

voters' pamphlet



Oregon Vote-by-Mail Primary Election | **May 19, 2020**

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Candidates

All candidates were invited to participate in this pamphlet. The following candidates submitted information.

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Attention

This is the beginning of your county voters' pamphlet. The county portion of this joint voters' pamphlet is inserted in the center of the state portion. Each page of the county voters' pamphlet is clearly marked with a color bar on the outside edge. All information contained in the county portion of this pamphlet has been assembled and printed by your county clerk.

Letter from the County Clerk

Jackson County Voters:

The Jackson County Voters' Pamphlet is published to inform and educate voters about local candidates and measures. Candidates are not required to submit a statement for inclusion in the Voters' Pamphlet. All of the candidate statements and measure arguments that appear in this pamphlet were submitted along with a filing fee. Only the applicable candidates and measures for your precinct will be on your ballot.

New this year, all ballots in Oregon will be sent to voters with a prepaid postage return envelope. If you mail back your voted ballot, the Post Office will charge the State of Oregon for each ballot sent back to an Elections Official. Only those ballots sent back through the mail will be charged to the State.

This is a closed party primary election for registered Democrats and Republicans. This simply means that Democrats will be voting for Democrats and non-partisan offices and measures and that Republicans will be voting for Republicans and non-partisan offices and measures. You will want to be certain of your party status prior to the election. You can check your registration status online through **My Vote** at www.oregonvotes.gov. **The deadline for changing your party affiliation for the May 19th Primary Election is Tuesday, April 28, 2020.**

The May 19, 2020 Primary Election, as all elections in the State of Oregon, will be conducted by mail. Ballots are scheduled to be mailed in Jackson County on Friday, May 1st. **The registration deadline for citizens who are not currently registered to vote in the State of Oregon for the May 19th Primary Election is Tuesday, April 28, 2020.**

This pamphlet has been delivered to post office mailing addresses. Therefore, the fact that you received a pamphlet does not necessarily mean that you are a registered voter. Voters currently registered in the State of Oregon who have moved, or changed their residential or mailing address or name, must update their registration by close of business on Election Day in order to vote. **Vote-by-Mail ballots cannot be forwarded.** If you need to register or update your registration, you can do so online at www.oregonvotes.gov or in person 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.

Ballots must be received by the Elections Office or deposited in an Official Drop Box not later than 8:00 p.m., May 19, 2020 in order to be counted.

Sincerely,



Chris Walker
Jackson County Clerk

Measure 15-187

City of Medford

Ballot Title

15-187

Amends Charter; Transient Lodging Intermediaries May Pay Transient Lodging Tax

QUESTION: Shall the City of Medford collect transient lodging tax from transient lodging intermediaries in addition to owners and operators?

SUMMARY: Amends Medford City Charter. Provides that the City of Medford may collect transient lodging tax from transient lodging intermediaries in addition to owners or operators.

Explanatory Statement

Approval of this measure would clarify that the City of Medford's transient lodging tax can be collected from transient lodging intermediaries in addition to owners or operators. This would not create a double payment of the transient lodging tax but would clarify that transient lodging intermediaries could be the point of collection of the City of Medford's transient lodging tax. A transient lodging intermediary is a person (including a company) that facilitates the retail sale of transient lodging. Transient lodging intermediaries include both traditional brick-and-mortar businesses and also online-based and app-based companies.

The City's transient lodging tax is a tax that the City imposes on the rental of hotels, inns, motels, apartments, boarding houses, and the like for a period of twenty-seven days or less. Transient lodging tax does not apply to hospitals, nursing homes, public institutions, or permanent occupancy.

(This information furnished by Karen M. Spoonts, City Recorder/City Elections Officer, City of Medford.)

Measure 15-187 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Vote YES on Measure 15-187

This is a minor technical matter. As technology advances, governments work to keep up with those changes. The City of Medford Charter, which may only be changed with the vote of the citizens of Medford, has wording that must be changed to keep up with those technological advances.

A “**Yes**” vote is a vote for equity in the lodging industry, and having those who stay in a lodging intermediary such as an AirBNB, assist in the funding of maintaining and improving the infrastructure they utilize while visiting our city.

(This information furnished by Kevin Stine, Friends of Howard Memorial Sports Park.)

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 15-188 City of Medford

Ballot Title

15-188

Amends Charter; Changes Transient Lodging Tax from 9% to 11%

QUESTION: Shall Medford City Council by ordinance impose and levy a transient lodging tax not exceeding 11% on gross room receipts?

SUMMARY: Amends Medford City Charter. Provides that the City of Medford may by ordinance impose and levy a transient lodging tax not exceeding 11% on gross room receipts on most premises rented for a period of twenty seven days or less. Changes the tax rate from 9% to 11%; all other room tax provisions remain unchanged.

Explanatory Statement

Approval of this measure would raise the maximum rate permissible for transient lodging taxes imposed by the City of Medford from 9% to 11%. The City's transient lodging tax is a tax that the City imposes on the rental of hotels, inns, motels, apartments, boarding houses, and the like for a period of twenty-seven days or less. Transient lodging tax does not apply to hospitals, nursing homes, public institutions, or permanent occupancy.

The City of Medford first imposed a transient lodging tax via the City's Charter in 1975 with a maximum amount of 6%. In 2000, the maximum rate was amended to 9% by a vote of the people.

(This information furnished by Karen M. Spoons, City Recorder/City Elections Officer, City of Medford.)

Measure 15-188 Arguments

Argument in Favor

As elected officials in Medford, we strongly support a **“Yes” vote on Measures 187 and 188.**

These ballot measures have strong support from people across all sectors of the city. We have support from the sports community, the local business community, Medford school officials, the hospitality industry, prominent community members, and so many people that want to see Medford better succeed.

Your support of these ballot measures will help **build a brighter future for Medford.**

When appropriate, we are committed as your elected officials to create a multi-use, all-ages facility that we can be proud to have in Medford.

Vote “Yes” on Measures 187 and 188!

Mayor Gary Wheeler
Kevin Stine – Medford City Council President
Alex Poythress – Medford City Council Vice-President
Tim D'Alessandro – Medford City Council
Eric Stark – Medford City Council
Mike Zarosinski – Medford City Council

Learn more at www.medfordeventcenter.com

(This information furnished by Kevin Stine, Friends of Howard Memorial Sports Park.)

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Measure 15-188 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Dear Medford Voters,

We urge citizens to approve Measures 15-188 for a modest increase to the Transient Lodging Tax so tourists and visitors to our community help pay for the much-needed Medford Sports and Events Complex.

Medford sports groups and teams are plagued by an acute shortage of gyms and aquatics facilities, and there simply isn't enough indoor recreation space to serve the needs of children and adults in our community.

The Medford Sports and Events Complex enhances our Quality of Life by:

- Giving youth activities that constructively fill their time.
- Providing a venue for swimming instruction and swim meets.
- Providing seniors with fitness and rehabilitation opportunities.
- Helping attract and retain jobs and businesses by making Medford a great place to live.

Like U.S. Cellular Community Park, this versatile building would put Medford on the map as a premiere destination for a wide variety of recreation activities, tournaments and competitions, including basketball, volleyball, pickleball, swimming, water polo, wrestling and cheerleading, to name a few.

Currently, many Medford youth sports teams regularly travel to cities outside the Rogue Valley due to inadequate local facilities. A state-of-the-art Sports and Events Complex would save residents time and money, and the teams visiting Medford would generate economic stimulus for local businesses.

By asking visitors to help pay for the Medford Sports and Events Complex in the form of a slightly higher lodging tax is a smart and fair strategy. Please join us in voting "Yes" on Measure 15-188 to help this facility become a reality!

Dennis Murphy, longtime Medford coach and athletics director
Ed Singler, Singler Open Basketball Tournament/Medford Sports Advocate

Robyn Schiffer, South Medford High swim coach
Jack Methot, Southern Oregon Pickleball Association
Norm Eisenberg, Southern Oregon Pickleball Association
Carmen Kievit, Spiketown Volleyball Club
Leaf Jensen, Southern Oregon Volleyball Club
Kevin Primerano, Rogue Valley Timbers Soccer Club

(This information furnished by Kevin Stine, Friends of Howard Memorial Sports Park.)

Argument in Favor

The Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) is the City of Medford's formal name for what is also known as the "Lodging Tax" or the "Hotel-Motel Tax". TLT isn't a property tax and does not have anything to do with homelessness issues.

Lodging taxes are charged by states, counties and cities to those who occupy rooms or spaces in hotels, motels, inns or other places designed or intended for short-term lodging.

Medford hotel and motel operators support Measures 15-187 and 15-188, and we encourage Medford voters to vote "Yes" on this important funding mechanism for the proposed Medford Sports and Events Complex.

This facility will put "heads in beds", meaning there will be more visitors in Medford paying the TLT. This will directly impact and bolster Medford's economy, much in the same way U.S. Cellular Community Park (USCCP) has and does. We envision the Sports and Events Complex as the "USCCP of the Indoors" in terms of economic impact.

Building the Sports and Events Complex gives Medford a competitive advantage with other cities in the state and region for conferences, conventions, trade shows and sporting events that attract visitors and generate economic stimulus. More visitors to Medford generates funds via the Transient Lodging Tax, and these travelers will also spend money at local stores, restaurants and other businesses. This leads to more dollars being spent in our community.

Because lodging taxes are paid by visitors to the community, not by residents, it is strategic funding that helps build important municipal infrastructure to improve the lives of all citizens.

Vote Yes on Measures 15-187 and 15-188!

Rogue Regency Inn & Suites – Bruce Hoebet
Ramada Medford & Convention Center – Marvin Thornhill
Neuman Hotel Group – Don Amway
Candlewood Suites – Eric Engleman
Homewood Suites by Hilton / Hilton Garden Inn – Paul Schmidt
SpringHill Suites by Marriott – Marissa Ruf
TownePlace Suites by Marriott – MARRISA RUF
Holiday Inn Express – Marissa Ruf
Courtyard by Marriott Medford Airport – Marissa Ruf
Comfort Inn North – Marissa Ruf

(This information furnished by Kevin Stine, Friends of Howard Memorial Sports Park.)

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Measure 15-188 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Medford Citizens Support Measures 15-187 and 15-188

We support community efforts to develop the proposed Medford Sports and Events Complex at the Howard Memorial Sports Park. If built, this multi-purpose recreation facility would enhance quality of life for kids and citizens of all ages by:

- Giving youth activities that constructively fill their time.
- Providing a venue for swimming instruction and swim meets.
- Providing seniors with fitness and rehabilitation opportunities.
- Helping attract and retain jobs and businesses by making Medford a great place to live.

Like U.S. Cellular Community Park, this complex would host a variety of indoor activities on a year-round basis ranging from sports tournaments, large meetings, conferences, trade shows, and performances that would provide positive economic impact to our community.

The financing package for the Sports and Events Complex requires Medford voters to approve two ballot measures:

Measure 15-187: Amends City Charter to allow the City of Medford to collect lodging tax from lodging intermediaries (such as Airbnb and VRBO) in addition to hotel/motel owners and operators. Passing this measure provides tax equity within the lodging industry.

Measure 15-188: Amends City Charter to change the lodging tax from 9 to 11 percent. Almost all local hoteliers are supportive of the Medford Sports and Events Complex even though the lodging tax will be increased.

Vote "Yes" on Measures 15-187 and 15-188, and help build a bright future for Medford!

Al Densmore
Mike Bond
David Jordan
George A. Nye
Beth Coker
Sarah G. Browder
Timothy L. Rose
Kenny Maloney
Matt Morrell
Eleanor Jane Naversen

(This information furnished by Kevin Stine, Friends of Howard Memorial Sports Park.)

Argument in Favor

Dear Medford Voters,

Medford is a regional hub for healthcare, and thousands of residents and visitors from southern Oregon and northern California receive a wide variety of medical services every day.

An essential ingredient in having outstanding healthcare where we live is Medford's ability to attract trained professionals – doctors, nurses, specialists, technicians, etc. As our population increases and ages, the demand for medical services is also rapidly growing, and our efforts to attract and retain qualified staff is more difficult than ever.

As healthcare professionals, we urge Medford voters to approve Measures 15-187 and 15-188 to create a key funding source to build the proposed Medford Sports and Events Complex. This multi-purpose recreational facility is critically important for the City's future.

- Voting "Yes" will make Medford a more attractive place to live, work and play.
- Voting "Yes" helps Medford's healthcare industry compete more favorably with other cities to recruit trained professionals and their families, who want to live in cities that have top-notch amenities and quality of life.
- Voting "Yes" will make Medford a healthier community as a result of providing a versatile venue that provides healthy activities and recreation that improve the lives of residents. Healthy lifestyles and prevention programs improve the overall health of a community.
- Voting "Yes" will result in a multi-purpose facility that helps make the community stronger.

Help Medford build a brighter future. Please join us in voting "Yes" on Measures 15-187 and 15-188!

Dr. Douglas N. Naversen
Dr. Laurel Naversen Geraghty
Dr. Mark Hageman
Dr. Brian Gross
Dr. Kent Dauterman

(This information furnished by Kevin Stine, Friends of Howard Memorial Sports Park.)

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Measure 15-189 City of Ashland

Ballot Title

15-189

Amend Ashland City Charter to Create City Manager Position

QUESTION: Shall Ashland amend its city charter to create a City Manager position to supervise all administrative aspects of city government?

SUMMARY: If approved, this measure would amend the Ashland City Charter to create the position of city manager, eliminate the position of city administrator, and transfer executive officer duties from the Mayor to the city manager. The city manager would be the administrative head of the City, with all administrative authority over city government functions except for those administered by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The City Council would appoint a city manager based on education and experience with local government management and without regard to political considerations.

Among other duties, the city manager would administer all City ordinances, resolutions, franchises, leases, contracts and City utilities; appoint, supervise and remove City employees; prepare the City budget; and work with the Council on development of City policies.

The city manager would have no authority over the Mayor and Council or other officers who are appointed directly by and report directly to the Council, such as the city attorney.

The result of a no vote: Ashland's current administrative structure would remain in effect.

The city manager position as proposed would:

- Make reports and recommendations to the Mayor and Council about the needs of the City;
- Administer and enforce all City ordinances, resolutions, franchises, leases, contracts, permits, and other City decisions;
- Appoint, supervise and remove City employees, including all non-elected department heads, except that the City Council would have responsibility for appointing, supervising, and removing appointive officers of the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission would have responsibility for appointing, supervising, and removing its employees, subject to state law, Ashland Municipal Code, written mutual agreements between the City Council and Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission, and formal, written City administrative policies.
- Organize City departments administrative structure, except that the Parks and Recreation Commission would continue to have responsibility for control and management of lands dedicated for park purposes and control and management of all Parks funds.
- Prepare and administer the annual City budget;
- Administer City utilities and property;
- Encourage and support regional and intergovernmental cooperation;
- Promote cooperation among the Council, staff and citizens in developing City policies, and building a sense of community;
- Perform other duties as directed by the Council; and
- Delegate duties to any City employee, in a manner consistent with the provisions of the City Charter, the Ashland Municipal Code, state and federal employment law and collective bargaining agreements.

(This information furnished by Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder, City of Ashland.)

Explanatory Statement

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING POSITION OF CITY MANAGER

The Ashland City Charter currently states that the "mayor, with the confirmation by the council, shall appoint a city administrator." However, the Charter contains no language defining the duties or required qualifications of the administrator. In addition, the Charter and the Ashland Municipal Code reserve to the Mayor certain administrative duties in the areas of treasury and personnel functions.

The Charter states that the Mayor "shall sign all orders and warrants on the Treasury." The Municipal Code grants to the Mayor, with confirmation of the Council, the authority to hire and fire department heads. This proposed Charter amendment consolidates administrative authority for City government in a newly created position of city manager and transfers executive officer duties from the Mayor to the city manager. This amendment proposes no changes to the other political powers and duties of the Mayor or the City Council and grants the city manager no authority over the Mayor, Council or any other elected official.

Measure 15-189 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Ashland Citizens for Economic Sustainability (ACES) strongly supports a Council-Manager form of government for Ashland which is recommended by both The League of Oregon Cities (in its model charter) and IMCA, the world's leading association of professional city and county managers.

A majority of Oregon cities have moved to this form of modern and democratic government including most of our neighboring cities in Southern Oregon. Of 17 cities in Oregon with populations between 15,000 and 25,000, Ashland is the only city that has not yet changed to a Council-Manager form. It is, by far, the most common form of municipal government not just in Oregon, but in the United States.

The proposed change would result in a more professional form of government that allows for increased checks and balances and transparency within the system. Studies by the University of North Carolina show the Council-Manager form of government to be the most ethical form.

In addition, it is more democratic in that increased power is given to City Councilors who directly represent the citizens of Ashland. Finally, it assigns accountability and delegates responsibility to those who are actually managing city staff and the organization.

Over the last 20 years, on average, Ashland has had a new City Administrator every three years resulting in a lack of continuity costly to the city. This does not include the four interim administrators during this same period

We are confident a Council-Manager form of government will result in a more sustainable path for Ashland's future.

(This information furnished by Susan T. Wilson, Ashland Citizens for Economic Sustainability.)

Argument in Favor

Many Ashlanders pride themselves in the uniqueness of our town. While we have many special features making our city a wonderful place to live and visit, we have a unique feature that has become a millstone around the neck of good, efficient civic operation: our current "mayor as chief executive" form of municipal governance.

This ballot measure makes a long overdue change by creating the position of city manager as the chief executive and administrative head of city government.

- Nearly all Oregon cities with populations over 2,500 have a Council/Manager form.
- There is a reason that Council/Manager is by far the most common form of municipal government in the U.S. *It works.*
- A city manager is a professional in the field of public administration with advanced degrees in the complex management of municipal government.
- We should hire managerial competence and experience *because we seldom elect it.*
- We should elect a mayor for his or her vision, public meeting skills and understanding of community issues.
- We hire a manager for their administrative skills and their ability to execute the Council's agenda.

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.

- In our current system, the city administrator has broad responsibility but not the matching authority, because the administrator cannot hire/dismiss department heads.
- This charter amendment matches authority with responsibility because a fundamental principle of good management is that the responsibility you give someone must be enabled by the corresponding authority.
- Department heads will no longer have to wonder whether they report to the mayor or the city manager
- The city manager will not have to wonder if they report to the mayor or the City Council; the city manager will report to the Council.

I've lived in Ashland for over 45 years and fully realize that we must approve this charter amendment to enable fundamental and necessary improvement in city governance. Let's not continue to be uniquely incompetent. Vote YES on 15-189.

Stephen Jensen
Ashland City Councilor

(This information furnished by Stephen Jensen.)

Argument in Favor

Please vote yes on Measure 15-189, an amendment to Ashland's city charter to make city government more effective, efficient and accountable by creating the position of "City Manager."

A city manager is a trained, experienced professional who is hired by and reports to the City Council. The city manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of city government and for carrying out the policy directives of the Mayor and Council in a professional, non-political way. Because the current position of city administrator would be eliminated, this change would be revenue-neutral.

Ashland's current system of government was created in 1908, when the city had no paved roads, few employees and an annual budget of only a couple of thousand dollars. Today, Ashland is a complex operation with a biennial budget of nearly a quarter-billion dollars. The administration of this operation must be entrusted to a trained, experienced professional who can manage the city free of political considerations and who can be summarily dismissed by the Council if they fail to faithfully execute their duties.

This amendment does nothing to diminish the political powers and duties of the mayor. This measure enhances the power of the City Council by giving the Council the right to hire and supervise the city manager. It is a more democratic form of government. The current charter muddies the line of responsibility between elected officials and staff by allowing the mayor, rather than the administrator, to hire and fire department heads. This role confusion hampers the administrator's effectiveness and often subjects staff members to political interference.

Ashland has a horse-and-buggy form of government in an International Space Station age. Let's bring Ashland government into the 21st century.

Vote yes on Measure 15-189.

(This information furnished by Bill Heimann, Citizens for a Better Government PAC.)

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Measure 15-189 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Measure 15-189 would amend the Ashland City Charter to create the position of city manager, an individual hired by the City Council to be the administrative head of city government. This measure would do absolutely nothing to diminish the political and policy-making duties and powers of the Mayor and Council. In fact, this measure was referred to the ballot UNANIMOUSLY by the City Council. This charter amendment has also been endorsed by the following people, who join me in urging you to vote "yes."

- Alan DeBoer, former mayor
- Pam Marsh, former city councilor
- Juli DiChiro, former superintendent, Ashland School District
- Former City Councilors Pat Acklin, David Chapman, Greg Lemhouse, Mike Morris, Russ Silbiger, Carol Voisin, Greg Williams
- Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission former member Vanston Shaw
- Citizens Budget Committee members Paula Hyatt (chair), David Runkel, Shaun Moran and former members Roberta Stebbins, Lynn Thompson and Bill Heimann
- Ashland Planning Commission members Roger Pearce (Chair) Lynn Thompson, and Michael Dawkins
- Gina DuQuenne, Ashland Housing and Human Services Commission
- Sandy Friend, Ashland Public Arts Commission
- Katharine Danner, Ashland Transportation Commission
- Former Ashland city administrators Brian Almquist, Gino Grimaldi, Dave Kanner and Greg Scoles
- Pam Hammond-Morris, owner, Paddington Station, and Dr. Rick Morris, retired physician
- Jim Teece, owner, Project A and Ashland Home Net

Please vote YES on Measure 15-189. Professionalize Ashland city government.

(This information furnished by Bill Heimann, Citizens for a Better Government PAC.)

Argument in Opposition

Vote No on Measure 15-189

A solution in search of a problem

We are community leaders that have been involved with programs that directly resulted and benefited from a strong Mayor/Administer form of government. From auxiliary school funding, recycling, open space and parks to floodplain protections, watershed forest management and library funding, Ashland's form of government has served us well for over 100 years.

This proposal would shift department-head appointment power from the Mayor to an **appointed** city manager under the guise of creating a better candidate pool. But would it be a better pool or a different pool? Under the current charter, the mayor and administrator collaborate on department-head appointments. If this Charter change prevails, managers make appointments with impunity, apart from elected officials.

Mayors face elections; managers do not.

A city manager, from anywhere USA, insulated from a community vision can set a course dramatically different from what citizens want.

For example, a manager may feel water and electric conservation are in direct conflict with the city's water and electric revenue interests and could not only truncate those efforts but eliminate the conservation department entirely. That's what private industry would do.

Similarly, he or she may advocate annexation of county land to increase property-tax revenues and appoint a planning director of like mind. Sprawl, after all, does increase revenues.

Ashland has consistently embraced conservation, improved forest lands, implemented programs to improve our community and environment, and opposed sprawl, even though doing so isn't in the best interest of our bottom line. Those investments makes Ashland a better place to live **for everyone**.

Ashland is a vibrant, thriving and desirable city precisely because of our existing charter and form of government.

If it isn't broken, don't fix it: Vote No

Jim Lewis, Ashland Parks Commissioner, former member, Ashland Historic Commission

Kate Kennedy, Ashland High School Teacher

Julian Bell, Ashland Parks Commissioner

Chuck Keil, Former member, Ashland School Board

Amy Blossom, former Ashland Branch Librarian

(This information furnished by Chuck Keil, Former Member, Ashland School Board.)

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Measure 15-190 Proposed Jackson County Local Correctional Facility Service District

Ballot Title

15-190

Formation of District to Construct and Operate Local Correctional Facility

QUESTION: Shall district be formed in Jackson County, except Talent, for new correctional facility with rate up to \$0.8719 per \$1,000?

SUMMARY: If approved, the Jackson County Local Correctional Facility Service District will be formed with dedicated funding for the construction and operation of a new county correctional facility. The current county correctional facility has a maximum capacity of 315 inmates. The current capacity required the forced release of 4,166 people in 2019 due to insufficient capacity to hold those people. District boundaries will include all territory within Jackson County, except the current boundaries of the City of Talent. Formation of the District would:

- Provide permanent, dedicated funding for construction of and the increased costs of operating a new correctional facility, with a maximum capacity of approximately 800 inmates, and with an operational maximum capacity of approximately 650 inmates.
- The increased capacity should dramatically reduce or eliminate the number of people who are forced released due to insufficient capacity.
- Cap the permanent tax rate at \$0.8719 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which cannot be increased. Homeowner with an assessed value of \$194,200 would pay \$169.32 per year. District is not required to levy full taxes each year.

Additionally, a Grand Jury, which is comprised of community members, is tasked with doing a yearly assessment of the correctional facilities in Jackson County. Over the last 10 years, the most consistent recommendations are to build a new and larger correctional facility, increase staffing, and increase mental health resources. These recommendations have not been implemented due to a lack of sustained operating revenue and funding for construction.

The proposed service district levy of \$.8719 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value will provide the additional funding necessary for the construction of, and increased operating costs of, a modern and properly sized facility to meet the needs of Jackson County, and the recommendations of the National Institute of Corrections and the Grand Jury.

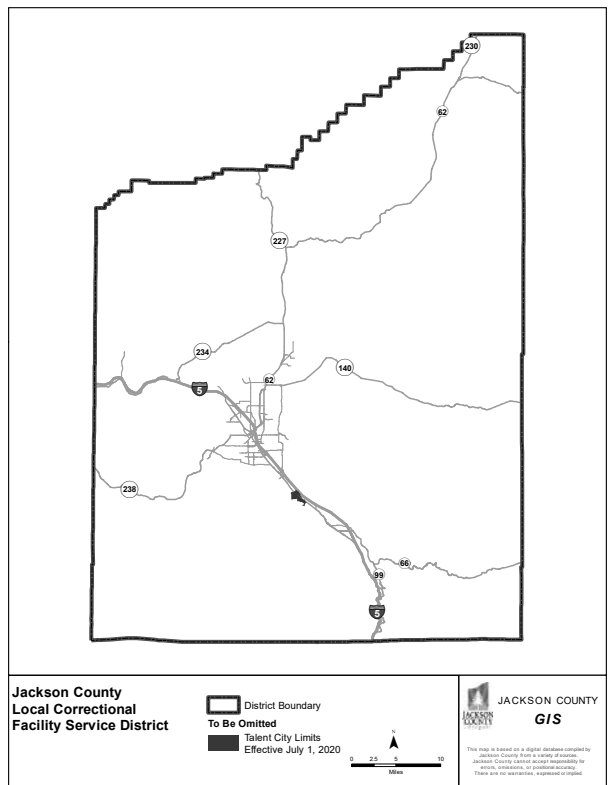
(This information furnished by Colleen Roberts, Chair, Board of Commissioners, Jackson County.)

Explanatory Statement

The current Jackson County Correctional Facility does not adequately support the Criminal Justice System or meet the needs of the community. The current facility was opened in 1981 and only a few years later, the County was sued for overcrowding. Today, the current operating capacity of the facility is 300 during the day and 315 at night, which resulted in the forced release of over 16,000 people over the past three years. A forced release occurs when someone is released from custody prior to the first arraignment or prior to their scheduled release time due to the facility being full.

Forced releases are detrimental to the community, to the Criminal Justice System, and many times to the individual who is released. The individuals often re-offend and do not show up for court, victimizing the community further and generating warrants for their arrest. In 2017, over 10,000 warrants in Jackson County were issued for people who failed to appear in court when required to do so. These warrants negatively impact the Courts, the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, and create issues in the community.

The National Institute of Corrections has done three assessments in Jackson County over the last 20 years. Findings from these assessments have indicated the current correctional facility is not serving the needs of the community and the design is staff intensive and obsolete. Since 2006, the recommendation has been that the County replace the building with a larger, better designed facility.



Measure 15-190 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Vote No on Measure 15-190. Public safety is not at risk, and we do not need a new jail. We need programs that address the underlying reasons people end up in jail. The Sheriff's Department wants the taxpayers to fund a new 800-bed jail at a cost of 166 million dollars and then abandon the existing jail. Not one penny of this money can be used to take action to help people stay out of jail. The summary of the measure asserts that a typical homeowner will pay about \$169 per year, but it fails to say that this tax will apply to more than just homeowners and will be passed through in higher costs to run a business and increased rental rates for housing.

The proponents claim that the jail is needed to prevent overcrowding and forced release of people in custody; in making this claim they resort to words that evoke fear that public safety is at risk. The fact of the matter is that violent offenders are not being released.

People being let go are typically in jail for reasons such as trespassing, disorderly conduct, minor alcohol and drug violations, and failure to appear in court.

We need real solutions. We should fund public defenders and the courts so that people can be brought to trial promptly and then allowed to move on with their lives. We should fund substance abuse and mental health centers to keep people out of jail in the first place. We should support programs that provide opportunities to move out of homelessness and poverty. Where there are concerns about people not appearing in court, save space in the jail by using electronic monitoring. These solutions help communities prosper by providing a healthier and more productive citizenship.

Don't let this fiasco go on any longer. Building a new jail only provides an excuse for not addressing the problems. Vote no.

(This information furnished by Katharine Bronwen, Rogue Liberation Library Volunteer, Peace House.)

Argument in Opposition

NAMI Pushes for Decreased Incarceration, Increased Pre-Arrest Diversion

The Coronavirus Pandemic starkly illustrates the need for alternatives to the ER and Jail for citizens in a mental health crisis--a glaring hole in our system that was a crisis before The Crisis.

25-60% of inmates in county jails have serious mental health conditions.

Because of this - based on a full year of researching this proposal - the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Southern Oregon has these concerns:

- The jail levy would create a permanent new tax district, bringing us closer to the cap on property taxes, thereby limiting availability of future funding for human services.
- Although the county has said they will increase mental health services within the new jail, there is no legal requirement for them to do so. They could curtail that funding any time.
- Essential services to address mental health, substance abuse and homelessness are currently inaccessible, under-funded or both.

Other communities have successful programs that reduce jail bookings.

- In Eugene, the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) program answers 30% of public-generated dispatch calls. Their highly trained teams provide a mobile crisis alternative to police for mental health, substance-use and homelessness-related situations.
- Yet CAHOOTS' total annual operating budget is only \$1.6 million and saves over \$17 million per year in reduced arrests and ER visits.
- The proposal's projected increase in jail beds doesn't consider any pre-arrest diversion that might be implemented. Why not try some of these cost-saving approaches, then see what our projected needs will be?

NAMI Southern Oregon understands the current jail is inadequate; we hope that additional resources like a CAHOOTS program and/or a 24/7 Psychiatric Crisis Center will help law enforcement and reduce the need for highly expensive jail (and ER) beds.

Vote No on 15-190: Let's come up with a comprehensive and affordable plan that reduces costs, incarceration and human suffering.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Southern Oregon

(This information furnished by Caren Caldwell, National Alliance on Mental Illness Southern Oregon.)

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Measure 15-190 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Residents across the political spectrum oppose Jackson County's jail-only tax plan that includes Measure 15-190. County Commissioner Colleen Roberts and many members of the Medford, Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland city councils voted against it.

Measure 15-190 would raise county property taxes permanently by 40% solely for a huge new jail with maximum capacity of 896 beds, compared to 315 now. (Note: all figures from sheriff's website.)

The county's plan would ...

- Cost \$1 billion in the first 23 years.
- Use up nearly all available county reserves -- \$66 million taxpayers already paid.
- Use up money needed for crime reduction, housing solutions, mental health and addiction treatment, and other essential services.
- Create a new separate and permanent taxing district, controlled by the county commissioners and county administrator.

A "NO" VOTE IS A VOTE FOR BETTER ALTERNATIVES

"Right on Crime," a research group formed by Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, and other conservatives, says on its website that "Taxpayers are footing the bill for jail stays that often times have an adverse effect on public safety."

"Even brief jail stays can increase the chance of committing another crime in the future," it continues. "A few days in a cell can lead to being laid off, losing housing, making it difficult to find and keep meaningful employment. When someone who has mental health issues is locked up pretrial it can compound their situation. The same can be said for people who display signs of substance abuse."

Right on Crime concludes: "Possible solutions for rising pre-trial populations include reducing jailable offenses, expanding police diversion, use of validated risk assessments at intake, and revising state bail laws." Counties should "give police officers the option to divert low-risk defendants with mental health or substance abuse issues to treatment programs rather than jail."

We need a better plan, like other counties have, with real solutions like that. Only then would we know whether Jackson County needs a new jail and, if so, how big.

(This information furnished by H. Rebecca Pearson.)

Argument in Opposition

**Wasteful. Wrong for Southern Oregon.
Vote No on Measure 15-190**

Throughout the Covid-19 crisis, essential county employees have remained on the frontlines, serving our communities every day. Health care workers, airport personnel, mental health care leaders and experts on controlling the outbreak of disease and illness have served our communities in countless ways.

Yet, when it came time to protect these essential workers by providing affordable health care and safety equipment that would protect the health of the public and frontline workers, the Jackson County Commission refused.

In the midst of a health care crisis, management denied frontline healthcare workers basic safety equipment like hand sanitizer, putting health care personnel and the public at risk.

The County even refused a health care proposal that would have saved taxpayers \$3.5 million over three years.

Instead, just last year Jackson County Commissioners voted to give themselves a 9% pay raise.

In times like these, we need leadership that addresses the challenges facing our communities and put Southern Oregon's priorities first.

Measure 15-190 is misguided and wrong for Southern Oregon. Instead of investing in our priorities, this levy would:

- **Raise county property taxes by more than 40%**
- **Cost taxpayers \$66 million to build**
- **Cost taxpayers \$1 billion over the next 23 years to build and operate**

Instead of wasting our taxpayer dollars to give politicians pay raises and build a new jail, let's address the mental health and drug crisis, improve access to affordable housing, and provide quality health care for seniors, families and frontline workers.

Tell the Jackson County Commission NO on wasteful government spending.

Vote NO on Measure 15-190

Angela Cruthirds

Chief Steward for Jackson County Employees, SEIU Local 503
Jackson County Mental Health Records Custodian

(This information furnished by Angela Cruthirds, SEIU 503.)

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Measure 15-191 Proposed White City Public Parks and Recreation Service District

Ballot Title

15-191

Formation of Public Parks and Recreation District in White City

QUESTION: Shall district form in area of White City for public parks and recreation with rate up to \$0.9700 per \$1,000?

SUMMARY: If approved, the White City Public Parks and Recreation Service District will be formed with dedicated funding for the construction, maintenance, and operation of public parks and recreation services in White City, Oregon. Previously, a community organization was responsible for the maintenance and operations of the parks and recreation facilities serving the residents of White City including two parks, a skate park, and a community pool. That community organization has dissolved, and a stable source of funding is necessary to continue maintaining and operating these facilities. District boundaries will be the area which is commonly known as White City. Formation of the District would:

- Provide permanent, dedicated funding for the maintenance and operation of public parks and recreation facilities in White City.
- Develop new public park facilities including the 27-acre area near the existing Library Park.
- Cap the permanent tax rate at \$0.9700 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which cannot be increased. Homeowner with an assessed value of \$131,420 would pay \$127.48 per year. District is not required to levy full taxes each year.

Explanatory Statement

What would this measure do?

This measure would form a White City Public Parks and Recreation Service District to ensure citizens living within the White City urbanized area are provided with safe and well-maintained park facilities and recreational opportunities, including:

- Continued maintenance and enhancements to the Cascade Community Pool, Burns Park, Skate Park, Library Park, and the White City Community Path;
- Development of a new 27-acre park at the vacant Library Park land which is planned to have many new features such as a four full sized soccer fields, basketball court, covered pavilions with picnic tables, a 1-acre dog park, splash pad, walking paths, 15+ acres of open space lawn and trees, restrooms, lighting and other park amenities. Final design of the of the park will be refined through professional services and community input;
- Development of a recreation program to provide or support recreation classes, fitness programs, additional swimming classes and activities, sports leagues for local youth and community events; and,
- Dedicated staff and financing to ensure existing and developed parks and recreation facilities are well maintained, clean, and safe.

Why is this being proposed now?

In the past, existing park and recreational facilities including the Cascade Community Pool, Burns Park, Skate Park and Library Park have been maintained through a mix of funds provided from local not for profit community groups, fees charged at the pool, donations and grants. While these facilities have remained open, adequate funding has been a constant and ongoing challenge.

Historically, the White City Community Improvement Association (WCCIA) has been the largest contributor maintaining the White City park facilities which they have done using profits from the Cascade Bingo Hall that they owned and operated. Due to changing market conditions, the Cascade Bingo Hall was closed in December 2018 and the WCCIA was dissolved effective December 2019. Without revenue from the WCCIA, the future of the existing White City parks and Cascade Community Pool is unknown and park closure or curtailment may be required.

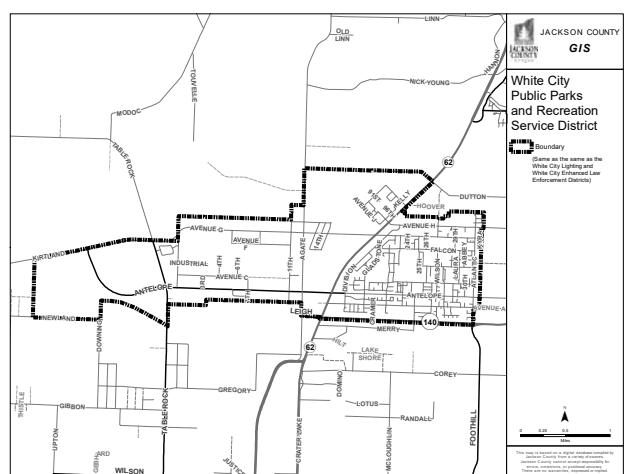
White City is one of the most populous urban areas in Jackson County, being essentially tied for 4th with the City of Eagle Point after Medford, Ashland, and Central Point. White City will continue to urbanize over the next 10-20 years. The proposed District will provide facilities and services to meet the community's growing needs and is expected to enhance the livability of White City.

How would the White City Parks and Recreation District be managed and maintained?

If passed, the District would be a County Service District, like the White City Lighting and White City Enhanced Law Enforcement Districts and would be managed as follows:

- The District will be a separate legal and financial entity from Jackson County.
- The Jackson County Board of Commissioners will serve as the governing body.
- All park facilities will become Jackson County Parks and County park staff will provide all operations, maintenance and staff and will oversee the construction and development of the new Library Park.

(This information furnished by Colleen Roberts, Chair, Board of Commissioners, Jackson County.)



Measure 15-191 Arguments

Argument in Favor

We, the community of White City, face an important decision with this vote. We need a parks and recreation district to maintain our current and future parks.

Our community is growing rapidly and many of our family dwellings do not provide adequate green space for family activities and fun.

We have the opportunity to develop our twenty-seven acre Library Park which would provide area for families to gather for picnics, play basketball, soccer, walk, exercise our dogs, and experience many other beautiful park amenities.

All our parks in White City are important to the health and welfare of our families now and in the future. We currently have Cascade Community Pool, Josephson Skate Board Park, Burns Park with playground, restroom, and water feature, and Library Park with only a playground. These all provide much enjoyment and exercise for our community.

We believe that now is the time to secure the maintenance of our current parks and provide for the development of the Library Park for continued recreation for our seniors, families and children.

Please join the White City Political Action Committee (WCPAC) in voting yes on measure 15-191 for a White City Parks and Recreation District.

Measure 15-191 is supported by:

Billie Arnold
Sandra Bañuelos
Betty Bovee
John and Eileen Campbell
Roger Hansen
Dan and Loretta Mapes
Phil Ortega
Frank and Joy Reich
Mickey Schaufler
Arlene Wilson
Jeremy Wilson
Ron Wilson

(This information furnished by Edna J. Reich, White City Political Action Committee.)

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Measure 15-192 Evans Valley Rural Fire Protection District 6

Ballot Title

15-192

Renewal of Five-Year Local Option Tax for General Operations

QUESTION: Shall District continue imposing \$.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years beginning 2021-2022 to fund general operations? This measure renews current local option taxes.

SUMMARY: Evans Valley Fire District #6 provides fire and life safety services within the territory of the Fire District. These emergency services are provided 24 hours per day with a combination of paid professional staff and trained volunteers.

If adopted, this measure would continue a local option levy at the same rate of \$.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The local option levy at this same rate was approved in 2010 and 2014. Without renewal, the current tax levy will expire at the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The proposed levy renewal will allow for the current level of service for the Evans Valley Fire District #6 to continue. These services include the student staffing program, apparatus replacement, facilities maintenance, and day-to-day operations. Without the levy funding, the Fire District will need to cut back on its level of services to the community.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$93,951 in 2021-2022, \$96,769 in 2022-2023, \$99,672 in 2023-2024, \$102,662 in 2024-2025, and \$105,742 in 2025-2026, for a total over five years of \$498,796.

improved levels of service. **This tax measure does not increase your tax burden.** This measure will continue to provide funding for fire and medical services at the current tax rate.

The Evans Valley Fire District #6 has one of the lowest fire district tax rates in Southern Oregon. In the fire service, personnel and equipment are TOOLS OF THE TRADE. It is necessary to maintain well-trained staff and reliable equipment to enable us to do our job. The Fire District provides its citizens with fire protection, medical services, hazardous incident responses, and non-emergency assistance. These services are provided 24-hours per day, with qualified volunteers, students, the Captain, and the Fire Chief.

This five-year levy will allow the district to continue to deliver this high level of service with no increase in the current tax rate.

(This information furnished by Travis Crume, Fire Chief, Evans Valley Rural Fire Protection District 6.)

Explanatory Statement

Evans Valley Fire District #6 operates out of one centrally located station with two paid employees, fourteen volunteers, and six students to serve your needs. In 2010 voters approved a five-year local option tax levy to support the increasing cost of the Fire District's operations and to enhance our staffing by adding a student program. In 2014 voters approved a renewal of that tax levy, which is set to expire in 2021. The funds generated from these levies have allowed the Fire District to update its aging facility, equipment, fire trucks, and turn-outs, and most of all, added vital staffing for our emergency responses. All of these factors have resulted in us being able to provide a more consistent and rapid response to your needs.

The student staffing program we began is a contract that requires students (fire/medical responders in training) to provide on-duty coverage at the fire station with five 48-hour shifts per month. In exchange, the fire district pays their college tuition and fees for emergency services coursework. This program has been highly successful, with many other fire districts adopting similar models.

The additional funding from these tax levies have:

- Decreased our response time to emergencies
- Increased our overall level of service
- Improved our facilities with energy-efficient upgrades (heating & air, siding, windows, lighting)
- And, created an apparatus replacement fund

The tax levy you supported in 2014 will be expiring and must be renewed if we are to continue providing these

Measure 15-193 City of Ashland

Ballot Title

15-193

General Obligation Bond Authorization for Three City Capital Construction Projects

QUESTION: Shall City issue \$8.2 million in general obligation bonds to finance City Hall, Pioneer Hall, and Community Center capital projects? 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: This measure authorizes the City of Ashland to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$8.2 million to finance capital construction projects, including design, to make these three historic City buildings safe and serviceable for decades to come: City Hall, Pioneer Hall, and Community Center. The proposed bond would cost Ashland taxpayers approximately \$0.2090 per \$1000 of assessed value per year. The average assessed value for a single-family dwelling in Ashland is approximately \$310,000. The assessment on a home with that value would be \$64.79 per year for 20 years.

City Hall, built at the turn of the last century, is substandard in terms of seismic survivability, energy efficiency, internal systems, ADA access, and interior functionality.

The Ashland Community Center and Pioneer Hall have major structural defects that currently limit or preclude their use for most community events.

Because construction costs are rising faster than inflation, postponing these three projects until a future election would likely result in higher constant-dollar costs and would not necessarily avoid the need for bonding in the future.

Structural repair will require, at a minimum, a new roof, ceiling, and wall and foundation repairs and will cost up to \$500,000, based on preliminary estimates.

Pioneer Hall was originally built in 1921; a restoration and expansion project was completed in 1988. Since then, Pioneer Hall has been available by reservation for public and private events. A 2018 assessment of Pioneer Hall identified a number of needed corrective measures, including roof structure repair, seismic rehabilitation, heating/air conditioning upgrades and ADA access improvements. These deficiencies have constrained use of Pioneer Hall, especially in wintertime, when a heavy snow load could cause roof failure. Based on preliminary estimates, rehabilitation of Pioneer Hall will cost up to \$500,000

If the bond passes and costs for these three capital projects prove to be less than currently estimated, the associated property tax rate will be reduced accordingly. If the costs prove to be greater than currently estimated, aspects of the projects would have to be scaled-back and deferred.

(This information furnished by Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder, City of Ashland.)

Explanatory Statement

Current City Hall is an 1891 unreinforced brick building initially built to house a fire station and a few administrative offices. A subsequently-added stucco exterior sheath and multiple other exterior and interior alterations in the last century have resulted in a structure that does not meet current building codes, access requirements, or energy-efficiency guidelines. The unreinforced masonry structure would likely not withstand a significant earthquake long enough for staff and customers to exit the building safely.

The majority recommendation of a 2017 City advisory committee on preferred City Hall locations was to keep it at its current site. Based on preliminary designs, the estimated cost for retaining a restored City Hall on the Plaza is \$7.2 million -- including final design, temporary relocation of staff, any necessary demolition, and construction work.

City Council will collaborate with the Planning Commission, the Historic Commission, and historic restoration specialists before approving final design.

The Ashland Community Center was constructed in 1922 and partially restored in the mid-1980s. It has housed local community meetings, dances, exhibitions, and other public and private events. In early 2019, the north facing wall began to fail, bulging outward such that the building became unusable.

Measure 15-193 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Community Matters: Vote Yes on 15-193!

Social infrastructure is the glue that binds communities together. Although it's often harder to see, social infrastructure is just as real as the infrastructure for water, power, or roads.

When we invest in social infrastructure such as libraries, parks, schools, and civic buildings we reap many distinct benefits. We are more likely to interact with people around us and connect to the broader public. If we neglect social infrastructure, we tend to grow more isolated.

The importance of maintaining and investing in publicly-held assets cannot be overstated. They provide the physical places that allow bonds to develop, foster contact, mutual support, and collaboration among friends and neighbors. People forge ties in communities that have healthy social infrastructures, and communities that invest in it are more resilient to both economic downturns and natural disasters--as evident in the community response to the New Year's Flood and the creation of the Ashland Food Project during the Great Recession.

Ashland has a long history of investing in social infrastructure; indeed it is the cornerstone of our robust and involved electorate. This investment over many generations, and the social ties it has created, are part of what makes Ashland such a great place to live.

Over the last four years, Ashland's City Council and Mayor examined the needs of City Hall, including appointing an ad hoc committee of citizens representing diverging opinions, backgrounds and work experience who evaluated options for the existing building and considered alternate locations. The majority advocated for the current location because it was the least costly; everyone agreed that something had to be done.

Maintaining a civic presence in the downtown is important to our businesses and presents an authentic city to visitors. Further, restoring existing historic structures in the downtown demonstrates civic pride and strengthens ties between community, government, and businesses.

Join Us: Vote Yes

Peter Buckley, Former State Representative

Cathy Shaw, Former Mayor of Ashland

(This information furnished by Cathy Shaw.)

Argument in Favor

Vote Yes on Measure 15-193

Ashland's City Hall is an important anchor and iconic building in our Downtown Historic District and has served the community well since 1891. But its walls were built with unreinforced masonry brick and could collapse in a strong earthquake.

Given its age, original materials, and the safety of our workers - it's evident City Hall needs more than just a coat of paint.

After public input and thoughtful guidance, the Council voted to renovate City Hall in its present location on the Plaza, using historic preservation 'best practices' and funding it with an \$8.2 million 20-year general obligation bond whose costs to you will be OFFSET by the Fire Station #1 and Library Facilities bonds retiring this year.

Renovating City Hall keeps the City's commitment to preservation of its historic structures while minimizing disruption of Downtown businesses during construction. The bond also covers structural repairs of historic **Pioneer Hall** and the **Community Center**, which are currently shuttered or have limited access due to safety concerns.

In these difficult times renewing the buildings in the heart of our community that have been the base for supporting services can be a stabilizing force, creating jobs and pointing to the future.

Please join us and Vote Yes for this vital, long-delayed work!

Mayor John Stromberg

Dale Shostrom, Ashland Historic Commission, Chair

(This information furnished by John Stromberg.)

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Measure 15-193 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

For 20 years the City of Ashland has known city hall needed renovation. Despite that, they've not put aside a nickel to pay for its upgrade. They wasted 3 years and nearly \$400K of our money trying to convince us City Hall must be replaced. They've considered costs that began at less than \$2m all the way up to \$25m.

First they wanted \$7.2 million for a new city hall. Now after "discovering" City Hall was historic and hard to demolish, they still want \$7.2 million but to renovate. They want us to give them money but promise to only spend what they must.

Don't do it.

This project has been driven by wild assumptions about growing staff, increased space needs, and obstinate refusal to consider alternatives. Despite years of pleas from the community, the city only hired an architect with restoration experience when forced to do so by politics. They still haven't looked at the geology of the site but want you to believe city hall is "dangerous" and a liability. City hall is no more dangerous than any other building on the Plaza. They want you to let them borrow \$7.2 million to do "something."

Don't do it.

On top of that the city wants another \$1 million to upgrade the Community Center and the Pioneer Log Cabin. They've not explored options or put aside any money for these buildings either. It's easier to just ask taxpayers to fund their poor planning and deferred maintenance.

Don't do it.

These buildings need attention, no doubt. But there are better ways than throwing money at them without a plan and, despite wasting three years, this Mayor and Council haven't a plan. They want you to trust them to spend money wisely.

Don't do it.

Vote NO on Measure 15-193. We need better planning. And better leadership. We deserve better.

George Kramer
Ashland resident since 1982

(This information furnished by George Kramer.)

Argument in Opposition

While we agree that the Community Center, Pioneer Hall and City Hall need to be upgraded, we strongly oppose this \$8.2 million bond issue.

First, the proposal is based on **highly inflated** estimates for improvements to these buildings. The city, in its rush to get this measure to the ballot, decided to forego appropriate estimates from knowledgeable experts. They contend that the price tag doesn't matter - that they will figure out the true costs later. Ashlanders deserve better.

- Who would pay \$500,000 for a new roof on Pioneer Hall?
- Who would pay \$500,000 to stabilize a wall and make relatively minor electrical and plumbing upgrades at the Community Center?
- Who would pay \$7.2 million to modernize the bathrooms, electrical systems, and internet connections at City Hall and make undefined seismic adjustments to a two-story structure (built on bed rock rated at the state's lowest earthquake risk level)?

Ashland's budget has doubled over the last decade. We have three times the number of employees per citizen as other Oregon cities our size. In a time of low inflation, pay/benefits for city workers have gone up annually by double digits. Our property taxes are maxed out. Rising utility rates along with utility related surcharges, taxes and fees have made living in Ashland unaffordable for many. We have a \$305 million budget with virtually no reserves.

Having exhausted all other tax sources, our elected officials have put forth this bond measure. Ashland needs to learn to live within its financial means, spend tax money wisely and not ask taxpayers for more, more, more.

Let's get Pioneer Hall and the Community Center reopened by using the \$220,000 already budgeted for repairing them. Next, let's get reasonable estimates from design/construction specialists in historical buildings and use funds from lower-priority city projects to address City Hall.

Please vote NO. If passed, this bond would allow city officials an out from doing what's most necessary - prioritize services and control spending.

(This information furnished by David Runkel, Ashland Citizens for Economic Sustainability.)

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Jackson County Commissioner, Position 2



**Robert H
Bierma**
Democrat

Occupation: Student; Aspiring Real Estate Entrepreneur

Occupational Background: Lead Cellarman at Cascade Brewing; Construction Worker; Wildland Firefighter

Educational Background:

Oregon State University, BS, Economics

Prior Governmental Experience: Medford Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Medford Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

Background: I grew up with 3 younger siblings on a working farm in the Willamette Valley and went to one of the last K-8 rural schools in the area. Through my childhood our farm constantly transitioned what we grew as markets for different crops boomed and busted. Sadly, when in high school, we lost the family farm due primarily to the bankruptcy of the largest grass seed company at the time and a failure to fully pay us for the crops we had grown.

After spending a few years attending OSU in Corvallis I moved to Portland. While living there I was able to see the challenges and opportunities that the robust growth of the region presented. I was very engaged in the civic discussion around these issues and in particular spent a lot of time examining land use planning issues.

3.5 years ago my wife and I moved to Medford for her job as a dentist at La Clinic. Since moving here I have become increasingly engaged in the community, serving on city committees, as well as being a board member of Downtown Medford Association.

I believe my background provides a diversity of experience that will give me the perspectives necessary to address both the rural and urban decisions of Jackson County.

Governing Philosophy: I believe that effective governance impacts the wellbeing of every member of our community. It will be my goal to work collaboratively with all members of our community and to find the most equitable solutions possible when there are competing objectives. I will rely heavily on and encourage robust civic engagement from all members of our community. Let's work together for a prosperous Jackson County!

<https://www.facebook.com/Robert-Bierma-for-Jackson-County-Commissioner-10143380482508/>

(This information furnished by Robert H. Bierma.)

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

Jackson County Commissioner, Position 2



**Terrie
Martin**
Democrat

Occupation: Writer, Journalist, co-owner of D&S Harley-Davidson.

Occupational Background: Award-winning Reporter for the Mail Tribune; Journalism Instructor, Freelance-Writer, Small Business Owner.

Educational Background: Southern Oregon University, B.A. Communications; Rotary Scholar, University of Constance, Germany.

Prior Governmental Experience: None

Community Service: Southern Oregon Historical Society, board member, president, interim executive director; board/steering committee member of ORD2 Indivisible, Progressive Oregon Women; co-founder Corset Cruise Pink Ribbon fundraiser and Bikers Have Heart, non-profit benefiting local children.

Family: Part of a family-owned business for 49 years, mother of two.

Let's Put People First

Over the past 50 years, I have collected the stories of the people of Jackson County. I've interviewed farmers, teachers, nurses, students, politicians and people living on the street. I've learned we share a love for the land around us, pride in our small towns and concerns about our families and friends.

The issues have never changed. People want housing they can afford. Jobs that pay the bills. Safe schools and neighborhoods. They want to see a doctor when they're sick -- and not wipe out their savings.

These are the issues I believe the Board of Commissioners should consider first in every discussion they have.

Let's Plan For The Future

Jackson County is going to grow. We need to plan carefully, with community-based discussions on marijuana/hemp, timber harvests, traffic, and the sacrifice of our fields to development.

We need to find industries that will keep our air and water clean and focus on climate change, homelessness, addiction, mental illness.

Let's Work Together

I am running for Jackson County Commissioner because I believe we need more diverse voices, opinions and ideas in county government. I want to make sure your stories are not just collected, but truly heard -- and turned into actions to preserve and protect this place we love.

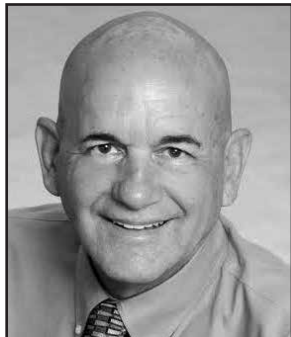
Endorsed by

Sen. Jeff Golden
Former Commissioners Dave Gilmour and Peter Sage
Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood
Medford Councilor Kevin Stein
Ashland Councilor Tonya Graham

(This information furnished by Terrie Martin.)

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

Jackson County Commissioner, Position 2



**Curt
Ankerberg**
Republican

Occupation: Retired

Occupational Background: Retired after 33-year career managing Certified Public Accounting Firms, including Moss Adams CPAs locally.

Educational Background: California State University - BS-Business Administration/Accounting

Prior Governmental Experience: Math Tutor - Medford School District

As someone with 33-years experience managing Certified Public Accounting firms, including Moss Adams CPAs locally, **Curt Ankerberg** understands how to analyze complex problems to arrive at best-possible solutions. Jackson County voters are facing serious challenges both this year and next.

- **Curt Ankerberg opposes the proposed \$171 million jail**, which fails to address crime's root causes, which includes mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness. Improvements need to be prioritized in social services.
- **Curt Ankerberg supports increased timber-harvesting on O&C Lands** to abide by the legal terms of the O&C Act; providing economic stimulus (lower taxes) while reducing fire and health dangers.
- **Curt Ankerberg opposes the Jordan Cove Pipeline** for both environmental and eminent-domain reasons.
- **Curt Ankerberg opposes Cap-and-Trade**, which will generate tax revenue for the State of Oregon (read "PERS") while massively increasing your living costs.
- **Curt Ankerberg supports saving the Klamath Dams** to maintain inexpensive hydro-electricity at a time when Kate Brown wants to triple our electric rates.
- **Curt Ankerberg opposes annual increases of County licenses, fees, permits, and taxes**, stopping the constant attack against the private sector economy.
- **Curt Ankerberg will reduce government's burden** on Jackson County taxpayers to improve standards of living for all Jackson County citizens.

Aside from those issues, the biggest threat we face is influence-peddling by special interest groups who bribe local politicians with promises of jobs and other favors in-return for their votes. Taxpayers are being asked to vote on an overpriced, multi-million-dollar county jail and an unnecessary \$60 million Medford aquatic/convention center solely to benefit select Chamber of Commerce cronies. **Curt Ankerberg opposes both of these boondoggles.**

Curt Ankerberg will fight like hell for Jackson County taxpayers, while HIS OPPONENT IS A CHAMBER LOBBYIST. The choice is clear. ONLY Curt Ankerberg will deliver positive-results for you.

(This information furnished by Curt Ankerberg.)

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

Jackson County Commissioner, Position 2



**Dave
Dotterer**
Republican

Occupation: US Marine Corps, Retired Colonel

Occupational Background: Colonel, Infantry, US Marine Corps (28 years); Consultant, Science Applications International Corporation; Strategic

Budget Analyst, Oregon Legislature, House and Senate Republican Caucuses; Budget Advisor, Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson; Consultant, JWA Public Affairs

Educational Background: BS, Business Administration, Oregon State University; MA, Army Command and General Staff College; MA, National Security and Strategic Studies, Naval War College; Honors Graduate, US Army Ranger School

Prior Governmental Experience: Military Assistant, Secretary of the Navy; City of Ashland Planning Commission; Strategic Budget Analyst, Oregon Legislature, House and Senate Republican Caucuses; Transition Team Chief of Staff, Oregon Secretary of State-elect Dennis Richardson; Budget Advisor, Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson; Chairman, Logos Public Charter School; Chairman, Jackson County Veterans Advisory Committee; Chairman, Service Academy Selection Board, Congressman Greg Walden

WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE FOR DAVE DOTTERER?

- Proven Community Leader with Expertise in Organizational Change Management
- Protector of Jackson County's Outstanding Progress
- Visionary to take Jackson County to the Next Level
- Battle Tested Patriot
- Fiscal Conservative
- Friend and Supporter of Jackson County Businesses
- Strong Supporter of Veterans
- President, Ashland Gun and Archery Club
- Dedicated to Jackson County's educational excellence as Chairman of the Board, Logos Public Charter School

Contact Dave to learn more about him and his vision for Jackson County's future.

- Email: davedotterer@gmail.com
- Cell Phone: 541-840-4501
- Website: friendsofdavedotterer.com
- Mail: PO Box 4123, Medford, OR 97501-7238

(This information furnished by Dave Dotterer.)

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

Jackson County Assessor



David Arrasmith

Occupation: Jackson County Assessor since 2016.

Occupational Background: Deputy Assessor under Dan Ross 1989-2011; under Josh Gibson 2012-2015.

Educational Background: San Jose State University (Bachelor of Science: Business Administration); Hartnell Jr College (Certificate in Real Estate); Passed the Certified Public Accountant Exam; Accredited Green Appraiser

Prior Governmental Experience: Veteran: HHC 1st Battalion 68th Armor; Chairman Medford Budget Committee; Chairman, RVTD Board; Medford Planning Advisory Committee; Jackson County Human Services Advisory Committee; School District 549C Affirmative Action Advisory Committee.

Community Involvement Past and Present:

Volunteer: in support of the Children's Miracle Network Board Member, Rogue Federal Credit Union Treasurer, Jackson County Sheriff's Posse Member, Medford/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Member, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development Member, Rotary Club of Medford Medford, Ashland Elks Lodge

Experienced:

The Assessor's job is to provide fair and accurate appraisals on every type of property. I have the extensive training and experience needed to meet this job requirement. Since 1989 I have appraised the following types of property: residential; apartments; commercial; public buildings; manufacturing plants; movable and fixed-in-place machinery and equipment.

I have written and presented appraisals and given expert witness testimony in Oregon Tax Court, and have assisted the Department of Justice in the Oregon Supreme Court.

Community Endorsements:

Alan DeBoer: former State Senator
Ronald Bjork: rancher, Eagle Point
Meridee Fancher: former Medford City Human Resources Management Analyst
Susan Burns: Register Nurse; former Chief Nursing Officer
Jim Herndon: Vietnam Veteran; former police officer
Sebastian Zepeda: Eduardo's Construction, LLC and Landscaping

As Assessor:

During my term as Assessor I have successfully managed the Jackson County Assessor's Office \$4.3 million dollar budget. Year after year staff performed excellently and finished the year under budget.

I promise to continue meeting with voters in community forums to answer your tax questions as I have done since January 2016, and I will continue to improve the office website to assist you in locating information you need.

Please Vote and Re-elect County Assessor David Arrasmith

(This information furnished by David Arrasmith.)

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

Jackson County Assessor



Sara Castagnaro

Occupation: Administrative Assistant

Occupational Background: Jackson County Assessor's Department-Deputy Assessor under Dan Ross, Joshua Gibson, Acting Assessor-Jo Wright;

Data Analyst III/Property Appraiser II; Segregation Specialist/Property Appraiser II; Tax Roll Correction Specialist/Property Appraiser I; Office Assistant II

Educational Background: Oregon Department of Revenue; International Association of Assessing Officers; Rogue Community College; Crater High School Graduate

Prior Governmental Experience: Member, Crater Distance Project; President, Youth Advisory Committee of Jackson County; Jackson County Employee of the Month (Feb 2018, Aug 2007); Jackson County Citizen of the Month (Jan 1999)

With over 16 years working in the Assessor's office, under the direction of four different Assessors, I have gained the tools necessary to be the very best candidate to serve the Jackson County citizens as their next Assessor. I will help bring transparency, provide lacking communication, and give the unmatched level of customer service that you deserve. I started as a temporary employee in 2003 and have climbed my way up the ladder to one of the most respected positions in the Department. As a Data Analyst, I was responsible for creating and submitting the annual Ratio Study to the Department of Revenue. I also created all the training and error reports for the Lead Appraisers.

Having started at the bottom, I have a fundamental and first-hand understanding of many of the positions within the Department and know the importance of every one of them being done the right way. This unique perspective will allow me to better utilize the resources that are available and to help reduce unnecessary spending. I pride myself in accuracy, integrity, and being of ethical resolve. My continued recognition by Jackson County over the last 20 years only goes to illustrate those characteristics and my on-going passion to serve the citizens of Jackson County.

www.sara4assessor.com

Endorsed by former Jackson County Commissioner John Rachor

(This information furnished by Sara Castagnaro.)

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

Jackson County Assessor



Angela Stuhr

Occupation: Lead Appraiser/ Appraiser Specialist, Jackson County

Occupational Background: Deputy Assessor under Dan Ross (2008-2011) and Josh Gibson (2011-2015). Eleven years in public service with

Jackson County, 16 years of private sector experience.

Educational Background: Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Iowa

Prior Governmental Experience: Lead Appraiser, Jackson County
By electing me as the Jackson County Assessor, you will benefit from my 27 years of extensive experience in both the public and private sectors of real estate and appraisal, including an excellent record of accomplishment and a deep commitment to public service through accuracy, fairness and transparency.

As Assessor, I will:

- Provide accurate information in a timely manner
- Ensure fair and equitable service for all Jackson County residents
- Engage in community forums to answer questions, listen to concerns, and provide information about Oregon property tax laws (transparency in taxes)
- Set a high bar for service, honesty, fairness; our office will far exceed your public service expectations

11 years with Jackson County (2008-present)

- Lead Appraiser, Jackson County Assessor's Office (2011-present)
- Commercial and Residential Appraiser, Jackson County Assessor's Office (2008-2011)
- Ongoing training and coaching of appraisers to ensure you are provided with productive, informative and accurate outcomes with the assessor's office
- Extensive history before the Board of Property Tax Appeals and preparing cases for the Oregon Tax Court

16 years private sector real estate (1993-2008)

- Commercial, Industrial and Residential Appraiser
- Construction Project Manager (new commercial and office projects)
- Real Estate Agent
- Mortgage Underwriter
- Mortgage Processor

Community Service:

- Trustee Chair, Governing Board Member, First United Methodist Church, Medford (2013-present)
- Neighborhood Coordinator, Medford Food Project (2011-present)
- Troop Leader, Girl Scout Troop 31816 (2015-2017)
- Volunteer, Providence Community Health Foundation (2017-2019)
- Volunteer, Asante Children's Miracle Network (2018-2019)
- Volunteer, Madrone Trail Public Charter School (2012-2018)

Endorsements:

- "Angela is an advocate for fair taxation and the financial health and well-being of our communities" - Kay Brooks, Medford City Councilor
- Jen Gerrard, Broker, The Alba Group

Facebook: @angelastuhrforjacksoncountyassessor

(This information furnished by Angela Stuhr.)

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

Jackson County Surveyor



Scott Fein

Occupation: Jackson County Surveyor

Occupational Background: Jackson County Surveyor's Office (2006-Present); DEA Inc (2006); Armstrong Surveying/ Crook County Surveyor (2005);

Washington DNR (2005); Oregon State University (2004-2005); Bureau of Land Management (2003-2004)

Educational Background: Professional Certificate in Geomatics (surveying) (OSU 2005); B.S. Environmental studies (U of O 2003). Licensed Surveyor in Oregon and Idaho. Certified Water Rights Examiner, Oregon. Certified Federal Surveyor.

Prior Governmental Experience: Jackson County, Washington DNR, Oregon State University, Bureau of Land Management.

Scott Fein is committed to efficient public service, all of which are reflected in his goals:

- Support property owners; ensure the most accurate location of property lines within Jackson County.
- Uphold the laws of the state of Oregon to assure accurate surveys, process and maintain all survey records, allowing easy public access.
- Continuously review and monitor the Surveyor's office operation and budget.
- Utilize state of the art technology to ensure efficiency and the best possible public service.
- Coordinate the county Surveyor's activities with other county departments to create a more efficient process for the public.
- Develop mapping databases and maps which enable internet based public access to over 150 of survey and land records.
- Provide surveying education and professional support.
- Provide exceptional public service through a strong team of technical professionals.

The past three years serving as your Jackson County Surveyor have been an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of our county in the most exceptional manner. Living and working in Jackson County for our community is more than I could have ever asked for as a professional Land Surveyor. Thank you and the upmost appreciation to all of our citizens who allow me to serve as your County Surveyor.

"Always do more than what is expected." Scott Fein

(This information furnished by Scott Fein.)

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



Melia Biedscheid

Occupation: Southern Oregon
Education Service District -
Speech Language Pathologist

Occupational Background:
Speech Language Pathologist
(1999-2020); Business Manager
(1992-1999); Clinical Audiologist
(1983-1992)

Educational Background: MA Communication Science and
Disorders, University of Montana (1989); BA Linguistics and
Spanish, University of Montana (1980)

Prior Governmental Experience: Citizen participation

Volunteerism:

- Current President - Southern Oregon Education Service
District Education Association; 15 years membership/
3 years leadership
- Current President - Southern Oregon Uniserve Council;
3 years membership/1 year leadership
- Gold Hill One Community - 1 year
- Gold Hill Historical Society - 2 years

I am running for City Councilor in Gold Hill because I love our little city. I moved here with my family 20 years ago from a small town in Montana. When I arrived in Gold Hill for the first time I knew immediately I wanted to live here forever. For the past 20 years, I have been busy raising children, working and volunteering. Now that I am approaching retirement from full-time employment, I have time to give back to my community.

I bring 40 years of professional experience in education and health care to the position. Along the way, I have learned to collaborate with diverse people and organizations to find solutions to complex problems. I will use my skills in communication, negotiation and organizational planning to help make Gold Hill a more vibrant place for families, business and recreation.

I aim to contribute to the improvement of infrastructure, safety, and economic opportunity. My priority will be to acquire grants and funding that benefit water, sewage treatment and parks. Other key issues I plan to address are public safety and wildfire preparedness.

I look forward to working with Gold Hill residents and city government to find solutions and achieve our community's potential. I would appreciate your vote.

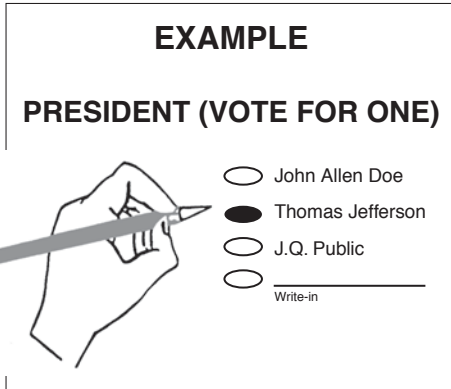
(This information furnished by Melia Biedscheid.)

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

Voting Information

At the Primary Election of 2020 the voters of Jackson County will cast their votes on their ballot as illustrated below. This page has been inserted into the Voters' Pamphlet as an aid for using this ballot.

1. **To ensure your vote counts, completely fill in the oval (●) with pen (black or blue ink) to the left of the response of your choice.**
2. **TO WRITE IN A NAME** — write the name on the solid line and fill in the oval (●) to the left of the write-in line.



3. **DO NOT CROSS OUT** — if you change your mind, contact the elections department at 541-774-6148 for assistance.

Remember to review both sides of your ballot.

check your ballot!

Make sure you have completely filled in the ovals next to your choices.

If you vote for more candidates than allowed, or if you vote **both Yes and No** on a measure, it is called an overvote.

Your vote **will not count** for that candidate or measure.

You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.

Contact Jackson County Elections for assistance if:

- you make a mistake
- your ballot is damaged or spoiled
- your ballot is lost

or for any other reason.

Jackson County Elections
 1101 W Main Street Suite 201
 Medford OR 97501
 541 774 6148
 www.co.jackson.or.us

Drop Site Locations

OFFICIAL DROPSITE LOCATIONS (Opening Monday, May 4, 2020)

Jackson County Elections 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201 Medford, OR 97501	Curbside ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (left lane—W Main) Elections office open 8 am to 4 pm (7 am - 8 pm on Election Day)
Ashland Library 410 Siskiyou Blvd. Ashland, OR 97520	Curbside ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (alley off Gresham St. by book drop) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Central Point Library 116 S. 3rd St. Central Point, OR 97502	Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (south side of library building, main entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Eagle Point Library 239 W. Main St. Eagle Point, OR 97524	Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Phoenix Library 510 W. 1st St. Phoenix, OR 97535	Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day
Rogue River Library 412 E. Main St. Rogue River, OR 97537	Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance) Closes at 8 pm Election Day

DEADLINE TO RECEIVE BALLOTS: 8 P.M. ELECTION DAY, May 19, 2020