public infrastructure such as curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. We believe that the City should rectify this failure and ask private interests to pay for these improvements—and not force public services to make cuts that impact residents across our region.

As stated in Jackson County Board of Commissioner's letter to City Council on February 7, 2023, "...the County continues to have concerns with, and opposes, the current draft plan as presented."

#### Vote NO on Measure 15-216.

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

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# Measure 15-216 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

### Don't Axe Our Public Services: Vote No on Talent Urban Renewal

Our city needs to rebuild, but Measure 15-216 is the wrong approach.

Jackson County Fire District No. 5 is responsible for taking care of Talent, Oregon, and also serves Phoenix, and rural Ashland and Medford. While only Talent will get a chance to vote on this measure, the entirety of the fire district's service area is impacted. The proposed shift of roughly \$2.8 million dollars in voter approved funding from the over 130 square miles that make up the district, will impact three main areas:

**Staffing:** In the wake of the devastating Almeda fire, our team acquired FEMA funding and the state funded an apprenticeship program. Thanks to those resources, we finally meet the Fire Protection Agency recommended staffing levels to support the region. **If Measure 15-216 passes, we could be in another precarious position with a new wildfire on the horizon.**

**Facilities:** With the impact of COVID, the Almeda Fire and supply chain issues, our fire stations are in need of upgrades. **Deferred maintenance of critical facilities results in higher costs of repairs down the road.**

**Equipment:** We are in need of replacing critical equipment such as hoses, cardiac monitors/defibrillators and heavy rescue extrication tools. Delaying these upgrades puts firefighters at risk and costs the public more. **The result is more down time, and longer response times due to mechanical failure.**

Firefighters are here for you no matter what, but Measure 15-216 will make it harder to deliver the kind of protection we still need for future fires. We must find another way to rebuild that doesn't sacrifice our safety.

**Join us in voting NO on Measure 15-216**  
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council (OSFFC)

Karl Koenig, OSFFC President  
Brady Graham, IAFF Local 2596 President

#### Local Firefighters:

Cary Halligan  
Tony Halley  
Kyle Humphrey  
Tony Incerty  
Jimmy Johnson  
Matt Lichtenstein  
Andres Marquez  
David Meads  
Curtis Ulrich  
Brian Weidman

(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)

## Argument in Opposition

### TALENT'S URBAN RENEWAL MEASURE IS

### DECEPTIVE AND MISLEADING

### VOTE NO

### OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT

This urban renewal measure will take your tax dollars away from the Fire District, which serves more people than just the city of Talent, across more than 130 square miles. How much money? The City made adjustments to the plan at the February 15, 2023 council meeting, just moments before referring the measure. Those adjustments impacted funding levels, and the TURA plan documents on the City's website still haven't been updated.

**When lives are at stake, hasty changes are irresponsible and dangerous.**

City Council plans to redirect funds from fire and emergency services to clear the greenway, add a new railroad crossing, and build new sidewalks and a bike path. The City of Talent is already the recipient of a substantial amount of post-Almeda Fire funding. The Oregon State Fire Marshal's Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program has already allocated funds for clearing the greenway. Federal funds are also available to create new railroad crossings. Talent's leaders simply needed to ask for the funds.

If this advisory vote passes, the City's own budget will be cut by approximately \$2.8 million, further reducing their capacity to handle the workload and time necessary to run the projects they seek to approve.

**The Council's plan will divert funds primarily from fire and emergency services.** This reduction in fire district funding will impact all of us, from the CA-OR border to exit 27, from south Medford to the Greensprings.

The loss of fire district funds WILL result in delayed service for fire and emergency medical services. **Your life and home – and that of your loved ones and neighbors — depends on your no vote.**

This proposal will absolutely reduce fire and emergency services. For the safety and livelihood of our region, please join me in voting NO.

Jackson County Fire District Board  
Vicki Purslow, President  
Cary W. Halligan, Member

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Jackson, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.*

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# Measure 15-216 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

### PROTECT THOSE THAT PROTECTED YOU

Measure 15-216 cuts public safety dollars, and does not make our region safer.

The urban renewal measure threatens to cut more than \$1.7 million from Jackson County's budget. Per County mandate, the jail must be funded first, so officers could be cut, making working conditions for remaining officers less safe. We may also see longer response times, and a less safe environment for citizens of Talent and the larger region.

As the city looks to rebuild, new infrastructure, housing, businesses, and green spaces are a wonderful vision for the future—but what kind of community will it be if people feel unsafe? The residents of Talent need to be able to trust that public services will be there to support them through crises to fully heal from the devastating fire of 2020.

The City of Talent stated that if the urban renewal plan is adopted, it will be making cuts to its own budget, and services would likely be maintained, but not be able to grow. If the hope is for people to stay and thrive, there needs to be public services that can grow with it. Labor costs may increase, and therefore other taxes may need to be levied to off-set the financial burden.

Public safety is a core component of any healthy, vibrant community. We were proud to stand alongside the firefighters, first responders, and community leaders to do everything we could to protect Talent in the Almeda Fire. We are committed to continuing that same service and dedication to make sure everyone has a safe place in this region.

**Please join us in voting NO on Measure 15-216.**

**Urban renewal is not the answer right now.**

**Don't axe our public services.**

Mark Anderson, Former Chaplain, Fire District #5

Jeff Crapo, Retired U.S. Army Colonel, Phoenix Business Owner  
Justin Hall, Local Law Enforcement

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

## Argument in Opposition

### MEASURE 15-216 PUTS BIG URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS OVER SAFETY, STABILITY, AND SECURITY

Recovering from the Almeda Fire has been difficult for everyone, including small businesses. Stores with deep roots in the Talent community were lost in a matter of seconds. We can't change what happened, and we can try to build better for the future.

**But we can't fully recover without public services.**

To have a thriving economy, we need thriving neighborhoods, schools, and safe streets. Public services should not suffer for expensive private projects. Measure 15-216 is not the answer.

The Almeda Fire took 2,500 homes and 600 businesses, most of them small businesses local to the region. While rebuilding has begun, we know the threat of another fire is very real.

The urban renewal district proposal provides for certain city special interests and long-standing projects the Talent Planning Commission has wanted for years. It does not prioritize small businesses, or what the majority of local residents want, as the focal point for our region. This plan will inevitably raise our taxes in other ways, making it harder for us to get back on our feet and in business.

During the Almeda Fire, we nearly lost our business. We watched as buildings all around us were taken by the flames. We are so lucky to still be here, and we owe it to the firefighters and community for the help and support.

### WE'RE VOTING NO

### PLEASE JOIN US

Tony Mouyios, Owner, The Grotto Pizzeria

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

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# Measure 15-216 Arguments

## Argument in Opposition

As a lifelong resident of Jackson County, living southeast of Ashland, I have concerns about the proposed urban renewal plan, which only you will vote on, but all voters of Jackson County will pay for through county taxes.

Please read your city's website to consider the complete documents cited below:

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners letter to Jordan Rooklyn, City Manager, February 7, 2023:** "...the County continues to have concerns with, and opposes, the current Draft Plan as presented." They provided several other options as an alternative to the proposed measure.

Among these other options?

- Issue general obligation bonds that would use Talent's own revenue to pursue and construct improvements to your city without impacting other cities and taxing districts for things not benefiting them;
- Require private developers who build in your city to pay for curbs, sidewalks, gutters, etc. Other cities do this, but not Talent. Why not?

**Phoenix-Talent School District 4 Superintendent Brent Barry's letter to the City of Talent, February 6, 2023:**

"In conversations with our board of directors, as well as other staff and community members, we have several concerns..."

- We need to make sure we have the public infrastructure to support a growing population." Budget cuts and bond campaigns may result if county public safety departments experience decreases in funding as a result of this plan.
- "Does the City of Talent have the capability of dealing with all the extra planning that these projects would create?" Can the city staff this?
- "Waiting one more year would provide opportunities for more critical engagement and feedback."

**This year, please think about the region, and vote NO on Measure 15-216.**

Meredith Reynolds, Jackson County resident

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

## Argument in Opposition

**As a former City Councilor in Talent and TURA Board member for four and a half years, I urge you to vote AGAINST the Talent Urban Renewal measure.**

We all agree that we need housing for our fire victims in Talent. But the Talent Urban Renewal Agency (TURA) is not the solution.

Historically, TURA has not been a good steward of your money: it failed at developing the Talent Gateway; they kept spending your money, but created nothing from it. And they spent your taxpayer funds to pay excessive compensation to the previous TURA director – well over \$100,000 per year.

TURA has repeatedly ignored public requests and refused to provide a forensic audit or transparency of its expenses over the years. TURA took away your involvement by having City Council take over the TURA board (which previously was Talent citizens) in 2015. Two of the TURA board members live in the Urban Renewal District and stand to have financial gain from the initiative, yet they never recused themselves from discussions or votes.

**City Council should NOT have control of this board and its decisions.**

Three separate important agencies that provide services to all of us in the Rogue Valley voiced strong concerns with the measure:

- **Fire District No. 5** spoke out against this proposal. It will compromise fire and emergency services for us all.
- **The Phoenix-Talent School District**, sent a letter from the Superintendent urging the City to hold off on this plan.
- **The Jackson County Commission** opposes this initiative, which will take funding for services away from our neighbors in the entire County, but only Talent gets to vote.

The people of Talent have always been known as good neighbors. It's time for us to demonstrate our care for all our neighbors with a NO vote on this initiative.

- John Harrison, former Talent City Council member

*(This information furnished by Brady Graham, Don't Axe Our Public Services.)*

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## Rogue Community College District Director, Zone 4

NO PHOTO  
SUBMITTED

### Patricia Ashley

**Occupation:** Retired television producer

**Occupational Background:** 41 years in television industry, 23 as free-lance producer

**Educational Background:**

Oklahoma State University - Bachelor of Arts

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Rogue Community College Board of Education; Library Advisory Board (Before formation of Library District)

As a current member of the Rogue Community College Board of Education my primary concern is the success of our students. To help them achieve this goal, it is my role as a Board member to set policies for the College, examine and approve the budget, select the President of the College and evaluate their work, and advocate for the College both locally and statewide. Having seen the value of a student's success, both to the individual and to the community, I find it easy to do the behind-the- scene jobs of a Board member.

I am strongly motivated to continue the work I have done at Rogue Community College, and I hope you will support me in this endeavor.

(This information furnished by Patricia Ashley.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Rogue Community College District Director, Zone 4



### Jonathan Bilden

**Occupation:** Charter School Business Manager

**Occupational Background:** Charter School Administration; Nonprofit Leadership; Entrepreneurial & Marketing Management

**Educational Background:** Eagle Point High School; Attended RCC/SOU (*2016 Leadership & Innovation Cohort*)

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Eagle Point City Council; Eagle Point School Board; Oregon Governor's Regional Solutions Council (Southern Oregon Region); League of Oregon Cities Board of Directors; Oregon School Boards Association Legislative Policy Committee

**Community Service**

ACCESS Board Member; Southern OR Head Start past Board Member; SOREDI past Board Member; Eagle Point Chamber Board Member; Butte Creek Mill Foundation Board Member

RCC is a unique asset for Southern Oregon, supporting local residents obtain the skills needed to secure living wage jobs. This essential community service will allow us to meet the needs of tomorrow's workforce.

*If elected, I will:*

- Ensure RCC is responsive to the needs of our communities
- Build partnerships with community, business, and elected leaders in northern Jackson County (Zone 4)
- Advocate for innovative educational programs which provide the trainings need by our workforce

**Vote Jonathan Bilden  
RCC Board, Zone 4**

*"Jonathan has been a tenacious advocate for strong local education systems, and he would be a great addition to the RCC Board"*  
- Mike McLane, former State Representative

*"I support Jonathan for the RCC Board mainly from his work with our local school district and charter school" - Bob Russell, former EP Mayor*

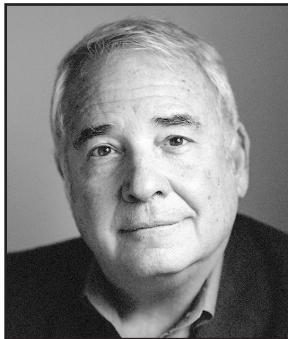
*"Jonathan is dedicated to serving our local communities, including our schools, which would make him a strong member of the RCC Board" - James Mannenbach, former EP City Councilor*

*"As a charter school leader, Jonathan has focused on career learning for local students, making him a good fit for the RCC Board" - Dave Dotterer, Local Charter School Board Chair*

(This information furnished by Jonathan Bilden.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Rogue Community College District Director, Zone 5



**Gary  
Piano**

**Occupation:** Retired educator  
**Occupational Background:** Superintendent of Schools | Mercer Island School District; Executive Director, Instructional Service | Kent School District; Teacher/Administrator | Mukilteo School District

**Educational Background:** Seton Hall University, Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy; Stony Brook University, MA, Liberal Studies; Long Island University, CW Post Campus, BA, English/Education

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Appointed Board Member, Rogue Community College

I am pleased to be running for Position 5 as a member of the Board of Education for Rogue Community College. I was unanimously selected by the Board on October 20, 2022 to fill the Position 5 vacancy. Education is both my passion and has been my profession for nearly 40 years.

As a teacher and administrator, I have supported and enabled students to access programs many presumed were unavailable to them. For over 20 years, I served as a teacher at the elementary and secondary levels. The second half of my career was spent as director of curriculum, executive director of instructional services and finally as superintendent of schools.

I know how schools work and how students engage and why some students leave. These perspectives would add richly to the conversations with fellow board members and with RCC students, staff and administration.

Rogue Community College has a unique and important role in our communities. It serves post-secondary students of any age who desire access to college and beyond. It offers certificate programs in workforce development and is a 'safety-net' for many who want access to opportunities in the job market.

I have served my community in many ways including as a Rotarian for the past 17 years, most recently as president of my local club. In addition I have volunteered my time as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) whose role it is to advocate for children who are in protected custody.

It would be my privilege to represent you as a board member on the Rogue Community College Board of Education.

## Southern Oregon Education Service District Director, Zone 9



**Ana  
Mannenbach**

**Occupation:** Educational Program Administrator/Physical Therapist

**Occupational Background:** Physical Therapist, Pediatric Care

**Educational Background:** Doctor of Physical Therapy, Eastern Washington University; Bachelor of Science, University of Washington

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Eagle Point School Board Member; Eagle Point Community Development Commission Member

### Community Service

Southern Oregon Head Start Past Board Member; Down Syndrome of Southern Oregon Past Board Member

It has been an honor to serve as your representative on the Southern Oregon ESD Board for the past four years. While our education systems have experienced challenges never seen before, I am very proud that Southern Oregon ESD has remained committed to its mission of providing high-quality, cost-effective education services to our region. I would appreciate your support for a new term on the Southern Oregon ESD Board to ensure we continue supporting local students with the services they need to succeed.

**Please Vote Ana Mannenbach**

**For SOESD Board, Position 9**

*(This information furnished by Gary Piano.)*

*(This information furnished by Ana Mannenbach.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Ashland School District 5 Director, Position 2



**Russell  
Phillips**

**Occupation:** CEO and President of DomeGuys International LLC; Founder and Vice President of Clean Sweep Gutter Pros Incorporated

**Occupational Background:**  
None

**Educational Background:** Mountain View High School; Grade 12; Diploma; Central Oregon Community College; Grade 13; Southern Oregon University; Grade 15;

**Prior Governmental Experience:** 22/23 Ashland Elementary School Rebalancing Committee

A native Oregonian, I moved to Ashland in 2000. I fell in love with Ashland and knew this is where I would want to raise children. Currently, my kids both go to Helman Elementary School. It is my desire is to be in service to the community that has given so much to my family.

As a small business owner, I am aware of the impact of being a working parent in the Rogue Valley. I am conscious of the needs that arise for community support but the ways in which we depend on our community to help remove barriers for busy working households. We want all of the children in our community to have not only the resources but the opportunity to shine.

Our kids are the future. I believe that our commitment to them is an investment in a better tomorrow. My unwavering belief is supporting equitable access to quality pre-k childcare through post-high school education is imperative. This commitment paves the road for the successful futures of our youth. Building and maintaining strong relationships with the community and partnering with organizations is crucial to healthy youth development. The Ashland School Board along with SOU, RCC, Ashland City Council, PTA, YMCA, WorkSource Oregon, regional and state representatives are groups we need working in tandem to evolve our public policy. Filling gaps in the support network between our community and our children are necessary for community health. When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school but in the rest of their lives. We are better when we work together.

## Ashland School District 5 Director, Position 2



**Dan  
Ruby**

**Occupation:** Senior Director of Strategic Partnership, Rogue Community Health

**Occupational Background:** CEO of Scienworks Museum; Director of K-12 outreach and informal education for Raggio

Center for STEM Research, University of Nevada, Reno; Director, Fleischmann Planetarium

**Educational Background:** Masters of Science in Secondary Education, focus in Science, Technology and Society; University of Nevada, Reno

**Prior Governmental Experience:** NA

With two decades of experience in education and working alongside districts toward better student outcomes, I am familiar with a wide range of issues and solutions for grade levels K-12. With a background in higher ed administration, I know it's important to make systems work for, not against, students, teachers, parents, and officials. I am adept at institutional finances. I have a passion for science learning, and recognize that student success post-graduation can mean anything from career tech schools to doctorates. As a parent, I believe that media literacy and behavioral health are crucial for the wellbeing of our children, especially as we emerge from a global pandemic.

*(This information furnished by Russell Phillips.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

*(This information furnished by Dan Ruby.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Ashland School District 5 Director, Position 5

NO PHOTO  
SUBMITTED

### Russell Hatch

**Occupation:** Owner/Instructor at Ashland Hero Academy (6 Years)

**Occupational Background:** Instructor at Northwest Fighting Arts (13 Years)

**Educational Background:** PCC 2 Years, Master Coaching Certification Tai Chi, Master Coaching Certification Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Instructor Cerfication Mauy Thai

**Prior Governmental Experience:** None

I am very excited to express my interest in serving our community as a member of the Ashland School Board. As a parent, long-time community member, local small business owner, and advocate for quality education, I am committed to ensuring all of our children's success.

My candidacy is focused on the belief that our children must be of top priority. I pledge to work to ensure that every child in our district receives the best possible education. I will base my decisions on the needs and wants of the entire community, and I will make sure that we listen carefully to the voices of students, parents, and teachers,

I will work to support a culture of collaboration, equity, and open communication to foster a partnership and investment in our community's future.

I am confident that, together, we can create a brighter future for our children and our community. I would be honored to have your support and the opportunity to serve as a member of the Ashland School Board.

## Central Point School District 6 Director, Position 3, Zone 2



### Cindy Tilley Case

**Occupation:** Maslow Project: Case Manager/Student Advocate

**Occupational Background:** Oral Histories by Cindy Tilley Case: Author/Writer/Publisher; Morgan & Chase Publishing:

Vice-President of Operations/Writer/Editor; Southern Oregon University: Standing Together Coordinator/Assistant to Dean of Students/SOULS Student Manager, et al.; Gable & Gray Publications: Writer/Editor/Co-Owner; Patrick Elementary School: Special Needs Educational Aid

**Educational Background:** Oregon State University Extention: Jackson County Master Gardener Certification 2015; Southern Oregon University: BA Communication, Minor Applied Ethics/ Honors 2001; Portland State University/R. Bailie School of Broadcasting: 3rd Class Broadcaster's License 1979; Crater High School: Graduate 1978

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Central Point School District 6: Board Director 1994 - 2023 Committees: Budget, Transportation, Property, Bargaining/Negotiations, Bond Levy, et al.; Jackson County Master Gardener Association: 2015 - 2018. Board of Directors Recording Secretary.; Southern Oregon Historical Society: Board of Trustees 1986 - 1995. Nominating Chair, Board of Trustees Secretary, et al.; Gold Hill Historical Society: 1986 - 2010. Past President and Executive Board Member.

I believe the true nature and the standards of any community shines most brightly in its schools. Over the years I've witnessed our three District 6 communities give unconditional support to our students. Teachers, staff, volunteers, business owners, former students, retired District employees and generations of local families have repeatedly put our students first. I've spent three decades as a D6 Board Director and I can honestly say I've had no other volunteer experience which surpasses the incredible work being done in, and for our District. There is so much more to be done and I would love the opportunity to continue the important and impactful work of stewarding our children's education for District 6. It has been my honor to serve the D6 family and I'm a grateful recipient of your trust. Thank you for your continued support.

(This information furnished by Russell Hatch.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

(This information furnished by Cindy Tilley Case.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Central Point School District 6 Director, Position 5, Zone 1



**Cathy  
Salmon**

**Occupation:** Retired

**Occupational Background:** SD6 HR Administrative Assistant

**Educational Background:** Crater High, 12, Diploma

**Prior Governmental Experience:** CP SD6 Board Member

I was 6 when I entered Jewett Elementary; never could I have dreamt that I would spend my entire career in District 6 and raise our own children through graduation at Crater. This lifetime of memories has forever made the school district a part of who I am-a part that has given me so much. I am left with a profound sense of gratitude that compels me, which I will pair with my 2 terms of experience to hit the ground running day one.

We've seen so many exciting developments during my last term; the most significant was the passing of the bond, providing safety and security for all schools, improvements to air quality, renovations for aging schools and a new gymnasium at Jewett. Additionally, we're opening Rogue Primary-our first new school since 1967!

As an engaged board member, it has been an honor to watch our students thrive; their dedication has inspired me to be their strongest advocate and energized me to continue serving our community.

### Endorsement:

I am pleased to endorse Cathy Salmon for School Board Member in D6. As a graduate of Crater High School and with 36 years of experience working in the district, Cathy has a deep understanding of the challenges facing our schools and the needs of our students.

Cathy has already demonstrated her commitment to education by serving as a board member for 8 years. During this time, she has brought a high level of professionalism, a wealth of district history, and a genuine passion for education.

I have no doubt that Cathy is the right person for this job. She has the experience, dedication, and vision needed to help ensure that all students in SD6 receive the high-quality education they deserve. I urge you to vote for Cathy Salmon.

Jolee Wallace

Business owner & D6 board member

## Eagle Point School District 9 Director, Position 4



**Chery  
Stritenberg**

**Occupation:** Self Employed-Property Manager

**Occupational Background:** Direct Marketing Planner; Purchasing and Inventory Planning Manager

**Educational Background:** Stonington High School Graduate

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA); Republican Precinct Committee Person; Eagle Point School District Budget Committee Member

As a parent I started advocating for children before I was appointed to the Eagle Point School Board, I would be honored to continue to serve our school district.

I believe in the direction our district is going with the leadership of our Superintendent. We want accountability, I'd like to see us retain and utilize the skills of our most knowledgably staff as well as provide our students with the essential skills they need to be successful.

I will continue to be a voice for our district and community. If there is one thing I have learned, it's you shouldn't assume that those in authority are aware of everything that is going on. It is crucial to take advantage of opportunities for public comment and testimony in order for your concerns to be addressed. There is always a bigger picture that needs to be evaluated when making decisions that will impact the entire district. I say that knowing that as a school board member I may make a decision that I believe is truly in the best interest of the district but also realize if it's something I don't agree with for my family I have the freedom to seek alternative options for my child.

Many of the choices school board members have to make are initiated by the ODE and the State before they ever come to us. My goal is to help people get ahead of policies that are coming before they become a contentious topic within our district. I believe that when people with different perspectives have the ability to truly hear one another, it is possible to attain a mutual agreement that addresses concerns and benefits for both sides ultimately leading to the success of our students and community.

(This information furnished by Cathy Salmon.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

(This information furnished by Chery Stritenberg.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 4



**Kendell H  
Ferguson**

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Occupational Background:** Attorney/Partner - Sorenson, Ransom & Ferguson (2010-Present); Associate Attorney - Cauble, Dole & Sorenson (2007-2010); Hostess - McGrath's (1998-1999)

**Educational Background:** South Medford High School (1999); Southern Oregon University, B.S. Chemistry, Cum Laude; University of Oregon, J.D.

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Medford School Board Budget Committee (2020-Present)

**Volunteer Experience:**

Board of Directors, ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum (2008-2013); Board of Directors, Lovejoy Hospice (2012-2017); Board of Directors, Project Youth+ (2022-Present)

**Advocating for Students and Teachers**

I am a second-generation Medford native with deep ties to our community. I know firsthand that having passionate advocates makes a difference in student outcomes. My husband and I are raising our two children here, and I'm working to instill the same love for education in them that my parents gave to me. More hard work lies ahead as we work to support Medford's students and teachers. We need creative solutions to problems like teacher shortages, math and literacy gaps, and behavioral challenges. I know that we can work together to address these issues and ensure that Medford is a district that serves all students and treats everyone with dignity and respect.

**Opportunity for Every Child**

Since 2010, I've owned and operated a small, local firm with my two law partners, and various other attorneys. One of the ways that I stay in tune with the heartbeat of our community is by serving with various local organizations. Through volunteering, I've learned about many of the challenges facing Medford's students. I'm dedicated to increasing opportunities for all our children to receive vocational and career-readiness training in addition to college prep courses. It is crucial that every student is provided with an appropriate, meaningful education that prepares them for success on each of their future paths.

**Proudly Endorsed By:**

Angie LaNier, Attorney

Kim Wallan, State Representative

Joe Kellerman, Attorney

Bill Thorndike, Medford Fabrication

April Sevcik, Local Leader and Lifelong Friend

Jessica Gomez, Local Leader and Business Owner

Medford Education Association

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 4



**Chris  
Miller**

**Occupation:** Presently a stay-at-home parent and volunteer at Hoover Elementary PTO.

**Occupational Background:** Previously a broadcast television director.

**Educational Background:** I have a Master's Degree in Management and Leadership from WGU and a Bachelor's in Communication from Simpson University.

**Prior Governmental Experience:** I have no previous governmental experience.

I have been a manager and team leader across a diverse set of disciplines, ranging from coffee shops to live television broadcasting. Throughout my career I have developed the unique skills necessary for long term planning and asset management that is necessary for success as a school board member.

For the last decade, I have been lucky enough to focus my time and efforts towards being primarily a stay-at-home parent. Between job obligations, I have invested myself into the PTO at my children's school. As a parent volunteer, both in and outside of the classroom, I have become intimately aware of the rhythms of what school life is like for our children. Additionally, I was selected to be a member of the re-zoning committee that created the future school boundaries for every middle school student in Medford.

During my time on the re-zoning committee I discovered a blind-spot on the school board. Simply stated, there are too few board members with young children in the district. I believe that I would be an asset to the board by bringing along this kind of insider knowledge. By using the practical knowledge of a parent volunteer of young children and the long experience of managing people and systems, I can help the school board transition to new and more effective ways to support our children. Thank you for your vote!

*(This information furnished by Kendell H Ferguson.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

*(This information furnished by Chris Miller.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 4



### Ilex Brandenberger

**Occupation:** Engineering Certification Manager, Erickson Incorporated

**Occupational Background:** Aircraft Structures Engineer at Erickson, Airbus, Hawker Beechcraft, and L-3 Communications

**Educational Background:** Science Academy of South Texas High School; Missouri University of Science and Technology - Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Current Board Director in Position #4, Budget Committee (formerly Vice Chair), Committee member on APPLE Committee to save Ruch School

Certifications/Awards: Federal Aviation Administration Designated Engineering Representative, Professional Engineer in Oregon and Kansas, Eagle Scout

Organizations: Member of New Life Nazarene; Committee Member for Troop 7, Boy Scouts of America

It is incredibly important that the Medford School District provide a quality education for our children if we want to maintain a healthy and productive society in our area. We must educate all children so that they can each achieve their maximum potential, whether they plan to attend college or not. Our family has a vested interest in the school district as our own children attended K-8 at Ruch and now attend South Medford High School.

The School Board should enact or continue sensible policies that:

1. Ensure that students are allowed to tailor their education to suit their own needs and goals.
2. Continue to support and expand educational options, such as CTE Programs, Charter Schools, Schools of Choice, AP course offerings, etc.
3. Form partnerships with local businesses and organizations to help graduates get jobs and stay in our area.
4. Demonstrate good stewardship of taxpayer money by being fiscally responsible.

I am proud to be endorsed by the following individuals:

Peter Salant, Owner of Salant Family Ranch

Jim Horner, Medford 549C School Board Member

Billy Johnson, Chief Engineer at Erickson Incorporated

For more information visit:

[ilexforschoolboard.org](http://ilexforschoolboard.org)

(This information furnished by Ilex Brandenberger.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 5



### Tod Hunt

**Occupation:** Principal Broker, Hunt For Homes, LLC

**Occupational Background:** Real Estate Broker; Regional Marketing Manager, First American Title

**Educational Background:** Montana State University, Teaching Credential; University of Southern California, B.S. Business Administration

**Prior Governmental Experience:** School Board Director, Medford School District 549C, July 2018 to present; Commissioner, Medford Planning Commission, 2001-2004

In the past 4 years, despite the pandemic, the Board and I have accomplished a great deal.

By identifying every student by name, strength and need, our district gave birth to the Medford Online Academy, laid the foundation for fall openings of the Project Based Innovation Academy and Oakdale Middle School, and successfully engaged the public in establishing the new middle school attendance boundaries.

We conducted a curriculum audit to bring coursework consistency throughout the district, led the state by initiating a new reading curriculum based on the science of reading, and have laid the foundation for a coherent new district wide math curriculum for next year. In addition, in 2022, our Board recognized the attainment of the highest on time graduation rate in years at over 87% - up from 82% the previous year.

I advocate for:

#### **Reading Mastery**

Early engagement fosters lifelong appreciation and respect for knowledge and truth.

#### **Math Proficiency**

Integrative math programs that inspire students to think beyond basic concepts to its application in every aspect of life

#### **Academics vs Indoctrination**

Focus on relevant content that engenders critical thinking, and honest discussions that sharpen discernment skills separating facts from opinions, guiding thoughtful actions and avoid curricula that promotes divisive, politically charged social issues.

#### **Civics / Economics Education**

Appreciate our country's founding, the legal Constitutional process that governs it and the vital economic policies that propel it.

#### **School Safety**

I support our essential School Resource Officers and new Marshalls Program

#### **Local Control**

As your advocate the last 5 years, I welcome your vote and continued support to help me drive the innovative and rigorous programs already launched to successful fruition.

(This information furnished by Tod Hunt.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 5



**Michelle  
Atkinson**

**Occupation:** Nonprofit Leadership; Investor

**Occupational Background:** Library Services, Procare (Preschool Accounting/Business Software); Telecommunications

**Educational Background:** University of Oregon, Bachelor of Science, Journalism and Communications (2006); South Medford High School (2003)

**Prior Governmental Experience:** President, Kids Unlimited Academy School Board (2017 - Present); Chair, Medford School District Budget Committee (2019 - Present); Jackson County Library Advisory Committee (2012 - 2014)

**Community Experience:** President, Hoover Elementary Parent/Teacher Organization (2020 - Present); Vice-President, Family Nurturing Center (2017 - Present); Co-Founder, Libraries for All (2012-2014); Medford Food Project (2017-current)

As a mom of two students enrolled in the Medford School District and a graduate of the district myself, my heart is with our schools. **These are my priorities:**

### **COMPASSION FOR ALL STUDENTS**

As a Medford School Board member, I will have high expectations for both academic achievement and compassion. We can better help students meet their potential by considering their individual needs and skills. I will work to enhance services for mental health, special education, and behavior-related challenges.

### **RESPECT FOR ALL FAMILIES**

Every family wants to feel heard and respected. With honesty, transparency, and clear communications, our school district can build strong relationships with families, which is crucial for student success.

### **SUPPORT FOR ALL EDUCATORS**

I deeply value and appreciate our educators. As a board member, I will work to support classroom needs while also advocating for fair compensation.

#### **Learn More and Help Out / Aprender Más y Ayudar** [www.MichelleAtkinson.org](http://www.MichelleAtkinson.org)

"Michelle has a broad spectrum of experience working for the benefit of children and will be an asset to our School Board. I have known Michelle for years, and she will embrace this position with passion and high expectations for all."

- Jeff Kinsella, Medford School Board Director

#### **I am honored to be endorsed by:**

Medford Education Association, Stand for Children, Dr. Lee Murdoch, Lisa O'Connor, Sunny Spicer, Jani Hale, Chad Day & Lyn Hennion

*(This information furnished by Michelle Atkinson.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 5



**Taryne  
Saunders**

**Occupation:** Private Caregiver

**Occupational Background:** Private Caregiver (2021-present); Lab Assistant/Phlebotomist, Providence (2019-2021); Lab Assistant/Phlebotomist, Complete Care (2016-2019); Phlebotomist, Ventana Wellness (2015-2016); Phlebotomist, Medford Medical Clinic (2012-2015)

**Educational Background:** Kennedy Elementary School; Hedrick Middle School; North Medford High School (2002); Cabrillo College (2009-2010); Abdill Career College (2012)

**Prior Governmental Experience:** None

**Volunteer Experience:** Peer Mentor, YFC Campus Life (1996-2002); Orphanage Worker, Cambodia (2002), Peru (2004); Habitat for Humanity, New Zealand (2006)

#### **Let's Work Together**

We can all agree that our students and teachers need our help. The incredible circumstances of the past three years have highlighted, and in some cases intensified, the challenges facing our district. I am dedicated to working with teachers, parents, administrators, and fellow school board directors to find the best possible solutions to complex problems. Together, we can do better to meet crucial math and literacy targets, improve challenging behaviors, and create a learning environment that serves every student.

#### **Supported Teachers Support Students**

Our district is making strides toward addressing the teacher shortage facing nearly every school in our district. We now have a dedicated career pathway helping high-schoolers enter teacher prep programs and providing incentives for them to return to Medford as teachers. While this is an excellent long-term plan, we need to prioritize filling vacancies in the short-term, too. Schools are suffering because teachers are stretched too thin. I am committed to increasing teaching and support staff, which will create a safer, more effective environment for students and teachers alike.

#### **Supported Parents Support Schools**

I was born and raised in Medford, and now my husband and I are raising our five children here. We will have students in the Medford School District for the next 20 years, so I am invested, dedicated, and passionate about ensuring that every one of our schools is working at its absolute best. I would be honored to work for you, our students, and our teachers on the Medford School Board.

*(This information furnished by Taryne Saunders.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 6



**Michael  
Williams**

**Occupation:** Hemp and Cannabis Compliance and Enforcement Officer, Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Occupational Background:** Radio Broadcasting; Chef; Viticulturist and Wine Educator; Children's Camp Counselor

**Educational Background:** B.S. Research and Development, Nicholls State University; John Folse Culinary Institute graduate; Society of Wine Educators

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Clackamas County Sheriff's Office; NSU External Affairs

**Volunteer Experience:** Hurricane Disaster Relief, Louisiana; Volunteer, NSU Veterans Affairs

### Achievement is for Every Learner

We all know what an important role quality education plays in future success. I was an interpreter for my mother for much of her adult life—not because she didn't speak English, but because her teachers in the southern U.S. quietly refused to teach black students how to read. She had a high school diploma, but my mother never got an education. I'm dedicated to working with the great people in the Medford School District to ensure that a high school education indicates real achievement and that our students are prepared for meaningful, productive futures.

### Building on Our Successes

We are fortunate that Medford's educators are dedicated to the success of each student, and yet challenges remain that must be addressed. Issues of safety, with students bullying and frightening others, need to be taken more seriously. I've been able to work with the district and my children's school to resolve some of these problems and want to be able to make that kind of impact across the whole district for all of Medford's students.

### Aiming at a Bright Future

My wife and I chose Medford as our home and are proud to be raising our family here. My goal as a member of the Medford School Board is to foster an environment where educators, learners, and families know that they are welcome and their viewpoints are valued. By building collaborative relationships, we will create a positive, safe, and fruitful learning environment for students and teachers.

### Proudly Endorsed By:

Medford Education Association  
Oregon Moms Union  
Kim Wallan, State Representative

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 6



**Robin  
Lee**

**Occupation:** Retired.

**Occupational Background:** Staff Assistant III, Asante Corporate Office 12 years; Senior Staff Property Adjuster, Allstate Insurance 22 years; Claim appraiser, Crawford & Co, six years; bookkeeping, & banking five years.

**Educational Background:** UCSB, BA Social Anthropology; 20 post-grad units Counseling, California State at Fullerton.

### Prior Governmental Experience: PCP

**Community Involvement:** Twenty short-term building projects in ten different countries over 22 years; five terms on my Church Mission Board; Ten years on Board of Directors of Hearts With A Mission-five as secretary; Volunteer providing Christmas gifts for 200 children thru church. Attended Medford Citizens' Academy in 2020, and attending Jackson County Sheriffs' Citizens' Academy currently.

In-person instruction has resumed in our schools with challenges to make up for lost instruction. Many of our kids aren't really ready to "launch" into careers/college upon graduation. They need basics: "3-Rs", with science, civics, etc., but curriculum has become clouded with CRT training and mixed messages. Children need sensitive, supportive environments without adding more baggage. They need to learn to evaluate all ideas and draw their own conclusions, dream their own dreams. As someone who has worked with youth and community projects, I am motivated to work with the Board to help re-awaken our students with the possibilities that await them.

Using the mediating skills I learned in my counseling studies, honed by 28 years of insurance adjusting, I can bring disagreeing sides together even in stressful situations. Collaboration is paramount to the school board successfully meeting students' and parents' needs, along with teachers' and staff's needs. We must engage members of our community, too. I am committed to do all I can to help the Board develop and implement the best policies for best outcomes for all!

I am honored to be endorsed by:

Fred Phelps  
Perry Atkinson  
Bill Maentz  
Lorena (Lori) Gowland  
Brian Heikkila  
Dale Sauer

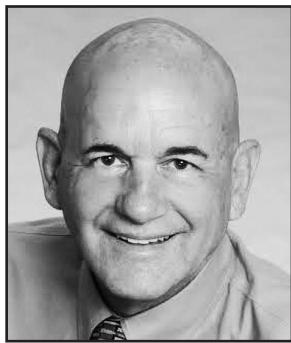
(This information furnished by Michael Williams.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

(This information furnished by Robin Lee.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 7



**Curt  
Ankerberg**

**Occupation:** RETIRED  
**Occupational Background:** RETIRED AFTER 33-YEAR CAREER AS A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
**Educational Background:** CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY - B.S. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
**Prior Governmental Experience:** 549C TUTOR

## Medford School District 549C Director, Position 7



**Lilia  
Caballero**

**Occupation:** Medford Police Department, Cultural Outreach Coordinator (2007- present)  
**Occupational Background:** Respiratory Therapist  
**Educational Background:** Respiratory Therapist Certificate; Rogue Community College.  
**Prior Governmental Experience:** Medford School Board Director (2015-present); Medford School District Latino Advisory Committee (2010-2011) and Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee (2006)

**Community Experience:**

Board Secretary, ACCESS; Volunteer, American Red Cross; Volunteer, Britt Festivals; Board Member, Center for Non-profit Legal Services; Volunteer, Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS); Board Trustee, Gordon Elwood Foundation; Member, Greater Medford Multicultural Fair Organizing Committee; Participant, Jackson County Homeless Task Force; Member, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee; Chair, Latinx Interagency Committee; Advisory Group Member, Southern Oregon Latino Scholarship Fund

**Experience and Collaboration Make a Difference**

Eight years ago, voters entrusted me with a Medford School Board seat. Thank you. I return this election with the ability to work with many constituencies and a deep understanding of our district's issues. Graduation rates are the highest in the district's history and among the highest among Oregon's large districts. Our students experienced learning losses during the pandemic, and we're responding this year with a major focus on literacy. We created a new online school during the pandemic and are developing a new project learning-based high school called Innovation Academy.

Please join us in Re-Electing Lilia Caballero

"Lilia builds bridges across our communities. We need her continued leadership on the Medford School Board for our students' and community's success."

Bill Thorndike, Medford Fabrication, Business Leader

"Lilia's drive and hard work to find solutions will continue on the Medford School Board. She is an independent thinker who strives to reach compromise." Gary Wheeler, former Medford Mayor

"Lilia deserves to be re-elected and continue on the Medford 549C School Board. She has done an excellent job representing the district." Jan Murphy, Community Leader

"Lilia has represented us well as a 549c board member. She deserves to be re-elected." Tim George, former Medford Police Chief

Lilia is endorsed by the Medford Education Association and Stand for Children.

*(This information furnished by Curt Ankerberg.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

*(This information furnished by Lilia Caballero.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

## Phoenix-Talent School District 4 Director, Position 2, Zone 2



**Dawn  
Watson**

**Occupation:** Co-founder R. Watson & Associates and Think Green Ranch

**Occupational Background:** None

**Educational Background:** Brookings-Harbor High; Diploma 1991

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Phoenix-Talent School Board: 10 years; OSBA Board of Directors: 2 years; OSBA Rural Schools Advisory Committee: 1 year

Once re-elected I will continue advocating for:

- Accountability for all students' success.
- Legislators for policies that give schools flexibility and local control.
- Safe schools with the presence of the School Resource Officers.
- Increasing instructional time to get students back to grade level.
- Career & Technical Training to prepare students for the workforce.
- Parent and student voices to be heard.

"Dawn Watson is the fiercest advocate for kids I have ever served with. She brings the experience, expertise, and energy needed to our challenges, and her resume of accomplishments speaks for itself. I urge my fellow community members to re-elect Dawn to the school board." -Michael Campbell, Phoenix-Talent Board Chair.

"Conozco a Dawn desde 2018 y siempre he admirado su trabajo en nuestras escuelas. Nunca se olvida de incluir a las diversas familias de nuestro distrito que hablan otros idiomas. Ella es muy inclusiva con todos los estudiantes y ayuda a que todos se sientan bienvenidos e incluidos. Ella escucha nuestras voces y nos pregunta que necesitamos. También he visto lo involucrada que está con nuestra comunidad y lo experimentada que es con sus conocimientos de liderazgo que han contribuido bien a nuestro distrito de Phoenix-Talent". - Rosa Ochoa Padre

"I've known Dawn since 2018 and I've always admired her work in our schools. She never forgets to include the various families in our district that speak other languages. She is very inclusive with all students and helps everyone feel welcome and included. She listens to our voices and asks what we need. I also have seen how involved she is with our community and how experienced she is with her leadership knowledge that has contributed well to our Phoenix-Talent District." - Rosa Ochoa Parent

(Translated from Spanish)

Facebook-Dawn Watson Phoenix-Talent School Board

## Phoenix-Talent School District 4 Director, Position 2, Zone 2



**Lisa (Walker)  
Jennings**

**Occupation:** Real Estate Broker

**Occupational Background:** Title and Escrow

**Educational Background:** Phoenix-Talent, 12th grade

**Prior Governmental Experience:** None

I have lived in the Phoenix-Talent school district all my life and graduated from Phoenix High school, along with all 5 of my siblings and now both of my children are attending school in this district.

We need to stay focused on programs and resources that support education and teachers in the classroom. Teachers are overwhelmed, have large class sizes, and deal with a variety of behavioral issues. We as a district need to implement policies that ensure our students first have strong skills in the basics of reading, writing, math, history, economics, budgeting, and life skills. Leave the distractions of political and moral issues to the parents and/or legal guardians. It is in the best interest of our children that we get back to the fundamentals of a solid EDUCATION!!

The residents of our community deserve to have a school board that values Parental Rights, passes policies that reflect our community values, and allows all voices to be heard. I will work to end the extreme policies in our schools that sacrifice the concept of meritocracy and high individual achievement. I pledge to do everything possible to help improve our test scores so our students can achieve higher than just the state standards. I will assure that every question asked at a school board meeting is answered, either in person or in writing.

I also support and advocate for a strong athletics department and extracurricular activities. Many life skills are learned and brings team camaraderie among classmates

If you believe as I do, are frustrated, and feel ignored, I urge you to vote for Lisa Walker Jennings for the Phoenix-Talent School Board. It's time for a change!

Endorsements:

Rick Dyer-Jackson County Commissioner

Craig Prewitt-Former chairman of Phoenix-Talent-School Board and president of Oregon School Board Assoc.

Dale Sauer-Teacher, Phoenix-Talent, 1978-1992; Assistant Principal, 1992-2006

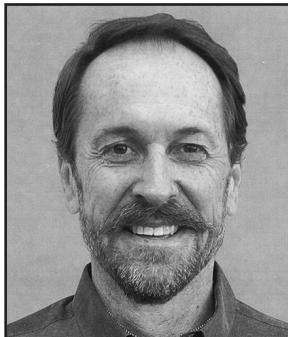
(This information furnished by Dawn Watson.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

(This information furnished by Lisa (Walker) Jennings.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Phoenix-Talent School District 4 Director, Position 4, Zone 1



**Kevin  
Christman**

**Occupation:** Self-Employed Artist/Educator

**Occupational Background:** McDonnell Douglas Aerospace, Huntington Beach, CA; Northrop Corp., Pico Rivera, CA

**Educational Background:** Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA 2 Years; Hutchinson, MN Area Vocational Technical Institute, Certification; Paynesville High School, MN, Diploma

**Prior Governmental Experience:** None

I am committed to this community and would like to work as an advocate on the Phoenix / Talent School Board to ensure that our children receive the best possible education and that the educators, superintendent, students and staff feel supported and encouraged.

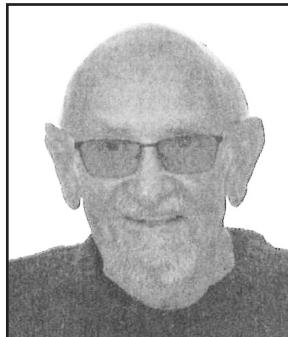
I have lived in the Rogue Valley for 25 years, creating public works of art, teaching sculpture classes, raising my family, and enjoying the natural beauty of Southern Oregon. Now, as the parent of a High School Graduate and two TMS students, I understand how much impact that a caring teacher, coach, or mentor can have on a child. I see how important it is to make expectations high and opportunities available to everyone. We also need to make sure that distractions to academics are minimized and that high risk students get the tools they need to feel supported and that families are included in the well being of their children.

I commend the current school board for the hard work that they have put into navigating the unprecedented challenges that faced the district over the past 3 years. I am eager to collaborate with the board to resolve budgetary challenges, meet educational goals, provide stability for displaced students and families and be a vital link between community and the school.

It's important that we focus on high standards of academic learning and that our teachers are encouraged to innovate and inspire. Lets work together to better guarantee that todays children will become tomorrows creative leaders.

"Putting Education at the Top of the List"

## Phoenix-Talent School District 4 Director, Position 4, Zone 1



**Richard A (Rick)  
Nagel**

**Occupation:** Semi-Retired Certified Public Accountant

**Occupational Background:** Partner, Nagel & Padilla, CPAs, Ashland; Interim Executive Director, OnTrack, Medford; Accounting Instructor, Southern

Oregon University, Ashland; COO & Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Realty Services, Pasadena CA; Accounting Instructor, Oregon College of Business, Medford; CPA firms, Los Angeles CA

**Educational Background:** University of Laverne; California State University, Northridge, BS; UCLA; LA Valley JC; Southern Oregon University; Phoenix High School, Diploma; Talent High School

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Phoenix-Talent School District #4, 1999-present; Incumbent Board Member; Budget Committee; US Army

Yep, it's me again. I have been asking for your support since 1999 when I first became a Phoenix-Talent School Board member. After 24 years I still believe I have something to contribute to our School District.

My background as a board member, CPA, educator, business man and father are some of my qualifications.

I consider myself as a bridge between our current Board and previous ones. I offer an historical (not hysterical) perspective. My heart is with our schools, teachers, staff and of course, our students. A sound education is vital to our youth. My school board philosophy is to prepare our students for post graduation to pursue higher education or enter a trade. Be good citizens & contribute to society. The three R's are essential however with todays expanding technology we must provide the required tools. School safety is of paramount importance.

A few of the District Committees I have served on: Bargaining - Traditional & Collaborative, Bond, Budget, Coach Selection and PTS Communications.

I was the Voice of Boys & Girls Pirate Basketball for 15 years.

I am a graduate of Phoenix High. This is my home. May I have your vote?

(This information furnished by Kevin Christman.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

(This information furnished by Richard A (Rick) Nagel.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Phoenix-Talent School District 4 Director, Position 5, Zone 1

NO PHOTO  
SUBMITTED

### Rebecca Weathers

**Occupation:** Manager at Sweet Beet Station in Talent

**Occupational Background:** Various roles in hospitality, service, and elder care.

**Educational Background:** Phoenix High School

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Phoenix Talent School Board, 2021-Present

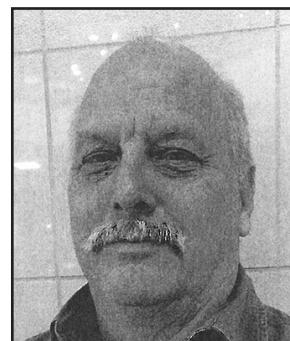
As a proud Phoenix Talent School District student and a parent of two current students, and one alumnus, I understand the district's commitment to students, families, and the community. I have spent the past two years on the board carefully evaluating the impacts of significant decisions on our students and families. I aim to continue fostering an engaging and positive experience for all children as they progress through our district. Thank you for your vote and continued support.

-Rebecca Weathers

*"Rebecca is responsible, reliable, and an astute problem solver. She has excellent people skills and has focused on developing Sweet Beet Station as a community hub for years. As both a colleague and a fellow parent, I know that Rebecca will keep the needs of students and their families at the forefront of all decisions." - Amber Wiley, parent of a Talent Middle School student.*

*"Rebecca has been an invaluable asset to our school board, always prioritizing the well-being of students and families above everything else. She is knowledgeable, thoughtful, and never afraid to ask tough questions. I proudly recommend our community re-elect Rebecca Weathers." - Polly Farrimond, Fellow Phoenix Talent School District Board Member.*

## Phoenix-Talent School District 4 Director, Position 5, Zone 1



### Rick Sharp

**Occupation:** Sharp Solutions (machine fabricator/repair); Karate Instructor

**Occupational Background:** Sharp cabinets

**Educational Background:** Durham high, 12th; Arizona Automotive Institute associates degree

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Head Start policy Council, 6 years

Hello I am a father of three girls in a bicultural blended family. Daughter #1 graduated from Phoenix High school and is now serving in the Navy. Daughter #2 is attending Talent middle school, and daughter #3 is attending Talent elementary school. My wife Maria teaches sunday school. We believe that being involved in our childrens education is one of the most important parts of our lives.

I support parental rights and would promote respectful parental involvement.

I support students safety and equality and would work to achieve this for all students.

I support the funding and fundraising for all required student programs academic and athletic.

I would work hard to be the advocate for your children and your parental voice if elected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hola, soy padre de tres niñas en una familia mixta bicultural. La hija #1 se graduó de la preparatoria de Phoenix y ahora sirve en la Marina. La hija #2 asiste a la escuela secundaria de Talent y la hija # 3 asiste a la escuela primaria de Talent. Mi esposa María enseña en la escuela de la iglesia. Creemos que participar en la educación de nuestros hijos es una de las partes más importantes de nuestras vidas.

Apoyo los derechos de los padres y promovería la participación respetuosa de los padres.

Apoyo la seguridad y la igualdad de los estudiantes y trabajaría para lograr esto para todos los estudiantes.

Apoyo la financiación y la recaudación de fondos para todos los programas estudiantiles requeridos académicos y atléticos.

Trabajaría duro para ser el defensor de sus hijos y su voz como padre si fuera elegido.

Gracias por su consideración.

*(This information furnished by Rebecca Weathers.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

*(This information furnished by Rick Sharp.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

**Phoenix-Talent School District 4  
Director, Position 5, Zone 1**

NO PHOTO  
SUBMITTED

**Loralee  
Batten**

Columbia Helicopters -Aurora, OR; Gerber Legendary Blades - Portland, OR.

**Educational Background:** Canby Union High School; Rogue Community College; Southern Oregon University

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Republican PCP

I support RICK SHARP for this position. I respectfully withdraw my application and ask you to join me in supporting Rick. Rick is the person most suited for this position and will serve us well. Ricks involvement in the community and knowledge of what it takes to keep our schools on track is exactly what we need.

Vote for RICK SHARP!

**Pinehurst School District 94  
Director, Position 2**



**James  
Crary**

**Occupation:** Retired

**Occupational Background:** BP Contracts/Supply Chain Management; 1997-2013; Municipality of Anchorage Legal Department (1983-1997)

**Educational Background:** Pacific Lutheran University; B.B.A; 1976; University of San Diego School of Law; J.D.; 1980

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Greensprings Rural Fire District

I have lived up in the Greensprings since June of 2006. My youngest daughter, Grace, attended Pinehurst. My wife, Diana, a retired teacher, served on the Pinehurst School Board and I have served on both the Greensprings Rural Fire District Board and the Greensprings Fires and Rescue Board.

I worked in Algeria for more than five years and worked with many Algerians, Norwegians and Chinese. That experience showed me that the world is getting smaller and that we are competing not only against other Americans but against the world. So, a good, solid education is imperative for success in life.

I think that it is important to listen to parents, teachers, and school staff as they are the key components in our children's education.

I am retired so I have the time to devote to this position and I look forward to helping be a part of educating our children and starting them on their way to a fulfilling life.

I would very much appreciate your vote.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 541-531-2912.

Jim Crary

*(This information furnished by Loralee Batten.)*

*(This information furnished by James Crary.)*

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Pinehurst School District 94 Director, Position 3



**Alison  
Kling**

**Occupation:** Administrative Assistant - non-profit environmental organization

**Occupational Background:** Registrar/Admissions/Student Services - off-campus college program

**Educational Background:** Trinity College, Deerfield, IL - BA Sociology; Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL - Certification, Secondary Ed English; Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL - MA Linguistics

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Pinehurst School Board - 22 years (1994-2004, 2011-present)

First and foremost, I am a supporter of Pinehurst School. My qualifications include a background in education, being an actively involved parent of children who attended Pinehurst School over a twelve year span, and a 36 year resident and 44 year tax-paying property owner of our Greensprings community. My seven years on the Pinehurst School Foundation and 22 years of service on the Pinehurst School Board position me to be a worthy candidate to continue serving our District on the board of directors.

*(This information furnished by Alison Kling.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Pinehurst School District 94 Director, Position 5



**Deb  
Evans**

**Occupation:** Community Volunteer and Market Gardener

**Occupational Background:** 25 years - Down Syndrome Assn of Southern Oregon – President/Board member, fundraiser & Volunteer; 10 years - Small

Business Owner, Farmer, Community Organizer, President/Board member of Rural Cumberland Resources and American Suffolk Horse Assn.

**Educational Background:** College of the Atlantic; 4 years of college; Bachelor of Arts in Human Ecology; Westtown School; 12 grade; High School Diploma; K-8 Public School

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Pinehurst School Improvement Council - Chair/member (4 years); Greensprings Rural Fire District - Board Member (8 years)

My husband, Ron, and I have lived in the Greensprings since 1996. All three of our children, including our daughter with Down syndrome, attended Pinehurst School K-8th grade. We have all been grateful to have this unique school up on the mountain where children, including ours, have received an excellent education complete with a diverse student body and a caring community that has rallied, volunteered, served on committees and boards—all working together to ensure the best education we can give our children.

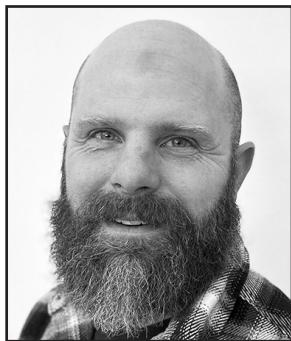
I am running for a Pinehurst School board position because I have both time and a deep caring for this community public school and want to see it continue to offer our mountain families an education they can be proud of.

It would be an honor to serve on the Pinehurst school board and work with students, families, staff and the administration to continue Pinehurst's 115-year history of serving our mountain children. Pinehurst School offers Greensprings families a unique and hard-to-find small rural public school education where class sizes are small and hands-on-learning is large. I look forward to working with our broad coalition of dedicated community members and families who share a deep commitment to engage, volunteer and work together for the success of all students.

*(This information furnished by Deb Evans.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Rogue River School District 35 Director, Position 1



**Jay A  
Chick**

**Educational Background:** Bachelors of Science Degree Outdoor and Environmental Recreation Central Michigan University 2001

**Prior Governmental Experience:** City of Rogue River Planning Commission Chair 2020-Present; Rogue River Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Hope Presbyterian Church Elder I care about kids, their families and their community. I strive to do what I feel is right to give kids the best chance to be successful, honorable, well educated contributing members of whatever society they end up in. Some of our kids will be the future leaders of our community here in and around Rogue River, some will go elsewhere. Wherever they end up I want them to be proud of where they came from, knowing they received a balanced quality education.

Some of our kids are going to grow and run our governmental, financial, medical or educational systems. Some are going to be the future trades workers that keep things working and growing. Some will be small business owners. Some are going to do things we can't even imagine because they don't exist yet. I want kids to have learned the stuff that only books can teach them as well as what only hands on experience and practical guidance can.

I desire for families to be involved with their child's education. This means inviting them to work with their kids at home and collaborate with their teachers on what their child needs. I believe when families are engaged and involved with their kids' education; social, behavioral, mental and physical deficiencies will decrease and kids will grow and learn better and give them a better chance at life.

Using our financial resources well and taking advantage of funding outside our district is key for a small district. We have a responsibility to our kids and community to take care of our buildings and grounds. I invite you to help me do that. Thank you.

*(This information furnished by Jay A Chick.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Rogue River School District 35 Director, Position 3



**Heather M  
Friend**

**Occupation:** Nurse Practitioner, Complete Integrative Care

**Occupational Background:** Nurse Practitioner/ Medical Director, La Clinica, 2018-2022; Registered Nurse, PMMC/ARRMC, 2005-2017; SANE, JCSART, 2010-2018

**Educational Background:** Frontier Nursing University, Doctor of Nursing Practice 2021; FNU, MSN, 2018; RCC, ADN, 2005; Phoenix High School, 2000

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Rogue River School Board Position 3 (since 2022); EVFD#6 Board of Directors Position 5 (since 2021)

### **Past Community Volunteerism:**

- EVFD#6 Auxiliary
- RR Wellness Steering Committee
- RR Parent Advisory, Health Curriculum, and Hiring Committees
- JCSART speaker
- Trauma Nurses Talk Tough

I have resided in Rogue River since 2015 with husband of 22 years and children. I bring a matchless perspective. My family has navigated public, private, and home schools. Having neurodivergent children, I naturally advocate for equity and opportunity. I am familiar with IEP and 504 processes - not for the faint of heart. As a primary care provider, I have witnessed firsthand the mental decline of our citizens. This crisis includes our students and requires change in our schools. My background, along with further awareness as a law enforcement officer wife, creates an urgency for me as a parent to develop improved safety features for our students and staff.

Volunteering my time for our district comes from a growing passion to be a part of the continual process of improvement for our community. The rural nature of our school offers many challenges. It is my hope we can work together toward a greater experience and a more wholesome education for our students who often are limited on opportunities due to district size. These kids are our future workforce and parents. They require our commitment, creativity, and voice to support growth and goals in safe and meaningful ways while keeping our school doors open.

As your board representation, I commit to always asking the hard questions, advocating for our students above all else.

I am proud to be a part of our tightknit community.  
Thank you for your support!

*(This information furnished by Heather M Friend.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Three Rivers School District Director, Zone 2



### Susan Fischer-Maki

**Occupation:** Owner - Common Thread Consulting

**Occupational Background:** Director - AllCare Health; Coordinator - Southern Oregon Early Learning Services; Teacher - Early Head Start; Coordinator -

Upward Bound; Instructor - Rogue Community College; Instructor - Umpqua Community College; Owner - Jitterbugz Early Learning Center; and Teacher - Medford School District

**Educational Background:** M.Ed. - University of California, San Diego; BS - University of Oregon; Diploma - North Medford High School

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Vice Chair - TRSD School Board

I am honored to introduce myself to you as the current Vice Chair of the TRSD Board. Appointed in March of 2022, I represent residents in Zone II (Hidden Valley High School, Lincoln Savage Middle School, and Madrona Elementary).

If re-elected, I will continue to work collaboratively with my colleagues to develop policies that promote academic excellence, provide safe and inclusive learning environments, and address the unique needs of our students and staff. I am committed to:

**TRANSPARENCY:** Ensuring our community is informed and involved by listening to feedback, being transparent in decision-making, evaluating policies and outcomes, and contributing to changes when necessary.

**IMPROVEMENT:** Prioritizing ongoing improvement by working collaboratively with our students, educators and community members to identify areas for growth and implementing effective solutions, being proactive in identifying and addressing disparities, and ensuring every student has access to the support they need to succeed.

**BELONGING:** Working to create a welcoming environment for all students, families, and staff where diversity is celebrated and ensuring every student feels connected to their school and community.

**OPTIMISM:** Bringing a spirit of optimism to our work to build a brighter future for our students, ensuring that teachers and staff have the support they need and feel empowered, inspired, and encouraged as they create positive learning environments for our students.

I promise to always put the needs of our students, families, and community first. Together, we can continue meaningful work to ensure the growth and success of every student!

*(This information furnished by Susan Fischer-Maki.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Three Rivers School District Director, Zone 4



### Jamie Wright

**Occupation:** Small Business Owner; The Wright Farm Rogue Valley Pastured Pork, Chicken, Eggs and Dairy

**Occupational Background:** Principal of Elementary and Junior/Senior High School; Dean of Students; Teacher; Substitute Teacher; Instructional Assistant

**Educational Background:** Scappoose High School; Concordia University; Bachelor of Education; Secondary Education English/Language Arts; Concordia University; Masters of Educational Leadership

**Prior Governmental Experience:** I have the honor of serving the District as an appointed Board member and I seek your support to continue to serve. My primary goal is to help TRSD prepare life ready students who thrive in their neighborhood schools and gain skills that help them succeed as productive adults. My duty is to listen to our families and students and make decisions that serve your needs. We need our schools to be safe and secure yet welcoming. Oregon's State School budgets do not fund physical updates to school buildings, dilapidated roofs or school security updates. As a Board member, I will support a measure that will help fund these critically needed improvements.

**Family-Centered Schools and School-Related Activities to keep Josephine County a safe and enjoyable place to live:**

I will provide transparent communication with families about: Standards and Curriculum

Growth

Achievement

Accountability

Priorities:

1. Welcoming environment for all educators, students and families

2. School Safety

Buildings that are safe and welcoming to students and staff  
Continued partnership with Sheriff Daniels and his amazing officers

Protocols and facility improvements that minimize risk for families, students and staff

Investment in healthy buildings that are conducive to students and staff thriving

3. Life Ready Students

Career-related classroom and entry-level certificate opportunities like auto mechanics, culinary arts, construction, personal and community health, early childhood education

Age appropriate and effective reading instruction

Partnerships with businesses and post highschool institutions to create entry level jobs and affordable post-secondary educational opportunities

Enrichment for students meeting or exceeding academic standards

Support and resources for students below behavioral and academic standards

4. Supportive school and district level culture that attracts and retains quality educators

*(This information furnished by Jamie Wright.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District 9 Director, Position 2



**Jeff  
Hoxsey**

**Occupational Background:** N/A

**Educational Background:** West Linn High School 12; RCC Fire/EMS Certifications; Private Pilot License

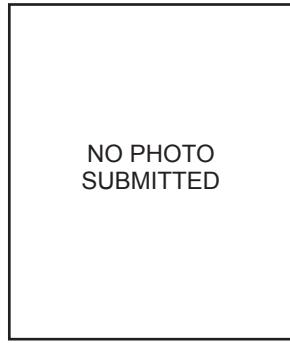
**Prior Governmental Experience:** Appointed to Board of Directors AVFD #9

I am Jeff Hoxsey, a 21 Year resident of the Applegate Valley and a volunteer firefighter with Applegate Valley Fire Department from 2003-2019. I was a Lieutenant for the last ten years of service. During my time as a volunteer firefighter, I taught some of the weekly volunteer trainings and classes for the fire academy at RCC. I was treasurer for the Applegate Fire Association and a member of the safety Committee. I learned the value of having highly trained volunteers throughout our district for a quick response time to fire and medical calls. I believe volunteers are the backbone of this fire district and are essential for protecting our rural community. If elected, I will utilize my working knowledge of how the fire district functions and my understanding of the challenges of volunteer organizations while serving in this role. I will be pro-active in finding solution to the issues facing the district, volunteers and residents.

In addition to my work with the Fire Department, I have been a local business owner for 36 years. I manage budgets and long-range planning strategies that are crucial to being fiscally responsible. I served a term as the west coast representative on the board of North American Association of Subway Franchisees. I was also the board chair for 10 years for the local franchise Advertising Fund.

As a Volunteer, business owner and longtime community member I am qualified to serve as the Board of Director Position #2. I am looking forward to serving you and representing Position #2.

## Applegate Valley Rural Fire Protection District 9 Director, Position 3



**Mike  
Blaschka**

**Occupation:** Self Employed - Mikel Customs (manufacturing) Jacksonville Oregon; Volunteer Fire Fighter Applegate Valley Fire District #9

**Occupational Background:** Owner - Dewclaw Archery; Partner- Jackson R.V. Parts and Service

**Educational Background:** Medford Senior High School - 12

**Prior Governmental Experience:** None

I was raised here in So. Oregon. Together with my wife Kelly we have raised our three children here, and owned and operated three businesses which are all still contributing to our local economy.

I am seeking a board position to continue serving the friends and families that have always supported our family and businesses.

I believe my experience, both as a business owner and as a firefighter for A.V.F.D. provide a unique history to be a valuable asset for you and your fire department as a member of your board of directors.

As a board member, I would understand the training and equipment needs of your fire department, from the perspective of a firefighter responding to alarms.

As a business owner I believe I can also represent our community to achieve the best fire department for our money. Thank you for your vote!

*(This information furnished by Jeff Hoxsey.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

*(This information furnished by Mike Blaschka.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Jackson County Rural Fire Protection District 4 Director, Position 4

NO PHOTO  
SUBMITTED

### Erika S Schumacher

officer 26.5 Year Bureau of Land Management

**Educational Background:** California State University Sacramento BS in Recreation Leisure Studies

**Prior Governmental Experience:** none

I have worked for over 26 years for the Bureau of Land Management. My experiences were working large competitive Off Highway Vehicle events, investigating fires, assisting in Search and Rescue and many other events.

I supervised a staff of 16 officers, prioritizing calls and locations to ensure coverage and public needs were met.

After retiring I worked for three years for UNLV updating the Masters in Emergency Management program. This was a Hybrid program with students learning both online and in person. This was an opportunity to learn more about the academics of Emergency Management.

I was appointed in October to serve on the Jackson County Fire District 4. The board is working together to support the fire district and all the public. Throughout my career I have had a vast experience in emergency management. I can use my past experience to serve my community.

(This information furnished by Erika S Schumacher.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Jackson County Rural Fire Protection District 5 Director, Position 1



### Derek Volkart

**Occupation:** Small business owner/Construction trades contractor

**Occupational Background:** Federal land management agency work including U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Fish & Wildlife Service.

**Educational Background:** University of Montana, Forest Resource Conservation

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Planning Commission chair/member, Talent; Urban Forestry Committee chair/member, Talent; City Councilor, Talent (2021)

My small business burned down in the Almeda fire.

Now I want to contribute my experience on fire-related issues to help protect all of us from future disasters.

I worked many years with the U.S. Forest Service, including fire suppression and prescribed burning, and I understand how challenging the work is.

**As your representative on the Fire District board, here are some of the questions I will ask:**

**\*Is the District prioritizing support for our firefighters,** or is too much of the budget going to administration at the top?

**\*Why doesn't Fire District 5 participate in the Rogue Valley Fire & Rescue Alliance** formed last year by Jackson County Fire Districts 1, 3, and 4 to identify mutual areas of desired operational or administrative improvement?

**\*Why doesn't Fire District 5 offer residents Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training** like Ashland Fire and Rescue does?

**\*What can we learn from other communities** about how to prepare for and prevent future disasters?

I hope you agree that we need experienced Fire District board members who will support our local firefighters by asking questions like these. I don't want anyone else to go through what my family and many others suffered in the Almeda fire.

(This information furnished by Derek Volkart.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Jackson County Rural Fire Protection District 5 Director, Position 2



**Cary W  
Halligan**

**Occupation:** Retired Firefighter/Engineer/Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate for Jackson County Fire District #5

**Occupational Background:** Jackson County Fire District No. 5, Firefighter/Engineer/Emergency Medical Technician; Medford Jackson County International Airport Fire Department, Fire Captain; Jackson County Fire District No. 3; Talent Police Department, Reserve Officer and Tactical Medic; Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Reserve Officer and Tactical Medic; State of Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard.

**Educational Background:** Prior to retirement, I held State of Oregon accreditation and training with the International Association of Arson Investigation, National Fire Academy, Department of Safety Standards and Training, Federal Emergency Management Administration, Rogue Interagency Training, Oregon State Board of Health Certification as an EMT Intermediate and attended Rogue Community College working towards my Fire Science Degree. I served my Country in the United States Army and received an Honorable Discharge.

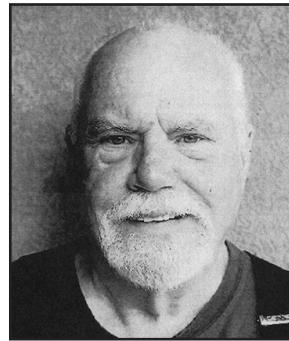
**Prior Governmental Experience:** Jackson County Fire District No. 5, Board of Directors, Position 2,

My name is Cary W. Halligan and I am running for re-election to the Jackson County Fire District No. 5 Board of Directors, Position 2. I have been a resident of Jackson County since January 1, 1985, and a resident of the City of Talent since July 15, 1995. I served the Citizens of Jackson County as a Firefighter/Engineer/EMT for 29 years, until my medical retirement in December, 2014.

I wish to continue being a part of the team of Directors and work to meet the needs of the communities JCFD No. 5 protects through fire prevention, education, community events, maintaining state-of-the-art equipment and training while keeping within JCFD No. 5's budget.

I appreciate this opportunity to serve on the JCFD No. 5 Board of Directors and ask for your support.

## Jackson County Rural Fire Protection District 5 Director, Position 2



**Robert M  
Stone**

**Occupation:** Robert M Stone-Attorney at Law 1994-present

**Occupational Background:** Small Business Owner-1984-1987; Logger-1975-81; Volkswagen mechanic-1971-1974; USAF-1967-1971

**Educational Background:** Southern Oregon University-BS Business Management-1990; University of Oregon-Juris Doctorate-1994

**Prior Governmental Experience:** None

On September 8, 2020 I watched the Almeda Fire destroying homes, some within a few hundred feet of my own, and I saw the valiant efforts of our local firefighters to protect the community.

That disaster led me to ask what else I can do to help, which is why I am running to serve as a board member of Fire District 5. I would bring a unique combination of experience to the board.

During my years working in the forests of northern California and southern Oregon I worked on the front lines of several forest fires and have an understanding and huge appreciation for the challenges faced by professional firefighters.

In addition, I've served for 27 years as legal counsel for the water district serving households and businesses in the unincorporated area between Phoenix and Medford which has given me valuable experience in how districts like Fire District #5 work in Oregon.

Citizen boards like this are not meant to be automatic rubber stamps for whatever the agency director says, nor are they meant to micro-manage and second-guess everything the staff proposes.

Instead, they are supposed to ask the logical questions that any reasonable resident would ask.

Does the Fire District have the right spending priorities?

What has the Fire District learned from the Almeda Fire?

Is our Fire District doing all it could to help residents prevent the spread of fire?

We are faced with the probability of fires that are bigger and hotter than ever before. I want to serve on the Fire District board to help make sure our firefighters and our community have everything possible to be ready.

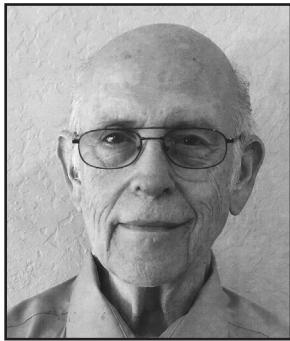
*(This information furnished by Cary W Halligan.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

*(This information furnished by Robert M Stone.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Jackson County Rural Fire Protection District 5 Director, Position 2



**Jim  
Snyder**

President, Division Manager and Program/Project Manager; SAIC (now called LEIDOS).

**Educational Background:** University of Hawaii, BS Chemistry; University of Utah, MBA; George Mason University, MA International Transactions; U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, graduate; U.S. Army War College, graduate; Bronze, Silver and Gold Educational Certificates from the Board Leadership Academy of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Currently: Vice President Phoenix City Council; Director Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVSS); Member Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency; Member Phoenix City Budget Committee; Member Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee, Member RVSS Budget Committee; Member Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG); Member League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Finance and Taxation Policy Committee; Member LOC General Government Policy Committee; Member Jackson County Veterans Affairs Committee; Board Member and Treasurer of Skyline Owners Association; Alternate Member Regional Rate Committee. Previously: Member Phoenix City Planning Commission; Chairman of the Phoenix City Water Commission.

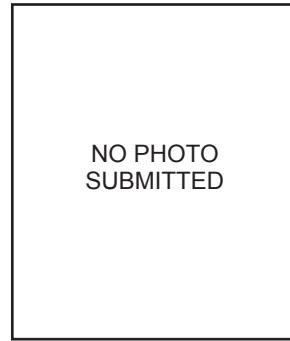
My wife and I have resided in Phoenix since December 2011.

My overall goal is to use my decades of work and educational experience to continue to ensure that the services provided by JCFD5 and the infrastructure of the district remains sound and well planned for the future.

If elected to the Board of Directors, I intend to ensure that the critical life-saving activities provided by the JCFD5 staff remain properly funded for your benefit and their activities are properly planned, safely conducted and adequately funded so that their current and future customers continue to receive the best possible services at the most cost effective price possible.

I am a Project Management Professional (PMP) certified by the international Project Management Institute (PMI). I earned Bronze; Silver; and Gold Educational Certificates from the Board Leadership Academy of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

## Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2 Director, Position 5



**Lisa  
Sandrock**

**Occupation:** Self Employed

**Occupational Background:** Telecommunications, Transportation, Sales

**Educational Background:** Graduate from SOU, BA in Business, Special Districts of Oregon Training

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Current President of Medford Rural Fire District #2, appointed Board member of MFRD #2 since 2019, assisted Secretary Treasurer of MFRD #2 with book keeping for multiple years prior to becoming a member of the Board

It is an honor to be on the board and serve my community in this manner. Fire protection is a high priority for our area. For the residents who live here, maintaining the District's ability to provide a superior level of service is my goal. I would genuinely appreciate your support and vote so that I can continue this service.

*(This information furnished by Jim Snyder.)*

*(This information furnished by Lisa Sandrock.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Prospect Rural Fire Protection District Director, Position 3

NO PHOTO  
SUBMITTED

### Julie Moss

**Occupation:** Office Coordinator  
**Occupational Background:** Previous 9-1-1 Dispatcher for Fire, Ambulance and the Department of Transportation. Experienced working closely with both emergency agencies and volunteers.

**Educational Background:** North Medford High Graduate, Medford OR

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Current board member Prospect Rural Fire Protection District

I have volunteered with PRFPD in various capacities for 6 years, currently as a board member.

My experience as a 9-1-1 Dispatcher, gives me a unique understanding of the situations and demands our volunteers train for, and encounter daily.

I strive to support the needs of our volunteers with the actions taken by the board, and my goal is to continue that support.

## Rogue River Rural Fire Protection District 1 Director, Position 1

NO PHOTO  
SUBMITTED

### William R (Randy) Cort

**Occupation:** Willamette Graystone; Rogue Community College; Cort Fabrication & Machine

**Occupational Background:** Welder; Fabricato; Millwright; Machinist

**Educational Background:** Grants Pass High School, Graduate Class 1975; Southern Oregon College; Rogue Community College

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Rogue River Fire District Board of Directors, 26 years

Rogue Valley resident since 1969. Graduate from Grants Pass High School, Class of 1975. Currently working as a plant maintenance technician for Willamette Graystone. Also small business owner of "Cort Fabrication & Machine" and Adjunct instructor at Rogue Community College, subjects Mechatronics and Manufacturing.

26-year member of the Rogue River Fire district #1, including past board president. I took a year off this position for personal reasons and then was re-appointed to the open Board Position #1

Past community involvement includes Rogue River Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, past President; and Board of Directors, past President, of Rogue River Little League Baseball and Softball.

I feel I will be able to help lead the fire district into the future as a Board Member. I will also fight to preserve our rural Southern Oregon Values. I am opposed to more restrictive regulations on open and barrel burning, that is conducted safely and legally here in the Rogue Valley.

*(This information furnished by Julie Moss.)*

*(This information furnished by William R (Randy) Cort.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

## Rogue River Rural Fire Protection District 1 Director, Position 5



**Craig  
Berry**

**Occupation:** Chemist - Small Business Owner.

**Occupational Background:** Volunteer Firefighter - EMT; Process Engineer; Chemist.

**Educational Background:**

Southern Oregon University B.S. Chemistry.

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Rogue River Fire Board of Directors, Vice-Chair and Secretary; 2 terms.

I have had the pleasure of serving with the Rogue River Fire Department for over 17 years. I began as a volunteer Firefighter/ EMT, Community CPR instructor, and progressed to serving as Director. I believe that my considerable range of experiences with this department as well as in the private sector makes me the best candidate for this position.

In my first term, I was instrumental in championing a Fire Chief who was a grant-writing expert; He found over \$650K in grants which allowed us to maintain full staffing for many years. Full staffing makes our community and first-responders safer, as well as reducing burn-out, over-time costs and injuries. I also spearheaded a revamp of the Volunteer Firefighter reimbursement program, valuing the Volunteer Firefighters that have long been the critical back-stop to our paid staff. Additionally, I was also able to build consensus to replace all the old light fixtures with LEDs; this was initially projected to save the department \$100,000 in twenty years but is now saving \$125K with utility rate increases.

In my current term, I have been focused on safety, preparedness and financial and governmental transparency. I led the effort to equip our courageous medics with life-saving ballistic vests. I ensured we had a proper pre-incident safety plan following the cities' permitting of a large industrial site adjacent to homes. I review every invoice, recently finding an error, saving us \$2K each year. Finally, I was able to draw high-level attention to critical errors in the modeling of the Wildfire Risk Map. Implementing this map will impact everyone in the district; you deserve a knowledgeable and effective leader to represent our community through this process.

Thank you for your vote. I look forward to serving you.

## Jackson County Library District Director, Position 3



**Cassidy  
Burns**

**Occupation:** Self Employed

**Occupational Background:** Health and Wellness Industry; Retail Store Owner/Manager; Real Estate Management; Food and Service; Banking; Radio

**Educational Background:**

UNC: Bachelors in Business Administration, Emphasis in Marketing

**Prior Governmental Experience:** None

As a working homeschool mom of 2 teenage girls, I know the value of being a strong reader. I believe literacy is one of the most important life skills and libraries are the doorway for the community to learn, grow and connect. I have a passion for learning and believe it's a lifelong endeavor, not just for our youth.

Over the last 7 years I've built a large homebased marketing and wellness business. I am a business coach and health advocate and will bring those managerial and people skills to the table as a Library Board member.

My goal is to maintain the programs and general direction of the library with the continuing objective of increasing literacy and meeting the communities needs, as they relate to library services. Specifically, the library has the resources and capacity to facilitate learning opportunities for all ages on a regular basis. I am excited to encourage and implement increased programming for all ages. The goal is to increase community connection and to provide additional learning and life skill opportunities to all ages. I believe one of the challenges the library face is the lack of community awareness. I will implement more efforts via field trips, social media, focus groups and in-school education to raise awareness of programs and services. The library belongs to the community and should be accessible and safe for all community members of all ages to access during business hours. I will focus on fiscal responsibility and ensure the library is a diverse place of employment. I want to ensure our resources-both financial and tangible-are used responsibly and with a high level of accountability to the community that funds it.

Endorsed by:

- Sheryl Zimmerer
- Becky Abrams, Arrows Christian Academy

*(This information furnished by Craig Berry.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

*(This information furnished by Cassidy Burns.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Jackson County Library District Director, Position 3



**Susan  
Kiefer**

**Occupation:** retired

**Occupational Background:**  
Law Library Director and Assistant Professor of Law Hamline University St. Paul, MN 1982-2006

**Educational Background:** University of Oregon MLS 1974; JD 1979.; Springfield College BA English 1970

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Jackson County Library District Board 2014-present

### JOIN US!!!

**"As president of the Library District Board, Susan Kiefer was instrumental in the seamless transition of our libraries from private equity management to local control. Keeping tax dollars working for us at home is something we should all celebrate. She's earned our support."**

**Amy Blossom, former Ashland Branch Manager**

**"I am delighted that Susan is willing to continue her service on the Library District Board. I have witnessed first hand her commitment to our libraries while working alongside her on the Library Foundation. Her steady hand, thoughtful and inclusive temperament encouraged all to participate."**

**Sally Densmore, Medford**

**"Susan gives equal measure to all libraries in the District, large and small. She understands the importance of rural libraries to our small communities."**

**Gerrie Leinfelder, Applegate.**

**"Susan Kiefer has been a consistent champion for better wages and longer open hours at all our libraries. By increasing both incrementally, she has kept an eye on the bottom line to avoid over-extending resource requirements."**

**George Prokop, Jacksonville.**

**"Like so many in our community, I've been concerned at the impacts the unhoused population is having on the Medford library, one of the few publicly held community spaces. Although I understand this is a nationwide problem, drug paraphernalia left in public restrooms is deeply troubling, so I contacted Susan Kiefer. She responded immediately, sharing that I was not alone. She said the board, library management, and law enforcement are working together and have set in motion solutions to address this difficult challenge. She has my vote."**

**Becky Versteeg, Medford**

**"Serving our libraries has been a labor of love. I ask for your vote and continued support. Thank you." Susan Kiefer**

## Jackson County Library District Director, Position 4



**Marissa  
Barrientos  
Shepherd**

**Occupation:** Rogue Community College: Chemistry Instructor

**Occupational Background:** Chemistry Instructor

**Educational Background:** California Institute of Technology, 2012 BS; UC Riverside, 2015 MS; UC Riverside 2019 PhD;

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Community Services and Development Commission (current); Central Washington Disability Resources - Board Member (prior)

Marissa has been proudly serving on the Jackson County Library District Board since February 2023. She seeks election to continue serving the community and ensuring the Jackson County Library District continues to best serve its patrons.

Marissa has lived in the Rogue Valley for a few years and instantly fell in love with the community and nature. She, her husband, and their young son frequently enjoy visiting the library and participating in toddler social hours and exploring the library catalogue.

Libraries serve key roles in the community: a place for people to connect, gain knowledge, and information. She seeks to ensure the library continues to be financially responsible and to continue to expand services to better meet the needs of the community and become a more welcoming environment for everyone.

*(This information furnished by Susan Kiefer.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

*(This information furnished by Marissa Barrientos Shepherd.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

## Jackson County Library District Director, Position 5



**Eric  
Dziura**

**Occupation:** Retired.

**Occupational Background:** Electronics Technician US Army (1970-1971); Naval Flight Officer US Navy (1972-1990); Lecturer/Instructor Olympic College, RCC, SOU (1996 - 2012).

**Educational Background:** University of Louisville, BS, Applied Science; Naval Postgraduate School, MSAE; University of Washington, MSME.

**Prior Governmental Experience:** City of Medford Budget Committee (2 years); Medford 549C School Board (2006-2011, Chair 2 years); JCLD Budget Committee (2015-2019); JCLD Board of Directors (2019-present, President 2 years).

Serving on the Library District Board the last 3+ years has been both challenging and incredibly rewarding. There's more to do but here is a brief summary of JCLS accomplishments:

\*Delivered on a longstanding promise, to expand library hours with uniform schedules;

\*Designed and initiated a new 5-Year Strategic Plan emphasizing robust community service by building upon our current programs;

\*Increased community engagement;

\*Nurtured the human capital that is the backbone of libraries;

\*Demonstrated leadership in response to both pandemic and fire-disaster response by providing  
--innovative library service delivery,  
--immunization clinics,  
--distribution of Covid-19 test kits,  
--resource information in support of fire recovery efforts;

\*Completed the transition from contracted library services to local control of library staff and services. Future challenge: While JCLS provided assistance where needed during the pandemic and after the Almeda/Obenchain fires of 2020, it's important to acknowledge we are not a social-service agency. Our job is to offer access to information, technology and learning while maintaining a safe environment that welcomes all age groups. We are working with community partners to make sure that help is provided to vulnerable residents in a way that will not adversely impact library services and facilities.

I am proud to be associated with a community-building organization such as JCLS and honored to serve the people of Jackson County. I remain committed to seeking public input and fiscally responsible operations. I believe the best is yet to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

*(This information furnished by Eric Dziura.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Jackson County Library District Director, Position 5



**Kevin  
Keating**

**Occupation:** Teacher, St Mary's School, Medford OR (2010-present);

**Occupational Background:** Teacher (Butte Falls HS); Financial Advisor (Morgan Stanley); Author ("Medford")

**Educational Background:** BA History, UCLA; Masters in Teaching, SOU;

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Board of Directors, Rogue Valley Transportation District; Library Advisory Commission; Library Budget Cmte (Current); Medford Parks Commission (2 terms); Historic Preservation Commission; Medford Budget Committee;

My children grew up in Medford as heavy library users. My #1 goal in serving is to make sure that families and especially children and teens have the same great experiences visiting the library and do not feel unsafe while doing it.

I serve on the boards of the Library Friends and the Library Foundation, and I have served on several other boards. Citizen boards are not meant to be rubber stamps. I will speak for the taxpayers and patrons, and am not beholden to interest groups. I am familiar with financial reporting, customer service and marketing, and I have managed large budgets in my former occupations.

The three most important reasons to vote for me are:

We have to deal with the fact that some staff and many patrons do not feel safe at Medford's library. Part of the library's mission is to improve access for all. I will work with the City, County, and law enforcement to ensure safety for all. I will continue the policy of not approving any increase to property taxes. We can increase open hours with the funding we currently have.

The Library should be ideologically neutral, not supporting or opposing any interest groups or causes of any kind, but rather providing meeting space, information and a pleasant non-offensive place to read. I will be vigilant on this issue.

Endorsements:

Kim Wallan, Oregon State Representative, District 6 (Medford)

Dave Doterrer, Jackson County Commissioner

Randy Sparacino, Mayor, City of Medford

Charlene Prinsen, Eagle Point Library Branch Manager (Retired)

Nikki Keating, Private School Office Manager

Jack Shaw, Cow Creek Tribal Member

*(This information furnished by Kevin Keating.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Rogue Valley Sewer Services District Director (2-Year Unexpired Term)

NO PHOTO  
SUBMITTED

### John Edwards

**Occupation:** Planning Commissioner for the City of Shady Cove

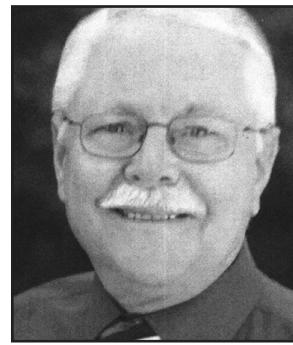
**Occupational Background:** Superintendent of the El Dorado County Department of Transportation Maintenance

and Operations. Responsible for planning, organizing, reviewing and evaluating day-to-day operations of staff engaged in a variety of public works projects. Road and bridge projects for a network consisting of over 1,089 centerline miles of paved roadways, 76 bridges, facilities and numerous storm drainage systems county-wide. Budget planning, development of procedures and policies and procurement of assets.

**Educational Background:** Attended Sacramento City College studying Business; Graduated from Rio Linda Senior High School; Attended trade school for the Local 1147 Carpenters Union

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Shady Cove Planning Commissioner 9/2023; Over 30 years experience with the Department of Transportation

## Rogue Valley Sewer Services District Director



### Michael Parsons

**Occupation:** RVSS Board of Directors Board member (unpaid); Central Point City Council (at Large position (unpaid); Central Point Police Department-Coordinator of Volunteers (unpaid); Jackson County Fire District

3-Civil Service Commission (unpaid); Central Point Parks and Recreation Foundation (unpaid);

**Occupational Background:** InTransit, Central Point OR (1980-1989) a Transportation Logistics Company -Paid; QTI INC. (1990-2013) a Transportation Logistics Company (Partner in ownership) - Paid

**Educational Background:** Skyline High School, Oakland CA., 12, graduated 1967; Merritt College, Oakland CA., 1967-1974,

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Central Point City Council, Appointed 2018, elected 2020; Rogue Valley Sewer Service, appointed 2022; Jackson County Fire District 3, Civil Service Commission, appointed 2022

I am Michael W. Parsons, and I am a Candidate for The Rogue Valley Sewer Service Board of Directors. (4 yr seat). I retired in 2013 from the Corporate Business world due to health concerns for my wife, she passed in early 2014. Living in a Central Point retirement community (265 homes) I was elected to the Board of Directors in an HOA in 2014, then elected President shortly thereafter, and served as its President 5 of the 8 years on its Board. In 2016 I Volunteered for the Central Point Police Department as a VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service), and in 2022 became the Coordinator for the program. In 2018 I was appointed to a vacant Central Point City Council seat, and was elected in 2020. In 2022 I was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Jackson County Fire District 3 Civil Service Commission. As a sitting Council person I was asked to be the City of Central Point Representative to the Jackson County Public Policy Coordinating Council. I served as the Central Point City Council Liaison to the RVSS for 18 months prior to being nominated to a vacant position on the RVSS Board of Directors.

(This information furnished by John Edwards.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

(This information furnished by Michael Parsons.)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

## Rogue Valley Sewer Services District Director



**Kay  
Harrison**

and Harry and David. Customer Service, sales and office background.

**Educational Background:** Tulelake High School, Two years at San Jose Bible College, Course work at Rogue Community College

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Board member for RVTD, City Council for Central Point. Currently serving on Central Point planning commission and budget committee. I also serve as board chair for Rogue Valley Sewer Service.

Did you know RVSS manages a lagoon? Local wildlife watches know and have worked with the district to improve this lagoon waterfowl, other birds and those who enjoy watching them.

Waste pumping services know about this lagoon as well. The material they dump is turned into nutrients for a healthy habitat for the wildlife.

My name is Kay Harrison, I currently serve as board chair for Rogue Valley Sewer Service. The employees and board members work together to make and keep our communities healthy, vibrant and eco-friendly for all.

Thank you for your vote. I look forward to continued service with RVSS and their mission.

*(This information furnished by Kay Harrison.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

## Rogue Valley Sewer Services District Director



**John H  
Quinn**

**Occupation:** Deputy District Attorney, Siskiyou County, 2001-present; Chief Deputy, 2017-present

**Occupational Background:** Private Law Practice, 1996-2001; UC Hastings Law, Instructor, 1997-1998; Adjunct Professor, 1999-2000; Law Clerk, US District Court, ND Cal., 1993-1994; Law Clerk, California Supreme Court, 1994-1995; Law Clerk, Tenth US Court of Appeals, Wyoming, 1995-1996;

**Educational Background:** JD, 1993, UC Hastings Law, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif; BA, English & Latin, 1990, UCLA, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Medford Planning Commission, 2022-present; Chair, Siskiyou County Assessment Appeals Board, 2022-present; Siskiyou County Law Library Advisory Committee, 2022-present; President, Siskiyou County Bar Association, 2018-present; Judge Pro Tem., San Francisco Superior Court, Limited Jurisdiction, 1999-2001; Mediator, California Court of Appeal, 2000-2001

We have lived in Medford for over 20 years. As a member of the Medford Planning Commission, I have watched our region growing by leaps and bounds. Our infrastructure must keep pace and grow with us. But indiscriminately pouring money on problems is not the answer.

### MEETING THE CHALLENGE:

I grew up in a single-parent family on government assistance. I fought my way out through hard work. You deserve a Board that will work that hard for you. Join me as we work to grow our beautiful Rogue Valley responsibly and meet the challenges of our shared future.

### RESPONSIBLE SPENDING:

You deserve a Board member who knows how it feels to work hard to earn everything he has. You work hard for what you have every day. I will treat the RVSS budget as exactly what it is: YOUR hard-earned money.

### LOCAL CONTROL:

Local agencies are constantly bombarded with new regulations from Salem. As a member of the Medford Planning Commission, I have fought against state regulation and strived to retain decision-making power locally. The residents of the Rogue Valley should decide what happens in the Rogue Valley.

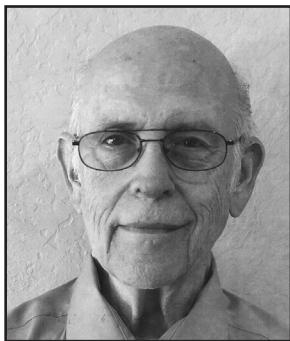
Proudly endorsed by:

State Representative Kim Wallan  
Jackson County Commissioners Rick Dyer and Dave Dotterer  
Medford City Councillor Zac Smith

*(This information furnished by John H Quinn.)*

*The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.*

## Rogue Valley Sewer Services Director



**Jim  
Snyder**

President, Division Manager and Program/Project Manager; SAIC (now called LEIDOS).

**Educational Background:** University of Hawaii, BS Chemistry; University of Utah, MBA; George Mason University, MA International Transactions; U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, graduate; U.S. Army War College, graduate; Bronze, Silver and Gold Educational Certificates from the Board Leadership Academy of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Currently: Vice President Phoenix City Council; Director Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVSS); Member Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency; Member Phoenix City Budget Committee; Member Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee, Member RVSS Budget Committee; Member Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG); Member League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Finance and Taxation Policy Committee; Member LOC General Government Policy Committee; Member Jackson County Veterans Affairs Committee; Board Member and Treasurer of Skyline Owners Association; Alternate Member Regional Rate Committee. Previously: Member Phoenix City Planning Commission; Chairman of the Phoenix City Water Commission.

My wife and I have resided in Phoenix since December 2011.

My overall goal is to use my decades of work and educational experience to continue to ensure that the services and infrastructure provided by RVSS within your Rogue Valley remains sound and well planned for the future.

If re-elected to the Board of Directors, I intend to continue to ensure that the activities conducted by the RVSS staff remain properly funded for your benefit and their activities are properly planned, safely conducted and adequately funded so that our current and future customers continue to receive the best possible services at the most cost effective price possible.

I am a Project Management Professional (PMP) certified by the international Project Management Institute (PMI). I earned Bronze; Silver; and Gold Educational Certificates from the Board Leadership Academy of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

*(This information furnished by Jim Snyder.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Rogue Valley Transportation District Director, Position 1



**John H  
Quinn**

**Occupation:** Deputy District Attorney, Siskiyou County, 2001-present; Chief Deputy, 2017-present

**Educational Background:** Private Law Practice, 1996-2001; UC Hastings Law, Instructor, 1997-1998; Adjunct Professor, 1999-2000; Law Clerk, US District Court, ND Cal., 1993-1994; Law Clerk, California Supreme Court, 1994-1995; Law Clerk, Tenth US Court of Appeals, Wyoming, 1995-1996;

**Educational Background:** JD, 1993, UC Hastings Law, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif; BA, English & Latin, 1990, UCLA, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Medford Planning Commission, 2022-present; Chair, Siskiyou County Assessment Appeals Board, 2022-present; Siskiyou County Law Library Advisory Committee, 2022-present; President, Siskiyou County Bar Association, 2018-present; Judge Pro Tem., San Francisco Superior Court, Limited Jurisdiction, 1999-2001; Mediator, California Court of Appeal, 2000-2001

My wife and I have lived in Medford for over 20 years. I am running for RVTD Board because I want to make our beautiful Rogue Valley a safe, livable place for families, seniors, and future generations.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

I have prosecuted thousands of criminal cases, including murders, robberies, gangs, and drug traffickers. But crime is still on the rise. People no longer feel safe walking on the Greenway, using our parks, or riding the bus. My top priority will be to make our buses safe for everyone, so no one will ever have to think twice about using our public transit system.

Every candidate will *talk* about public safety. I have dedicated my life to it. Join me in making our transportation system safe again.

### **THE ENVIRONMENT:**

We have to protect our beautiful Rogue Valley if we want to keep it beautiful. We must continue to support environmentally friendly buses and encourage riders to use our public transportation. Safety and service are the keys.

### **SENIORS AND RIDERS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES:**

The Board should prioritize services for these special riders, like Valley Lift and TransLink.

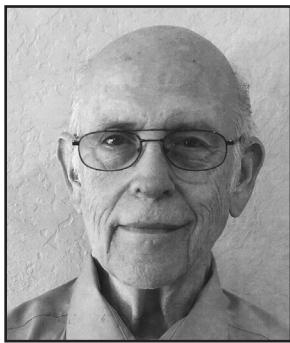
Proudly endorsed by:

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Medford Mayor Randy Sparacino  
Medford City Councillor Zac Smith

*(This information furnished by John H Quinn.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Rogue Valley Transportation District Director, Position 1



**Jim  
Snyder**

President, Division Manager and Program/Project Manager; SAIC (now called LEIDOS).

**Educational Background:** University of Hawaii, BS Chemistry; University of Utah, MBA; George Mason University, MA International Transactions; U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, graduate; U.S. Army War College, graduate; Bronze, Silver and Gold Educational Certificates from the Board Leadership Academy of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Currently: Vice President Phoenix City Council; Director Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVSS); Member Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency; Member Phoenix City Budget Committee; Member Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee, Member RVSS Budget Committee; Member Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG); Member League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Finance and Taxation Policy Committee; Member LOC General Government Policy Committee; Member Jackson County Veterans Affairs Committee; Board Member and Treasurer of Skyline Owners Association; Alternate Member Regional Rate Committee. Previously: Member Phoenix City Planning Commission; Chairman of the Phoenix City Water Commission.

My wife and I have resided in the Rogue Valley since June 2010.

My overall goal is to use my decades of work and educational experience to continue to ensure that the services and infrastructure provided by RVTD within your Rogue Valley remains sound and well planned for the future.

If elected to the Board of Directors, I intend to ensure that the critical support activities conducted by the RVTD staff remain properly funded for your benefit and their activities are properly planned, safely conducted and adequately funded so that current and future customers continue to receive the best possible services at the most cost effective price possible.

I am a Project Management Professional (PMP) certified by the international Project Management Institute (PMI). I earned Bronze; Silver; and Gold Educational Certificates from the Board Leadership Academy of the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

*(This information furnished by Jim Snyder.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Rogue Valley Transportation District Director, Position 1



**Denise  
Krause**

**Occupation:** Consultant, public health; Farmer

**Occupational Background:** Retired professor/researcher (PhD, preventive medicine); Director, Research and Education Information Technology

**Educational Background:** University of Kansas, B.A.; Monterey Institute of International Studies, M.A.; University of Mississippi Medical Center, M.S./Ph.D.

**Prior Governmental Experience:** State government, 25 years Transportation is a vital part of our daily lives. We all have transportation needs. Our aging population needs transportation to buy groceries, attend church and social events, and get to medical and other appointments. Younger people need to get to work or school, not only during weekdays, but also on evenings and weekends. Access to reliable transportation, or lack of, directly affects our well-being and quality of life.

I will make significant contributions to further the mission and successes of the RVTD.

Specifically, I will work to:

- Expand the effectiveness and accessibility of public transport services in the Rogue Valley.
- Make the best use of funds to meet district objectives.
- Responsibly meet short- and long-term goals to foster a sustainable transportation system.

I retired from a 25-year career in state government six years ago to move back to Oregon. Retiring young to return to my roots, I am dedicated to public service.

As a leader in upper management and retired professor with a focus on improving access to care and services, I have acquired experience and skills that I am eager to use for public good. With experience leading a large organization, bringing in dollars, and managing multi-million-dollar budgets, I am a problem-solver who brings energy, creativity, research skills, and the ability to work productively on complex issues for positive results.

### **Relevant education / experience:**

- Recently completed the Transportation Leadership Training Program hosted by Rogue Action Center, sponsored by the Clean and Just Transportation Network.
- Was responsible for <6,000 employees, managed large and enterprise-wide projects and budgets. Worked with management across disciplines, managed a large staff and teams of contractors.

Vote for Denise Krause - a representative for all Jackson County.

*(This information furnished by Denise Krause.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

## Rogue Valley Transportation District Director, Position 2



**William A  
Mansfield**

**Occupation:** Attorney at Law

**Occupational Background:** Attorney at Law 1965-Present; Medford City Attorney 1962-65; Oregon Department of Justice 1956-60, 1961-62; US Department of Commerce 1960-61; U.S. Air Force 1953-56

**Educational Background:** University of Oregon - completed Senior year - B.S.; University of Oregon - School of law - completed 3 year course, Doctor of Jurisprudence

**Prior Governmental Experience:** Medford City Council, 1985-96; Medford Budget Committee 2000-2004; Rogue Valley Transportation District Board of Directors 1977-81, 2006-Present

The Board of Directors of the Rogue Valley Transportation District is charged with the responsibility of providing efficient transportation services at the lowest cost to the taxpayers, I have had many years of experience as a City Council member and as a member of the Transportation District Board of Directors. I am highly qualified to serve you in this office.

## Rogue Valley Transportation District Director, Position 3



**Tonia  
Moro**

**Occupation:** Attorney in Jackson County since 1990, focusing on public interest land use, energy, non-profit, and state and federal administrative law.

**Occupational Background:** Tonia L. Moro Attorney at Law P.C., 2013-present; Federal Defender of Oregon 2002-2013; Law Office of Tonia L. Moro, 1998-2002; Associate in local firm, 1990-1998.

**Educational Background:** Shepard Broad Law College, Juris Doctorate; Stetson University, B.A.

**Prior Governmental Experience:** RVTD Board Member since 2015, Chair of the Board since 2016; RVTD liaison to the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee (RVMPO) since 2016; RVMPO liaison to the Rogue Valley Area Commission on Transportation since 2021. State Rule or Planning Appointments: Oregon Transportation Plan Update - Climate Change, Environment and Resilience Work Group 2022; Oregon Department of Transportation Oregon Public Transportation Plan Policy Advisory Committee 2016-2018.

**It is a privilege and joy to serve the district** and contribute to the work of the great team at RVTD – staff and fellow board members. Together we have planned and implemented district expansion projects with new state funding available in 2019.

We have **increased the frequencies** on key routes, developed **new fixed routes** and have started implementing **dial up services in our cities**. Some of our current challenges include the pandemic-caused ridership decline, labor shortages and identifying the best long-term investments due to changing technology and unknowns in the energy sector.

But the District's skilled and committed staff and board are working hard to make **sound investments** and provide **reliable, cost-effective, accessible public transportation** options for our community.

I am glad to be a part of that work. I will continue to bring my skills and ever-expanding knowledge of transportation issues to it over the next four years and will continue to mentor community members to help more people get involved.

*(This information furnished by William A. Mansfield.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

*(This information furnished by Tonia Moro.)*

**The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.**

# Voting Information

This information has been inserted into the voters' pamphlet to assist the voters of Jackson County in marking their ballot.

## Fill in the Oval

Correct

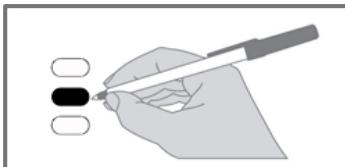


Incorrect

To ensure your vote counts:

- Use a blue or black pen.
- Completely fill in the oval.
- Do not make checkmarks.
- Do not make X's.

## Candidate or Measure



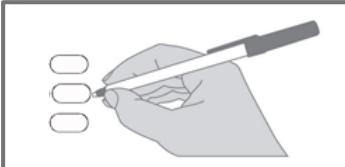
- To vote for a candidate or measure, completely fill in the oval to the left of your response.

## Write-In



- To write in a name, completely fill in the oval to the left of the write-in line and write the name on the line.

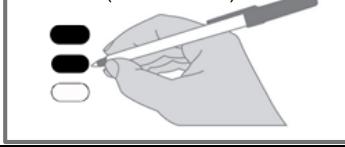
## Undervote



- If you do not vote on a race or measure, it is called an undervote.
- A vote will not be counted for the race or measure.
- You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still be counted.

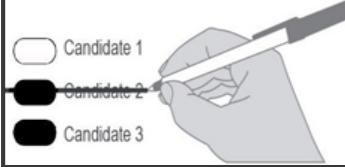
## Overvote

(Vote for One)



- If you vote for more candidates than allowed, or if you vote both Yes and No on a measure, it is called an overvote.
- A vote will not be counted for the race or measure you overvote, unless you correct it.
- You may correct an overvote by following the instructions on "How to Correct a Mistake".

## How to Correct a Mistake



- Draw a line through the oval and your unwanted response.
- Completely fill in the oval to the left of your wanted response.
- A vote will not be counted for your unwanted response.
- A vote will be counted for your wanted response.

**You may contact Jackson County Elections at 541-774-6148 to request a replacement ballot if:** you make a mistake, your ballot is damaged or spoiled, or your ballot is lost (or for any other reason).

**Assistance in Marking Ballot; Allowances and Limitations:** Any voter who, due to a disability or inability to read or write, is unable to mark their ballot may receive assistance. The assistance is provided either by two persons of different political parties provided by the county clerk or by some other person chosen by the voter. Any person assisting a voter must follow the direction of the voter as to how to vote the ballot. Also, the person assisting the voter must not afterwards give out any information about how the voter voted. Additionally, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an employer of the voter or an agent of the employer. Also, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an officer or agent of a union of which the voter is a member. (ORS 254.445)

# Voter Registration Information

## Registering to Vote

To vote in Oregon you need to be registered in the county where you reside.

You can register if you can answer yes to these three questions:

- Are you a resident of Oregon?
- Are you a US citizen?
- Are you at least 16 years of age?

If you are not yet 18 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

## How to register

You can register to vote online at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov) or you can get a voter registration card at any of the following places:

- in this Voters' Pamphlet
- any County Elections Office
- the Secretary of State's Office
- some state agencies such as the Division of Motor Vehicles
- a voter registration drive

You can also print out a registration card online at: [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov).

You can fill the card out and submit it in person or by US mail.

To vote in the May 16, 2023 Special Election, your completed voter registration card must be:

- postmarked by Tuesday, April 25, 2023; or
- delivered to a county elections office by Tuesday, April 25, 2023; or
- delivered to any voter registration agency (e.g., DMV) by Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

If you register to vote online, your registration must be submitted by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

## What information is required to register?

To complete your registration, you will provide your:

- Full legal name
- Home address
- Date of birth
- Signature
- Valid identification

## What are the identification requirements?

1. If you have a current, valid Driver's License, Permit or ID number issued by the State of Oregon Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), you must provide it in the boxes on the card. A suspended Driver's License is still valid; a revoked Driver's License is NOT valid.
2. If you do not have a current, valid Driver's License, Permit or ID number issued by the State of Oregon Division of Motor Vehicles, you must affirm this on the card by marking the appropriate circle and you must then provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.
3. If you do not have a Social Security number, you must affirm this on the card by marking the circle indicating you do not have a valid Driver's License or Social Security number.
4. If you do not have a Driver's License, Permit, ID number, or a Social Security number, and you are registering by mail, you must provide a copy of one of the following which shows the voter's name and current address:
  - valid photo identification
  - a paycheck stub
  - a utility bill
  - a bank statement
  - a government document
  - proof of eligibility under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) or the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEH)

If you do not provide valid identification, you will not be eligible to vote for Federal races. You will, however, still be eligible to vote for state and local contests.

## Updating your voter registration

Once you have registered, you are responsible for keeping your information up to date. You can do this online at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov) or by completing and returning a voter registration card with the new information. You should update your registration if you do any of the following:

- change your home address
- change your mailing address
- change your name
- change your signature
- want to change or select a political party
- will be away from home on election day

If you notify your county elections office of your change of residence address after May 11, 2023, you must request that a ballot be mailed to you or go to your county elections office to get your ballot.

# Voter Registration Card

Mail/Deliver to: Jackson County Elections, 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501



To register to vote or update your registration status, return this form by mail or use online voter resources at:  
**oregonvotes.gov/register**

## qualifications

Are you a citizen of the United States of America?

yes

no

Are you at least 16 years of age?

yes

no

**!** If you mark no in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.

## personal information \*required information

last name\*

first\*

middle

Oregon residence address, city and zip code (include apt. or space number)\*

date of birth (month/day/year)\*

county of residence

phone

email

mailing address, including city, state and zip code (required if different than residence)

## Oregon Driver's License/ID number

Provide a valid **Oregon Driver's License, Permit or ID**:

I do not have a valid **Oregon Driver's License/Permit/ID**.  
The last 4 digits of my Social Security Number (SSN) are:

**x x x - x x -**

I do not have a valid Oregon Driver's License/Permit/ID or a SSN. I have attached a copy of **acceptable identification**.

## political party

- Not a member of a party
- Constitution
- Democratic
- Independent
- Libertarian
- Pacific Green
- Progressive
- Republican
- Working Families
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## signature I swear or affirm that I am qualified to be an elector and I have told the truth on this registration.

sign here \_\_\_\_\_ date today \_\_\_\_\_

**!** If you sign this card and know it to be false, you can be fined up to \$125,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 5 years.

## registration updates Complete this section if you are updating your information.

previous registration name

previous county and state

home address on previous registration

date of birth (month/day/year)

CHRIS WALKER, COUNTY CLERK  
JACKSON COUNTY ELECTIONS  
1101 W MAIN ST, SUITE 201  
MEDFORD, OR 97501-2369

NONPROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Medford, OR  
Permit No. 686



## Residential Customer

- **Voter registration deadline:** April 25, 2023
- **Ballots mailed:** April 28, 2023
- **Election Day:** May 16, 2023
- **You have two ways to return your ballot:**
  1. **Mail** your ballot so it is postmarked by the USPS by Election Day; or
  2. **Deposit** your ballot in an official Oregon ballot drop box by 8pm on Election Day.