

voters' pamphlet



Oregon Vote-by-Mail Primary Election | **May 21, 2024**



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 has been published to inform and educate voters about the 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 for your precinct will be on your ballot.**

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 candidates and measures and that Republicans will be voting for Republicans and non-partisan candidates and measures. All other voters will vote on non-partisan candidates and measures. You will want to be certain of your party status prior to the deadline for changing political party. You can check your registration status online through **My Vote at oregonvotes.gov/myvote**. The deadline for changing your party affiliation for the May 21st Primary Election is **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**.

The May 21, 2024 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 3rd. The registration deadline for citizens who are not currently registered to vote in the State of Oregon for the May 21st Primary Election is **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**.

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 **oregonvotes.gov/myvote** or in person at 1101 West Main St., Suite #201, Medford.

Postmarks Count! Ballots received from the United States Postal Service after election day will be accepted if they are postmarked on or before election day and received by the 7th day after the election.

Ballots must be postmarked by May 21, 2024, if mailing, or deposited in an Official Ballot Drop Box not later than 8 pm, May 21, 2024.

The United States Postal Service offers Informed Delivery. Once signed up, you will receive an email with an image of mail pieces to be delivered that day. You will know when your ballot hits your mailbox. To sign up for this service, go to **informedelivery.usps.com**.

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,



Chris Walker
Jackson County Clerk

Translation Information

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

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 获取译本。

주 유권자 팜플렛의 선택된 부분은 한국어 준비되어 있습니다. 번역은 온라인 oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP 에서 찾아볼 수 있습니다.

Отдельные части брошюр избирателей этого округа доступны на русском языке. С данными переводами можно ознакомиться в Интернете по адресу: 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

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

Các phần được chọn trong tập thông tin cử tri quận này có bản ngôn ngữ tiếng Việt. Bản dịch có thể xem trực tuyến tại oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

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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

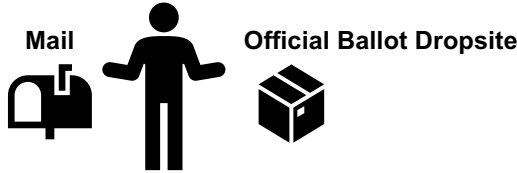
Election Day is Tuesday, May 21, 2024

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 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










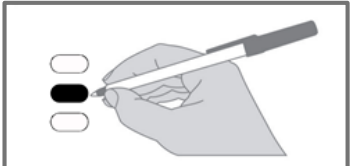

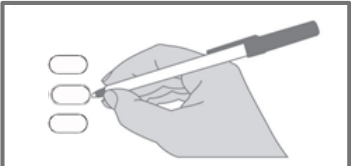
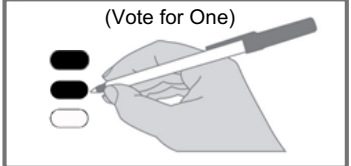
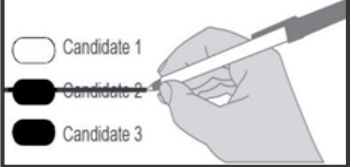
Election Day is Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Official Jackson County Ballot Dropsites

(Opening Monday, May 6, 2024)

Jackson County Elections 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201 Medford, OR 97501 (Office located on 2 nd floor)	Curbside and walk up ballot drop boxes open 24 hours daily (left lane - W. Main) Closes at 8 pm Election Day Interior ballot drop boxes in Elections office open 8 am to 4 pm, Monday - Friday (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
Medford Library 205 S. Central Ave Medford, OR 97501	Curbside ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (parking lot entrance off 10th St.) 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

Voting Instructions

This information has been inserted into the voters' pamphlet to assist the voters of Jackson County in marking their ballot.					
<p style="text-align: center;">Fill in the Oval</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Correct</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Incorrect</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	Correct	Incorrect		 	<p>To ensure your vote counts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Use a blue or black pen. → Completely fill in the oval. → Do not make checkmarks. → Do not make X's.
Correct	Incorrect				
	 				
<p style="text-align: center;">Candidate or Measure</p> 	<p>→ To vote for a candidate or measure, completely fill in the oval to the left of your response.</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;">Write-In</p> 	<p>→ 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.</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;">Undervote</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → If you do not vote on a race or measure, it is called an undervote. → A vote will not be counted for that race or measure. → You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still be counted. 				
<p style="text-align: center;">Overvote (Vote for One)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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 that race or measure, unless you correct it. → You may correct an overvote by following the instructions on "How to Correct a Mistake". 				
<p style="text-align: center;">How to Correct a Mistake</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 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. 				
<p>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).</p> <p>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)</p>					

Write-In Information

Oregon voters have the option of writing in the name of a candidate for any office instead of voting for a candidate printed on the ballot. Write-in votes are tallied together with a lump sum recorded for each office unless there is no candidate on the ballot, or the total number of write-in votes exceeds the candidate with the most votes, or in the case of Precinct Committeepersons, the required form has been filed. Write-in results will be made available upon certification of the Jackson County election results which is scheduled for June 17, 2024.

➤ **Write-In Candidate Information for Democratic Nomination for State Senator, 1st District, State Senator, 28th District, State Representative, 2nd District, and State Representative, 56th District:** Since there are no candidates on the Democratic nominating ballots for these positions, the names written in on the write-in lines will be tallied. The following information is provided for individuals seeking the Democratic nomination for these positions.

- **Write-In Candidate:** A candidate seeking the nomination by write-in does not complete any candidate filing forms but must qualify for the office and may be required to establish a campaign account and file a Statement of Organization designating a candidate committee. See the Campaign Finance Manual and the ORESTAR User's Manuals available at oregonvotes.gov.
- **Nomination:** The Oregon Secretary of State will notify the winners. The winners must accept the nomination before a Certificate of Nomination is issued.
- **Election:** Nominated candidate's name will appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot.

Notice: These contests do not appear on all ballots! These contests only appear on the "Official Primary Nominating Ballot for the Democratic Party". Only voters within Senate District 1 & House District 2 or Senate District 28 & House District 56 who are registered with the Democratic party on or before April 30, 2024 are eligible to vote on these contests at the May 21, 2024 Primary Election.

➤ **Write-In Candidate Information for Precinct Committeeperson:** A SEL 105D or a SEL 105N form must be filed with Jackson County Elections in order for Precinct Committeepersons write-in votes to be counted. Forms are available at Jackson County Elections or online at www.jacksoncountyor.gov/elections.

- **Write-In Candidate Declaration:** A precinct committeeperson candidate who wants to be elected by write-in votes must file form SEL 105D Write-In Declaration – Precinct Committeeperson by 8 pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. If elected, a "Certificate of Election" will be mailed to the newly elected Precinct Committeeperson.
- **Write-In Nomination:** An elector who wants to nominate another elector as a write-in precinct committeeperson must file form SEL 105N Write-In Nomination – Precinct Committeeperson by 8 pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. If elected, an "Acceptance of Office" form will be mailed to the newly elected Precinct Committeeperson; the "Acceptance of Office" form must be returned to the Jackson County Clerk in order for a "Certificate of Election" to be issued.

Notice: This contest does not appear on all ballots! This contest only appears on the "Official Primary Nominating Ballot for the Democratic and Republican Party". Only voters who are registered with the Democratic or Republican party on or before April 30, 2024 are eligible to vote on this contest at the May 21, 2024 Primary Election.

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: 1) Are you a resident of Oregon? 2) Are you a U.S. citizen? 3) Are you at least 16 years of age? *If you are 16 or 17 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 oregonvotes.gov or you can obtain a voter registration card at any of the following places: 1) any county elections office. 2) the Secretary of State's office. 3) some state agencies such as the Division of Motor Vehicles. 4) a voter registration drive. You can fill the card out in person or send it in by US mail. You can also print out a registration card online at oregonvotes.gov.

Updating your voter registration: Once you have registered, you are responsible for keeping your information up to date. You can do this online at 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: 1) change your home address. 2) change your mailing address. 3) change your name. 4) change your signature. 5) want to change or select a political party. 6) will be away from home on election day.

Measure 15-224 Jackson County

Proposed by Initiative Petition

15-224

Jackson County Commissioners to be Non-Partisan

QUESTION: Should the Jackson County Commissioners switch from partisan to non-partisan starting in the 2026 primary election?

SUMMARY: This measure changes Section 9 of the Charter of Jackson County Oregon regarding the Board of County Commissioner's. This measure changes the elected Commissioners from a partisan office to a non-partisan office. This means no political affiliation will be shown on the ballot next to the candidate for county commissioner.

Explanatory Statement

No explanatory statements shall be filed for county measures brought by initiative petition (Codified Ordinances of Jackson County, Chapter 206, Elections 10-13).

The text of the measure may be obtained; online at www.jacksoncountyor.gov/elections; in person at Jackson County Elections, 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR, 97501; by contacting Jackson County Elections at elections@jacksoncountyor.gov.

Measure 15-224 Arguments

Argument in Favor

The Jackson County commissioners should be non-partisan, just like the county sheriff, the county clerk, the county assessor, and all the judges.

I served as a county commissioner. I saw first-hand the issues commissioners face. The issues are not partisan. There isn't a Republican or Democratic position on county roads, or the airport, or the location or size of the jail, or the problems at the animal control center. These decisions are far removed from the squabbles that consume state and national politicians.

Partisanship creates an incentive for a commissioner who must win a Democratic or Republican primary to take divisive positions on issues that have nothing to do with the commissioner's job. That reduces their credibility with people who do not share their party affiliation. It reduces their ability to get public input and share information. It creates division and animosity. For what purpose?

Partisanship reduces the pool of people willing to serve as county commissioner. Who wants to file for office and immediately have a pool of people certain they dislike you and intent on soiling your reputation?

Choosing commissioner nominees through a Democratic or Republican primary election for commissioner denies non-affiliated voters - the largest group of voters -- the ability to choose the finalist candidates for the office. That is unfair.

Partisanship divides us. Let's end it.

Peter Sage, former county commissioner
Bill Thorndike, Civic Leader

(This information furnished by Peter Sage.)

Argument in Favor

The county commissioner office should be non-partisan.

Both of us have had long involvement with local and state government. We have voted for - and worked with - Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and nonpartisan fellow citizens. Al served in a nonpartisan office as mayor and council member for the City of Medford. Bill's role was nonpartisan as a member of the Jackson County Budget Committee and as chair of Oregon's Quality Education Commission and the Oregon Health Fund Board.

That nonpartisan status kept us on friendly terms with people across the political spectrum. It allows a better, more cooperative spirit within the boards. Nonpartisan boards avoid most of the partisan rivalries that create bickering and logjams that we see in Salem and Washington, D.C.

There are a lot of people like us--people who think of ourselves as public-minded citizens, not partisan warriors. We should not be excluded from the primary election for county commissioners. We currently are excluded because commissioners must run in a partisan primary. Making the office nonpartisan will be fairer to us.

Getting rid of a party label will make county commissioners better and more effective in their jobs. Can't we all get along?

Al Densmore

William "Bill" Thorndike, Jr.

(This information furnished by Bill Thorndike.)

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Measure 15-224 Arguments

Argument in Favor

We're all in this together. While nasty polarization may grip the country, local government should be able to represent all the people it serves. Civic-minded people should be able to run for office without donning armor as a partisan warrior and without having to play to only one base of party voters. County government is rarely required to deal with strictly-partisan issues, so why elect our commissioners that way?

The League of Women Voters has supported a change to our county government for decades; this support is based on long-term studies. We do not see this as a punishment toward past commissioners nor as a measure supported by only one party or another. It is a restructuring that will serve to represent more people in Jackson County. Just as importantly, it will allow ALL our voters, including minor party members, "independents" and non-affiliated to have a meaningful voice. (The number of unaffiliated voters in Oregon and Jackson County has currently surpassed that of both Republicans and Democrats).

The work of the commission is local, evaluating concerns to all of us and not an effort in promoting state or national politics. As such, we believe there is no reason to continue to restrict this largest percentage of Jackson County voters (non-affiliated) from casting their ballots in the often-determining May election.

Our last study on county government from 2016-2018 (available at lwvrv.org under "studies") lays out the reasoning for making these changes. We invite you to read this common-language report and learn why we support EACH of the 3 measures in Jackson County. We hope our fellow residents will choose to give all their neighbors a more meaningful voice by **voting 'yes'** on measures 1-2-3.

(This information furnished by Barbara Klein, League of Women Voters Rogue Valley.)

Argument in Favor

Commissioner is the **only** elected Jackson County position that is partisan. Only registered Democrats and Republicans can vote for commissioner in May and the two candidates chosen by the major parties advance to the November election. In Jackson County, almost 44% of registered voters, our largest voting bloc, are locked out of the primary round because they are non-affiliated or registered with minor parties. Voting YES for Measure 15-224 means that ALL registered voters will get to vote or run for commissioner under the same rules. This is the fundamentally fair system we have long used to select the sheriff, district attorney, clerk, assessor, surveyor, and judges. City councilors, mayors, school board members, and other board positions are all nonpartisan.

Twenty-nine of Oregon's thirty-six counties have made their commissioner positions nonpartisan, including all adjoining counties: Josephine, Klamath, and Douglas. Partisan politics divide, rather than unite, the electorate and reduce the effectiveness of the Board of Commissioners to address county issues. Issues like having an adequate jail or animal shelter are not partisan issues.

In a nonpartisan election, all eligible candidates appear on the ballot with no political affiliation. The top two vote-getters in the primary will have a run-off in the November election. If a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, at least 50% plus one vote, they are automatically elected to the position.

Vote Yes on Measure 15-224 to allow all voters to have a voice.

Jackson County for All of Us

Paul Tipton & Janis Mohr-Tipton, community advocates, Applegate

Pam Marsh, state representative, Ashland

Trish Callahan, mayor, Butte Falls

David Gilmour, former county commissioner, Central Point

Sue Kupillas, former county commissioner, Eagle Point

Melia Biedscheid, city councilor, Gold Hill

Gayle Offenbacher Lewis, Jacksonville

Al Densmore, former mayor/state representative, Medford

Bill Thorndike, business leader, Medford

Al Muelhoefer, community leader, Phoenix

Christina Arapolu, farmer, Rogue River

Lena Richardson, former mayor, Shady Cove

John Enders, retired journalist, Talent

(This information furnished by Denise Krause, Jackson County for All.)

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Measure 15-224 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

As a three-time elected Jackson County Commissioner, I have been privileged to serve our community with a singular focus - to enhance the quality of life for all residents. This commitment to prioritizing the well-being of our constituents above all drives my resolute opposition to Measures 15-224, 15-225, and 15-226.

Measure 15-224's proposal to establish non-partisan positions may appear well-intentioned. However, this measure falls short of its objective and, alarmingly, introduces the risk of withholding crucial candidate information from voters, potentially enabling misleading representations. Furthermore, by potentially deciding commissioner elections during low-turnout primaries instead of general elections, there is a concerning threat of disenfranchising a substantial segment of our electorate.

The proposition set forth in Measure 15-225 to expand the commissioner count from three to five is misguided. Larger governing bodies almost never equate to improved governance. Examining the governance models in counties like Multnomah, where larger boards have contributed to inefficiencies and ineffective leadership – most notably in Portland – it is evident that replicating such structures is ill-advised.

Measure 15-226's call for salary caps for county commissioners not only disregards established state statutes and legal precedents, but also invites a mire of costly legal disputes. This reckless pursuit of ill-conceived charter amendments not only dissuades competent candidates from public service, but burdens taxpayers with unwarranted expenses.

The estimations by the county administrator paint a bleak financial picture, suggesting that these measures could impose a staggering \$1,000,000 cost on taxpayers in the inaugural year, with an additional \$500,000 burden annually. It is incumbent upon us, as responsible custodians of taxpayer funds, to reject measures that pose such exorbitant fiscal burdens devoid of tangible advantages.

In light of these substantive concerns, I urge the residents of Jackson County to unite in opposition to Measures 15-224, 15-225, and 15-226. Let's uphold the values of prudent governance and fiscal accountability, safeguarding the vitality of our county for present and future generations.

Rick Dyer
Jackson County Commissioner

(This information furnished by Rick Dyer.)

Argument in Opposition

The hidden but uppermost goal of those seeking to change the election of commissioners from partisan to nonpartisan is simply to elect more Democrats. They are well aware that the majority of voters in Jackson County oppose bigger, more intrusive government. Many of them are still aggravated about local resistance to the lockdowns and vaccine mandates. They want to make Jackson County even more subservient to Salem's dictatorial edicts promoting not just medical tyranny but climatism, wokism, and so much more.

Do commissioner candidates support domineering big government or limited government respectful of individual liberty? Like the President of the United States, our commissioners make executive decisions and policies that significantly affect the lives of everyone. Transparency of political orientation is essential for fully informed voting and it is of utmost importance to know commissioner candidates political leanings. Nonpartisan commissioner elections is as absurd as nonpartisan presidential elections. Such undemocratic deceit must be defeated. Please vote NO on nonpartisan commissioner elections!

(This information furnished by Tom Clunie.)

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Measure 15-224 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Vote “NO” on Measure 15-224! Measures 15-224, 15-225 and 15-226 together aren’t about “having voices heard,” they appear to be an effort by “Jackson County for All” (JCFA) to undermine one of the best run counties in the state, if not the country. These initiatives are being promoted by failed candidates who couldn’t get elected because their radical positions are not popular with voters countywide. But hey - if you can’t get elected – change the rules!

The goal of Measure 15-224 is to:

“Change the position of Jackson County commissioner from partisan to non-partisan.” JCFA claims that this change will “allow non-affiliated voters . . . to participate in the primary election.”

This change appears to be nothing more than a way to hide the partisanship of the left-wing candidates who hope to benefit from 15-224’s passage. The major supporters of this measure are nearly all “progressive” Democrats, some of whom can be linked with Oregon District 2 (ORD2) Indivisible – a group of extreme left-wing partisan activists whose clear intent is to “turn Jackson County blue.” ORD2 Indivisible are hardly voices of reason - just look at their activist history, as well as their social media posts. The ORD2 Indivisible organization officially supports these measures as well. Take a look at the political views of the other major supporters. Non-partisan? Not really.

It’s notable that the chief petitioner for this Measure has announced her candidacy for a soon to be open Commissioner seat, and has also filed a complaint accusing County leadership of election law violations – a complaint which was later denied by the Secretary of State. While these may be legitimate actions when taken separately, they seem problematic in light of her promotion of these Measures.

Jackson County is a refuge from the insanity of statewide politics – a buffer against Salem’s one-party rule. These measures will change that, and not for the better. Let’s keep Jackson County sane! Vote NO on Measure 15-224!

(This information furnished by Keith LaHaie.)

Argument in Opposition

Three new measures propose reducing commissioners’ salaries, increasing the commission’s size to five members, and eliminating the visibility of political affiliations on ballots, labeling this as “Non-Partisan”. Such moves have raised eyebrows, particularly as the driving force behind these changes, “Jackson County For All”, is predominantly composed of individuals known for their support of mandates and lockdowns, many of whom have previously campaigned as Democrats or left-leaning independents. This is not about non-partisanship, this is about concealing the real agenda of those who seek power in Jackson County. The concern extends beyond the immediate proposals to the broader implications for local governance. The manner of public engagement observed at the Town Hall held by this group where attendees were silenced when voicing dissenting opinions and were told to “Ask a Question!” might foreshadow a governance style that veils true intentions behind claims of promoting diversity and openness. This scenario poses a risk of misleading the electorate about the actual agendas of those seeking office.

Moreover, these types of measures are not isolated to Jackson County but are part of a larger strategy to eventually implement district-based systems that will lead to divisive and inefficient governance. Such systems are evidenced in places like Siskiyou County, where those impacted by toxic water released by the recent dam removals cannot get help because it only hurts their small district. This example shows how such systems can lead to skewed and unfair resource allocation, where issues affecting only certain districts are neglected, potentially compromising responses to natural disasters and other crises. We see this already happening within local city governments, which have become less responsive to citizen input.

Given these factors, we should all vote NO on these proposals. The introduction of divisive and opaque governance models under the guise of “openness” and “inclusivity” is Orwellian double speak.

(This information furnished by Mark Hutto.)

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Measure 15-224 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

I urge you to vote NO on all three measures attempting to change the County Charter. It's a scheme by two recently failed commissioner candidates that couldn't get elected by the citizens of Jackson County. This is a small niche of people who seek to change the charter to benefit themselves: It's an attempt to "pack the Court" and hide their party affiliation and agenda behind a non-partisan ballot. And both Republicans and Democrats should be greatly concerned.

Measure 15-224 will require all County Commissioner seats to be non-partisan. These failed candidates and others want to hide their affiliation from you. They don't want you to know their agendas. With a 'Republican' or 'Democrat' in front of someone's name, the voter has an idea what they represent and how they stand on most issues. This group wants to remove that transparency from the ballot and makes you have to guess what the candidates stand for and if they truly represent your values and goals for the county. Commissioners are responsible for a more than 600-million-dollar budget and you won't know their political-fiscal beliefs! Measure 15-224 takes away the transparency and makes you have to guess when it comes time to fill in your ballot. EVERY VOTER selects and votes for their choice for Commissioner in the general election, regardless of their party affiliation. No one is left out during the current system. Nonpartisan elections hide important information from the voter. It would be nice if voters knew each candidate personally and in-depth or if we had unlimited time to research them, but the fact is we don't. Most people are too busy trying to earn enough money to feed their families. The lack of transparency of an unidentified candidate is most beneficial to those with something to hide. Vote NO on all three measures attempting to change the County Charter.

Vote NO, because you deserve the right to know who you're voting for!

(This information furnished by Colleen Roberts.)

Argument in Opposition

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 15-224

Often times, the use of the term "non-partisan" is a way to disguise true political motives. "I'll tell you what I stand for *after* you vote" would be more honest. No thanks. I would rather have a clear understanding of a candidate's ideological approach and governing stance before I cast my ballot.

One critical aspect of a Primary election is that all political parties, major and minor, get to choose their General election candidates. The petitioners of Measure 15-224 would like you to believe that Non-affiliated voters are being disenfranchised from voting. This is not the case. Minor party voters, as well as Non-affiliated voters have every opportunity to nominate a candidate for the General election and have their vote count. For example, in the 2022 General election an Independent commissioner candidate garnered more votes than the Democrat who was initially nominated in the primary election.

Measure 15-224 would cleverly decide the outcome of the election in the primary where there is historically less voter turnout. One party should not be deciding who the candidate will be in another party's Primary election. This would be the same as deciding who the players are on an opposing basketball team.

Jackson County Board of Commissioners have been doing an amazing job representing the best interests of all of Jackson County residents even though the petitioners of Measure 15-224 want you to believe otherwise. I would encourage everyone to get to know your commissioners, reach out to them and help them continue shaping our county in a healthy way.

Vote NO on this divisive measure disguised as Non-partisan.

(This information furnished by Kevin Christman, Jackson County Republican Party.)

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Measure 15-224 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Ballot Measures 15-224, 15-225, and 15-226 due to the glaring absence of thorough study and analysis conducted on their potential effects. As a dedicated community member actively engaged in local affairs, I strongly advocate for the need to prioritize meticulous research and assessment before enacting any policies or initiatives that could significantly influence Jackson County's future.

Discussions surrounding the restructuring of our Board of Commissioners are not unprecedented. Similarly, evaluating our governing practices in Southern Oregon is a reasonable endeavor. However, the proposed measures seem to carry unintended consequences that raise alarms. The current dearth of adequate study and analysis casts doubt on the credibility and reliability of these proposals.

Hastily rushing into decisions without a comprehensive grasp of the possible risks and rewards could result in irreversible damage and unforeseen outcomes. It is paramount that we uphold a duty to safeguard the well-being and interests of all those potentially impacted by such sweeping changes. Disregarding comprehensive studies undermines the voices of those who could be disproportionately affected, leaving them vulnerable to the repercussions of rash policy decisions.

I appeal to you to acknowledge the significance of conducting in-depth research and analysis before progressing with any determinations on these three measures. This call is particularly critical when considering that Jackson County is currently renowned for its exceptional financial management—a reputation built on sound, well-considered, and researched policy-making. The benefits derived from this type of decision-making have positioned Jackson County as one of the best-managed counties, not only in the state but the entire nation.

In closing, I urge you to join me in opposing these measures and to defer actions pertaining to them until a comprehensive home rule charter study has been conducted and its outcomes evaluated. The residents of Jackson County deserve policies grounded in solid evidence and a thorough contemplation of all potential consequences, to protect the county's hard-earned reputation and continued prosperity.

(This information furnished by Jim Wright, Citizen.)

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Proposed by Initiative Petition

15-225

Increase the Number of Jackson County Commissioners Positions to Five

QUESTION: Should the number of Commissioners increase to five with no more than three positions open per election?

SUMMARY: This measure changes Section 5 and Section 9 of the Charter of Jackson County Oregon regarding the number of elected officials on the Board of County Commissioners. This measure increases the number of County Commissioners from three (3) to five (5). The measure sets out additional requirements regarding the two additional Commissioner positions who will be elected in the 2026 general election and will serve initial two-year terms. The purpose of the initial two-year term is so that no more than three of the five positions come up for election in the same year. Following the end of the initial two-year term of the two new commissioner positions, the election term will be four years.

Explanatory Statement

No explanatory statements shall be filed for county measures brought by initiative petition (Codified Ordinances of Jackson County, Chapter 206, Elections 10-13).

The text of the measure may be obtained; online at www.jacksoncountyor.gov/elections; in person at Jackson County Elections, 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR, 97501; by contacting Jackson County Elections at elections@jacksoncountyor.gov.

Measure 15-225 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Three commissioners are not enough.

A county commissioner's job is to make county government accountable to the public. We now have a strong-county-administrator form of government. With such a small governing board, the county has too small a group of decision-makers within the administration suite. We need to open that up.

There are big decisions facing county voters regarding the jail, the animal control shelter, mental health problems, and people who are homeless and camping in county parkland. Adding two commissioners would give more opportunity for the public to meet with commissioners and to share their wishes and concerns. With five commissioners there could be better outreach into rural Jackson County, and to other people and groups that are currently under-represented.

The public would benefit from more diversity of opinion among commissioners. Citizens can make better decisions on matters coming up for a vote if they hear pros-and-cons from commissioners with different perspectives.

The county has about 225,000 people, but still only three commissioners. We are overdue to join Oregon's other large counties by moving from three to five commissioners.

Peter Sage, former county commissioner

(This information furnished by Peter Sage.)

Argument in Favor

"A Majority of Two just Won't Do." That was one emerging theme from the League of Women Voters Rogue Valley study on county government. (The 2016-2018 study report and subsequent position are available at lwrv.org under "studies"). It's not just a pithy phrase, but a real concern.

According to Oregon law regarding open meeting quorums (ORS 192.630), decisions are made by a majority. With three commissioners, this means a majority is two. Not satisfactory for a county our size.

According to our research, in the recent past, absenteeism rates in Jackson County have exacerbated this issue of only two people making decisions. From 2008 to 2018 the percentage of meetings convened with a two-commissioner quorum was 27%. While improving, it remains worrisome when two commissioners can decide matters important to taxpayers. (During that same period of time, 25.5% of actual decisions were made by only two commissioners.) We repeat **"a Majority of Two just Won't Do."**

Solution? Measures 1-2-3. Easy. Let's support restructuring Jackson County government. Five commissioners would benefit us all, shifting from our 1850s structure (serving 1500 people) to a modern structure befitting us in the current century. Thus, more readily addressing needs of our individual communities and growing population. Other Oregon counties are considering, or have already adopted this solution.

More commissioners representing more people is an obvious advantage. Plus, passing the third measure in conjunction will allow taxpayers the benefit of two more commissioners, without paying more in salaries. While salaries are not the sole financial consideration, we hope there will be frugal options considered that have not yet been explored or presented by county administration. Reduction in salaries would bring Jackson county in line with respectable salaries of other Oregon counties (including much larger counties).

Commissioners' duties are not operational management but policy, vital in determining local issues. **A majority of two just won't do** for policy making in Jackson County.

We encourage 'Yes' vote on all 3 measures.

(This information furnished by Barbara Klein, League of Women Voters Rogue Valley.)

Measure 15-225 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Jackson County's three-member governing body was established in 1853 when the census counted 1,506 residents. Our county has grown to almost a quarter million people. Three commissioners cannot adequately serve, or represent, a county of our size. With only three commissioners, two make a quorum. Just two people can set policy for a quarter million residents! It is time to add two commissioners to the Board of Commissioners to reflect our growing county. All five will be elected at large. This Measure does not establish districts.

All Oregon counties have either three or five commissioners. As counties grow, they increase the number of commissioners, like when schools increase enrollment they add teachers.

Adding two commissioners will not lead to bigger government. We already have "big government." Five commissioners will be better supervisors of the sprawling county bureaucracy, and provide more accountability. Having five commissioners will not be costly when voters select responsible representatives to make sensible choices. Those who argue there may be material costs are deploying speculative budgets with unsupported and unexplained numbers.

Municipalities, school districts, corporations, and most other boards have at least five (and often more) board members, making them more effective. They have more input with greater perspective, leading to better decision-making and more transparency. Increasing to five will make it easier for you to connect with a commissioner.

Vote Yes on Measure 15-225 to add two commissioners, providing greater representation for our growing county.

Jackson County for All of Us

Paul Tipton & Janis Mohr-Tipton, community advocates, Applegate

Pam Marsh, state representative, Ashland

David Gilmour, former county commissioner, Central Point

Sue Kupillas, former county commissioner, Eagle Point

Melia Biedscheid, city councilor, Gold Hill

Gayle Offenbacher Lewis, Jacksonville

Al Densmore, former mayor/state representative, Medford

Bill Thorndike, business leader, Medford

Al Muelhoefer, community leader, Phoenix

Christina Arapolu, farmer, Rogue River

Lena Richardson, former mayor, Shady Cove

John Enders, retired journalist, Talent

(This information furnished by Denise Krause, Jackson County for All.)

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Measure 15-225 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

VOTE NO ON MESURE 15-225. This measure is deceptive in its lack of transparency and its true intent. Two of the people pushing this measure have failed in previous efforts to be elected as County Commissioners. They are now trying, with this measure, to change the rules to obscure their political affiliations, improve their failed election chances, and assure Democrat domination of the County Commission. They are trying to stack the deck to get elected. If they succeed, there will not be enhanced representation of the taxpayers. On the contrary, representation will be decreased by one-party dominance.

There are no compelling reasons to change what has worked well in the past and making county government more cumbersome and expensive. Adding two commissioners will require adding staff and office space, and increasing travel expense, benefits expense, PERS contributions, etc. Detailed budget projections, even with reduced commissioner salaries, indicate that it will cost an additional \$600,000 or more per year to fund this measure. Why should the taxpayers pony up so much more money every year to have less effective, slower, and, likely, more divisive government?

The job of a county commissioner is demanding. Being a County Commissioner isn't a 'middle management' job. It must be filled by experienced, competent individuals. Recruiting them away from alternative employment will be made even more difficult by reducing salaries to some mid-management level. It is far better to have three highly qualified commissioners than five who are not.

Let's not "fix" what is not broken! Vote NO on this measure.

(This information furnished by David J Carey.)

Argument in Opposition

DO NOT FALL FOR JACKSON COUNTY FOR ALL!

THESE MEASURES PROPOSE TO:

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF JACKSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
(BALLOT MEASURE 15-225)

THEY WANT: TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS FROM THREE TO FIVE. THEY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BY REDUCING THE SALARIES OF THE CURRENT THREE COMMISSIONERS AND SPREADING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ADDED TWO.

BUT REALLY: MONEY WOULD NOT BE SAVED SINCE MORE OFFICE SPACE WOULD BE NEEDED, MORE SUPPORT STAFF, MORE SUPPLIES, MORE COMPUTERS, COST OF TRAINING, COST OF VEHICLES, COST OF PERS BENEFITS, ADDITIONAL COST OF RAISES, AND MORE!

WHO PAYS: YOU!

COMMISSIONERS TO BE NON-PARTISAN
(BALLOT MEASURE 15-224)

THEY WANT: TO CHANGE THE POSITION OF JACKSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM PARTISAN TO NON-PARTISAN. THEY CLAIM THE NON-AFFILIATED VOTERS ARE NOT REPRESENTED BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO SAY IN PRIMARIES SINCE THE NON-AFFILIATED VOTERS DO NOT BELONG TO A MAJOR PARTY.

BUT REALLY: THESE VOTERS ARE STILL ABLE TO VOTE HOW THEY WANT IN THE GENERAL ELECTION. IS THERE NOT CURRENTLY A PUSH FOR TRANSPARENCY? IF YOU VOTE A CERTAIN WAY, DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHICH PARTY THE CANDIDATE REPRESENTS? YOU STILL HAVE THE CHOICE NOT TO VOTE FOR THEM. REALLY, WHO ISN'T PARTISAN OR UNBIASED?

DO NOT BELIEVE THE SUGARCOATING OF "GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US." INSTEAD, ASK YOURSELF WHY NOW? WHY ARE THEY PUSHING MORE BUREAUCRACY? ARE THE PEOPLE PUSHING THIS REALLY UNBIASED AND NON-PARTISAN?

SAY NO TO THESE MEASURES ON MAY'S VOTING BALLOT!
DO NOT TURN JACKSON COUNTY INTO ANOTHER PORTLAND-LIKE MULTNOMAH COUNTY!

(This information furnished by Susan Gomes.)

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Measure 15-225 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

As the Sheriff of Jackson County, I stand in strong opposition to ballot measures 15-224, 15-225 and 15-226, which propose changes to the way our County Commissioners are elected, paid, and structured. The current board operates in an ethical and professional manner, consistently delivering exceptional service and results to our residents. Jackson County is one of the most fiscally sound counties in all of Oregon and is a model for other county governments.

Effective collaboration between the Board of Commissioners and the Sheriff's Office is instrumental in achieving the best outcomes for our community with regards to public safety and other important issues in Jackson County. Over the past several years I have worked with our Board of Commissioners to address several issues impacting our county including working to address the illegal marijuana industry and the collaborative efforts to bring change to Measure 110.

These ballot measures seem to be driven by political motivation rather than the motivation to produce the best outcomes for our community. Making changes to current structure without being able to define a specific problem and solution, seems inefficient, misguided, and self-serving. The increase in cost to change our current Board of Commissioner structure will almost certainly have impacts on the Sheriff's Office budget. Adding more commissioners could reduce public safety resources.

The public safety community in Jackson County has strong working relationships that better serves all the residents of Jackson County. The Board of Commissioners is an important piece of that success and unnecessary changes could complicate matters and decrease efficiency with regards to communication. Public safety is the foundation for a community, and while there are always going to be challenges, our current government structure has worked diligently to address issues.

I urge voters to consider the proven track record of success and collaboration in our current system before supporting measures that pose a risk to the stability and effectiveness of our county government.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Nate Sickler

(This information furnished by Nate Sickler.)

Argument in Opposition

Having been involved in government budgeting for over a decade, I bring a wealth of experience in fiscal management to the forefront. I have collaborated closely with financial and administrative managers for many years, the estimates for costs associated with Measure 15-225 presented in the recent budget report, including projections as high as \$980,000 in the first year alone, carry the weight of thorough analysis and careful consideration. According to the report, the added annual costs of include hiring a support staff member for the expanded Board of Commissioners, totaling \$109,741, along with \$98,165 allocated for materials and services. Additionally, personnel costs, including escalated medical insurance expenses, would further strain our resources.

These additional expenses, coupled with one-time construction costs ranging from \$380,000 to \$480,000, would escalate the first-year costs to a staggering range of \$592,619.88 to \$692,619.88. Such financial strain is unjustifiable, particularly when considering the uncertain legality of the proposed salary cap.

The conflict between the county charter and state law regarding the setting of elected officials' salaries poses a significant legal risk. Past experiences, such as Josephine County's Measure 17.2, underscore the potential for Measure 15-225 to face similar legal challenges. Legal experts warn that the probability of the salary cap being overturned is nearly inevitable given these precedents, further jeopardizing our fiscal stability. If the salary cap is overturned, taxpayers could face an additional financial burden of approximately \$300,000 per year, exacerbating the strain on our community's resources.

Moreover, Measure 15-225 offers no real benefit or enhancement to county government. It fails to address any pressing issues or improve efficiency. Instead, it poses a significant financial burden with little to show in return.

I urge my fellow residents to prioritize fiscal responsibility and prudent governance. Rejecting Measure 15-225 is essential to safeguarding our taxpayers' interests and preserving the stability of our community. Let's make informed decisions that prioritize the long-term financial health of Jackson County. Vote against Measure 15-225!

April Sevcik

(This information furnished by April Sevcik.)

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Measure 15-225 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

As a former Jackson County Commissioner and Budget Committee member, I strongly oppose ballot measures 15-225 and 15-226. The misleading tactics utilized by the proponents of these initiatives have prompted me to speak out, especially in light of the unjust accusations leveled at the County Administrator.

Having worked closely with the County Administrator, I can attest to his unparalleled honesty, competence, and professionalism. With nationally recognized expertise in and nearly three decades of experience in government budgeting, he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to transparency and accuracy in his financial projections. The reliability of his projections is crucial, especially considering the potential severe impact that increased costs could have on the county's budget and its ability to provide vital services.

Moreover, drawing from my experience as a Commissioner and member of the Budget Committee, I understand the critical importance of sound financial management in ensuring the delivery of essential services to our community. Any unnecessary increase in costs, as projected by the Administrator, could significantly strain the county budget and jeopardize our ability to provide the vital services that our residents rely on.

The proposed measures, by expanding the number of commissioners from three to five and reducing their pay, offer no clear benefits to local governance and pose a real risk to the fiscal health and effective management of Jackson County in its current structure. Furthermore, the petitioners' apparent attempts to actively prevent accurate information from being provided to voters through baseless and frivolous legal maneuvers erodes their credibility and reflects poorly on their true intentions.

It is essential for voters to carefully consider the implications of these measures on the county's financial stability and service provision. Let's prioritize responsible decision-making based on accurate information, transparency, and the well-being of our community to safeguard Jackson County's future. Join me in voting no on ballot measures 15-225 and 15-226 because less government is the best government.

Sincerely,
John Rachor

(This information furnished by John Rachor.)

Argument in Opposition

Say No to Sour Grapes in Jackson County

When you don't win at Monopoly, you don't get to change the rules, but that's what Denise Krause, the chief petitioner behind Measures 15-224, 15-225 and 15-226, is trying to do.

As a relative newcomer to Jackson County (2017), Krause threw herself into local politics, and in 2022 ran for County Commissioner. She lost. Jackson County voters overwhelmingly rejected her progressive views. This should have been a clear indicator that her desire to import "Portlandia" into the Rogue Valley is a non-starter. But here she comes again.

Krause is running for the same office she was already resoundingly rejected for but this time she's trying to stack the deck by creating an "insurance policy" in the form of Measures 15-224, 15-225, and 15-226.

Krause is spearheading these measures that would make significant and costly changes to the county's long-standing and very successful governance structure. These changes will benefit her and her political allies and no one else. This is an attempt to circumvent the will of the people, who have already rejected her and her Portland ideas.

These measures are fueled by personal sour grapes and a destructive partisan agenda, which raises red flags about integrity and sincerity. Rather than genuinely seeking improved governance or addressing legitimate concerns, her self-serving motivation is aimed at consolidating power and influence for herself and to further her personal ideology.

The changes outlined in these measures would undermine the democratic process and have enormous financial implications. Budget projections show that implementation of these changes could cost Jackson County nearly \$1,000,000 the first year with expenses exceeding \$500,000 annually thereafter.

In light of unwanted culture shifts and massive cost increases, it's imperative that voters carefully consider the implications of these measures and then reject them. Jackson County is one of the top-rated Oregon counties for fiscal health. Why mess with success?

Vote No on measures 15-224, 15-225, and 15-226!

Debra Royal

(This information furnished by Debra Royal.)

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Measure 15-225 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Vote “NO” on Measure 15-225! Measures 15-224, 15-225 and 15-226 together aren’t about “having voices heard,” they appear to be an effort by “Jackson County for All” (JCFA) to undermine one of the best run counties in the state, if not the country. These initiatives are being promoted by failed candidates who couldn’t get elected because their radical ideas are not popular with voters countywide. But hey - if you can’t get elected – change the rules!

The goal of Measure 15-225 is to:

“Increase the number of commissioners from three to five.”

The arguments put forth are that the County has “grown significantly enough to warrant expanding the Board,” and that “we have had three since 1853!” These arguments are meaningless, as the largest counties in Oregon have resident to commissioner ratios far higher than Jackson County. The ratio in Jackson is currently 75,000:1. However, Multnomah, Washington and Marion each have ratios of more than 100,000:1!

Measure 15-225 will reduce, not increase representation. JCFA is on the record stating the next step will be to establish geographic districts. Currently, a County resident can vote for all three commissioners, and each commissioner represents everyone. Under JCFA’s plan, once districts are established, residents will ultimately be limited to voting for only one! The other four won’t be representing you. Is that an improvement?

It’s notable that the chief petitioner for this Measure has announced her candidacy for a soon to be open Commissioner seat, and has also filed a complaint accusing County leadership of election law violations – a complaint which was later denied by the Secretary of State. While these may be legitimate actions when taken separately, they seem problematic in light of her promotion of these Measures.

Jackson County is a refuge from the insanity of statewide politics – a buffer against Salem’s one-party rule. These measures will change that, and not for the better. Let’s keep Jackson County sane! Vote NO on Measure 15-225!

(This information furnished by Keith LaHaie.)

Argument in Opposition

Our county government works so well, running smoothly in the background, that most of us never even think about it. In Salem, I routinely hear about problems faced by other counties because they are asking for help from the state. I find myself asking why these counties are not just solving their problems locally, like Jackson County does. As Jackson County continues to excel, we are becoming known across the state for being the source of model solutions others can use.

As do all counties, Jackson County undergoes an annual audit of its books. We have won accounting awards for our clean audits, year after year, for decades.

Not only do we have incredibly transparent and understandable financial records, those records show a county in excellent financial shape. We are the sixth largest county in the state by population, yet we are in the bottom quarter for the amount of county taxes we pay. That means we are the most efficiently run county in the state. In spite of having taxes that are about 1/3 less than those of comparably sized counties, we have nearly a year’s worth of reserves on hand. Having cash on hand means the county can spend \$1 today instead of deferring maintenance and spending \$6 ten years from now. It also means that when we needed a new sheriff’s office and a new district attorney’s office, the county had the money without having to go to the public for it. We have been allocated 4 additional judges in the past few years, and the county was able to add courtrooms without having to ask us to pay additional taxes.

With county government working so well for us, it is foolish to change it. These ballot measures are a solution desperately searching for a problem. Please join me in voting no and keep Jackson County a county to be proud of.

State Representative Kim Wallan
District 6
Medford

(This information furnished by Kim Wallan.)

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Measure 15-225 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

MEASURE 15-225 IS A DEMOCRAT PARTY DECEPTION

What a “coincidence” - Both Jackson and Josephine County voters face sweeping charter changes that attack and upend county governments under the false claims of promoting non-partisanship and “better government”. These schemes are promoted largely by Democrats and failed county commission candidates who can't get elected without “Stacking the Court” and changing the charter. They've been unable to win under the current rules due to weak, failed, and unpopular Democrat policies.

Contrary to supporter's claims, going from 3 to 5 commissioners will cost you more in overall salaries, benefits, and other expenses while massively growing Jackson County government. It could also slow down the decision-making process when important issues come before the board. The non-partisan measure really means candidates can hide their true agenda from voters. This is NOT transparency. Democrat backers of these measures throw “political sand” in the air in order to keep you from seeing the truth. It's not about more democracy or more transparency or saving money. It's about electing Democrats through a divide and conquer strategy.

BTW, these measures are just “Stage 1” of their attack. A former Democrat County commissioner stated that if they get the 5 commissioners passed, their NEXT move is you voting in DISTRICTS. This means only 1 of the 5 commissioners will “give a rip” about your concerns. Don't like your “district” commissioner? Too bad, you're stuck with only him/her. It would be foolish to fall for these schemes. Keep Jackson County government strong, transparent, and accountable. Vote NO on Measure 15-225 and NO on the two other charter change measures.

(This information furnished by Bill Meyer.)

Argument in Opposition

VOTE NO ON MEASURE 15-225 - Only a naive fool would think that you can increase 3 government PERS employees to 5 and it will cost less. When you calculate 5 county commissioners and the added staff, offices, PERS, health care, vacations, travel reimbursements and salaries, there is no way this scheme would save Jackson County taxpayers any money in the long run. Commissioners are responsible for a more than 600-million-dollar budget. Being a County Commissioner isn't a ‘middle management’ job making a ‘middle management salary’ and an added quantity of commissioners does not guarantee any better governance. In fact, it might guarantee slower governance as decisions would then have to grind through 5 people instead of 3. Is anyone asking for slower government? Or bigger government?

This is a desperate attempt to try to ‘stack the court’ to get a far-left agenda implemented by democrats who ran for County Commissioner and failed to get elected by their fellow citizens. In every general election, any Democrat, Republican, Unaffiliated, Independent, etc., who is registered to vote can vote for any one of the county commissioner candidates they choose. However, the citizens said NO to 2 of the Chief Petitioners of these ballot measures and their agendas and chose to NOT vote them into office. So, these failed candidates have come back with a ballot measure to ‘stack the court’ and better their chances with a petition that required less than 10,000 valid signatures to get on the ballot, out of a county of close to 250,000 people. This is definitely NOT any kind of representation of how the citizens of Jackson County feel about wanting to amend our charter OR increase the number of County Commissioners. Don't be fooled by this costly, democrat scheme. We don't need bigger government. VOTE NO ON MEASURE 15-225 and all the other measures these failed candidates are pushing.

(This information furnished by Linda Mounts.)

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Measure 15-225 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Vote No on Measure 15-225

According to the proponents of Measure 15-225, Jackson County For All (JCFA) stated that our three member board was created in 1853 when Jackson County had a population of 1,506, and that presently the population is over 220,000, therefore we need five commissioners for adequate representation.

Multnomah County presently has a population of 800,000 and only four commissioners, which is 200,000 people per commissioner. With JCFA's logic, Multnomah County should have 18 commissioners. Clearly, their argument is absurd.

Jackson County is one of the best-run counties in Oregon. The current board has earned numerous awards recognizing the county's excellence in financial reporting. They have stopped the destructive "Let it Burn" policies, thereby significantly reducing land destroyed by wildfires as well as wildfire smoke emanating from our county. Our board has successfully lobbied to reverse the illegal marijuana plague as well as opposing Measure 110's harmful decriminalization of hard drugs. JCFA's claim that there is an overwhelming demand for these changes is simply not true. This measure does not have the support they claim. JCFA had petitioners canvassing for five months with incorrect information, to get less than half of one percent of the population to unwittingly sign the petition. If they were honest about really wanting more voters involved in elections, they would have put this on the November ballot where historically more voters are engaged. JCFA stated, in regards to creating districts within the county that "they are not pursuing districts at this time" This inevitable next move could lead to potential gerrymandering as well only be able to vote for the one commissioner representing your district.

JCFA is sewing division in Jackson County instead of working together as a community. This is more bureaucracy with less representation.. This is a prime example of changing the rules if you can't win elections. Don't fix what's not broke.

Vote NO on measure 15-225

(This information furnished by Kevin Christman, Jackson County Republican Party.)

Argument in Opposition

We, the undersigned elected local leaders of Jackson County, strongly urge you to vote NO on ballot measure 15-225 and its companion measures, 15-224 and 15-226.

These three measures threaten the future success that Jackson County has enjoyed for decades. The proposed changes in these three measures are without clear evidence of any improvement to government operations whatsoever. In fact, there is strong evidence to the contrary. These three measures are likely to significantly increase the tax burden of Jackson County residents, diminish the overall effectiveness of the Office of the County Commissioners, and vastly reduce the efficiency between the County and the 11 municipalities that make up Jackson County.

Safeguard the integrity and functioning of Jackson County by rejecting these potentially destructive measures.

Serving Medford

Randy Sparacino, Mayor; Tim D'Alessandro, City Councilor; Zac Smith, City Councilor; Jessica Ayres, City Councilor; Nicholas Card, City Councilor

Serving Central Point

Hank Williams, Mayor; Michael Parsons, City Councilor

Serving Phoenix

Terry Baker, Mayor; Karen F. Shrader, City Councilor; Krista L. Peterson, City Councilor; Larry Dickson, City Councilor; Angela L. Vermillion, City Councilor; Jillian Shainholtz, City Councilor

Serving Eagle Point

Kathy Sell, Mayor; Kevin Walruff, City Councilor

Serving Jacksonville

Brad Bennington, Former City Councilor

Serving Shady Cove

John Ball, Mayor

Serving Gold Hill

Ron Palmer, Mayor

Serving Butte Falls

Trish Callahan, Mayor

(This information furnished by Brad Bennington.)

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Measure 15-226 Jackson County

Proposed by Initiative Petition

15-226

Codifying Jackson County Commissioners Salaries in the County Charter

QUESTION: Should salaries of Commissioners be decreased to \$75,000.00 with future salary changes tied to average wages in Jackson County?

SUMMARY: This measure changes Section 24 of the Charter of Jackson County Oregon to delineate the county commissioners from other elected officials regarding compensation. Section 24 of the Charter would be amended set the County Commissioners salaries at \$75,000.00 starting January 1, 2027. Any future change in commissioner salary would be annually indexed to the average wage in Jackson County. This will cause as decrease in Commissioner salaries. Currently Commissioners salaries are set annually by the Jackson County Budget Committee. For the fiscal year 2023-2024 the annual salary range is \$123,884.80 - \$143,416.00.

Explanatory Statement

No explanatory statements shall be filed for county measures brought by initiative petition (Codified Ordinances of Jackson County, Chapter 206, Elections 10-13).

The text of the measure may be obtained; online at www.jacksoncountyor.gov/elections; in person at Jackson County Elections, 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR, 97501; by contacting Jackson County Elections at elections@jacksoncountyor.gov.

Measure 15-226 Arguments

Argument in Favor

We need to reduce our County Commissioners' salaries and develop a mechanism to prevent future increases in salaries from growing faster than the wages of average citizens of our county.

Presently, our Commissioners are at the very top of salaries given to Commissioners throughout Oregon. They also make more than our Governor!

Our County budget is approved by a Budget Committee that consists of the three Commissioners and three lay individuals chosen by the Commissioners. The lay individuals meet separately (as a "Compensation Committee") for a brief period to determine salaries of elected officials, then present their recommendations to the full Budget Committee for approval.

The process for determining salary increases is a closed loop, with information and suggestions made to the Compensation Committee by the County Administrator and staff.

As a County Commissioner, I voted for the initial salary changes in the early 2000s, along with adding Cost of Living increases. Although I did not accept the changes for myself for the bulk of my two terms, I did accept the argument that salaries slightly higher than the average for counties our size would attract the highest caliber of candidates for Commissioner.

I was wrong in several ways. There is absolutely no evidence that the higher salaries have given us Commissioners that are "better" than Commissioners in lower salaried counties. We have not gotten greater value by spending more taxpayer moneys.

Also, the majority of workers do not get Cost of Living increases every year or bonuses for years of service. As a result, we have seen a growing spread between Commissioner's salaries and the average salaries of those who voted them into office.

The Commissioners claim that salaries are determined by statute, and that our Measure will eventually be turned down by the courts.

If that is true, how did other counties using the same statute legally give their Commissioners much lower salaries and benefits?

Commissioners, please heed the will of the people!

(This information furnished by David R Gilmour, Jackson County For All Of Us.)

Argument in Favor

For years, Jackson County Commissioners have given themselves the highest pay in Oregon. Two make \$143,416 (\$45,000 more than the Governor). With passage of Measures 15-225 and 15-226, commissioner salaries will be reduced to \$75,000 and they will no longer set their own salaries. Five commissioners will receive equal pay, still nearly double the median salary of their constituents. Future increases will be indexed to average wages in Jackson County. Whether newly elected or incumbent, commissioners have identical responsibilities. Presently, commissioners can claim six automatic "seniority" raises so long as they avoid getting recalled. Taxpayers should not need to entice them with raises to serve out their terms.

Commissioners increase their salary scale yearly to match national inflation rates, not the rate increase (if there is one) for Jackson County workers. The combination of seniority boosts and Cost of Living Adjustments can increase salaries by over 20% in just two years. This happened in 2021-2023.

Some opponents suggest that, despite paying the same fair salary with Measure 15-226, there will be material costs to add two commissioners. Speculative budgets supporting these arguments are riddled with errors and unsupported numbers, but even if valid, these arguable costs represent less than 1/4000th of the probable 2027 budget.

Measure 15-226 adjusts salaries to a reasonable level reflecting the true nature of a commissioner's duties, while still making this job attainable and attractive for those who wish to serve their community. Commissioners are not hands-on managers. They should be representatives and policy-makers, who get out and respond to the concerns and needs of All of Us in Jackson County. We have the option to allow the old, bureaucratic system to inflate commissioners' salaries or make a change. How?

Vote Yes on Measure 15-226.

Jackson County for All of Us
Paul Tipton & Janis Mohr-Tipton
Pam Marsh
Trish Callahan
David Gilmour
Sue Kupillas
Melia Biedscheid
Gayle Offenbacher Lewis
Al Densmore
Bill Thorndike
Al Muelhoefer
Christina Arapolu
Lena Richardson
John Enders

(This information furnished by Denise Krause, Jackson County for All.)

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Measure 15-226 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Jackson County commissioner salaries have gotten out of hand. That should not be a surprise. They set their own salaries in the budget committee of six people, three of whom are the commissioners themselves. The other three are people the commissioners appoint. It is not an arm's length negotiation.

Two commissioners are paid \$143,416, making them the highest paid commissioners in Oregon. That is more than commissioners in Multnomah County, with almost four times our population. Our commissioners even pay themselves \$45,000/year more than the Oregon governor is paid.

The county commissioner job is not a senior operations management job, although it is currently being paid like one. The county administrator and department heads do the operational management in the county. The commissioner job is important but very different. It is one of representation and public outreach -- the job of public-spirited citizens. They are policy makers who reflect the needs and wishes of county citizens. Their job is to keep the county administrator and county bureaucracy responsive to the public. Their jobs are more like the jobs of our state representatives and senators, whom we pay salaries of \$39,206 -- not \$143,416. This ballot measure allows county taxpayers to re-align the commissioners' salaries with their actual jobs..

A \$75,000/year salary -- plus great health and retirement benefits -- still leaves commissioners being paid almost double the median wage in Jackson County. That's enough to get good candidates motivated by public service.

Peter Sage, former county commissioner

(This information furnished by Peter Sage.)

Argument in Favor

Hey Voters!

County commissioners are public servants. Jackson County commissioners work for the public. Is it fair for public servants to decide how much they get paid?

In our county, commissioners' salaries and benefits are determined annually by the Budget committee. There are six members on that committee. Three of the Budget committee members are our very own commissioners. The other three are appointed by the commissioners. Perhaps an unethical practice given the commissioners can select their cronies to serve. Through this tolerated dirty trick (misuse of authority), commissioners determine how much they are paid. Behind closed doors, secretly, the Budget committee, stacked with the commissioners' personal relationships, their salaries are determined.

There's more. The benefit packages. Each commissioner makes \$9,500-\$11,000 a month base pay, plus up to \$4,000 in benefits. That's \$165,000-\$183,000 a year paid to each Jackson County commissioner by you and me. The Oregon Governor makes \$98,600. Is it fair that Jackson County pays our commissioners more than the Governor?

What do other counties in Oregon pay their public servants - county commissioners? According to talent.com, the average county commissioner in Oregon earns \$89,542 per year. What about other states? In Colorado, the average commissioner makes \$56,000 and in Florida they make \$35,700. Is it right and is it fair that we pay Jackson County politicians double or triple that of other Oregon commissioners - five times that of other state commissioners?

This initiative measure is about fairness to taxpayers. Should public officials make more than 3.0 times than the average working person in our county? Let's stop this conflict of interest - greed. Let's stop unethical practice of politicians using their positions to benefit themselves financially. Vote "Yes" on 15-226 for fairness for everyone!

It's time to put an end to commissioners setting their own salaries and benefits, which gouge citizens of our county. Your "Yes" vote can make a difference!

Sally Edwards, Medford resident & dog lover

(This information furnished by Sally Edwards.)

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Measure 15-226 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Vote "NO" on Measure 15-226! Measures 15-224, 15-225 and 15-226 together aren't about "having voices heard," they appear to be an effort by "Jackson County for All" (JCFA) to undermine one of the best run counties in the state, if not the country. These initiatives are being promoted by failed candidates who couldn't get elected because their radical ideas are not popular with voters countywide. But hey - if you can't get elected - change the rules!

The goal of Measure 15-226 is to:

"Decrease the salaries of Commissioners."

Interestingly, when this Measure's chief petitioner ran for a Board position recently, Commissioner salaries didn't seem to be an issue. How will we attract quality candidates for these positions when the pay has been significantly reduced? The JCFA claims that the salary reductions will allow the expansion to five commissioners at no additional cost - a premise that is difficult to accept given the non-salary resources two additional commissioners will require. County Administrator Danny Jordan estimates that the proposed restructuring will actually increase costs between \$200,000 and \$500,000 - perhaps even more! Who are you going to believe? The staff who actually manage the County budget, or JCFA? Measure 15-226 is obviously just an effort to help sell the proposal for increasing the Board from three to five commissioners - an idea which in itself has concerning motivations.

It's notable that the chief petitioner for this Measure has announced her candidacy for a soon to be open Commissioner seat, and has also filed a complaint accusing County leadership of election law violations - a complaint which was later denied by the Secretary of State. While these may be legitimate actions when taken separately, they seem problematic in light of her promotion of these Measures.

Jackson County is a refuge from the insanity of statewide politics - a buffer against Salem's one-party rule. These measures will change that, and not for the better. Let's keep Jackson County sane! Vote NO on Measure 15-226!

(This information furnished by Keith LaHaie.)

Argument in Opposition

Vote NO on Measure 15-226

The authors of Measure 15-226, Jackson County For All (JCFA), claim that our Commissioners are overpaid. At Town Hall meetings, they stated that they are the highest paid commissioners in the state and suggested that salaries could even be reduced to volunteer positions such as school boards or city councils.

Running Jackson County with 17 departments and a \$600,000,000 budget are full time jobs and it is not the same as being on a school board. Salaries have been meticulously determined and recommended by an independent salary review committee in order to attract and retain highly qualified and experienced professionals. Reducing salaries could discourage professionals, particularly those in the prime of their careers, from leaving more lucrative positions to serve Jackson County. In order to get signatures the petitioners were misleading voters into believing that it would save the county money by taking the total salaries of three commissioners and dividing it between five commissioners resulting in an approximate pay cut of \$50,000 per commissioner.

According to a budget analysis created by the county administrator this February, the added costs to support two more commissioners could result in an annual budget increase of \$500,000. This included the need for additional support staff, medical insurance, PERS, office space, renovations as well as increased materials and service expenses.

More importantly the wage cap presented by this measure may be in violation of Oregon Revised Statute 204.112. In Josephine County Circuit Court case #94-CV- 0111, Pumilia v. Hudson, the court determined that it was the clear duty of the county finance director to pay commissioners as provided by state statutes. There are Oregon Court of Appeals rulings, which are binding precedent and are highly persuasive on how a Jackson County Court may rule on this issue.

This measure is added bureaucratic noise and the people have had enough of it. Don't fix what's not broke!

Vote NO on Measure 15-226

(This information furnished by Kevin Christman, Jackson County Republican Party.)

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Ballot Title

15-227

Amending the Ashland City Charter to appoint the City Recorder.

QUESTION: Shall the Ashland Charter be amended to remove the City Recorder as an elected position and allow appointment to position?

SUMMARY: A “Yes” vote for this measure amends the City Charter to allow for the City of Ashland to hire an individual with appropriate training and skill to fill the City Recorder position.

A “No” vote for this measure maintains the existing language in the City Charter which outlines the sole qualifications for being elected City Recorder as residing within City limits and current registration to vote.

Explanatory Statement

A “Yes” vote for this measure amends the City Charter to allow for the City of Ashland to hire an individual with appropriate training and skill to fill the Recorder position to include public records retention law, public meeting law, and election process. Currently there are no minimum professional skill qualifications for this position. The only qualifiers are residing within City limits and being a registered voter. The recorder is an administrative position that requires decisions to be made based on knowledge, skills, and abilities.

A “No” vote for this measure maintains this position as an elected official and maintains the existing language in the City Charter which outlines the sole qualifications for being an elected City Recorder and fulfilling the necessary job duties as being a resident and registered voter within the City of Ashland.

(This information furnished by the City of Ashland.)

Measure 15-227 Arguments

Argument in Favor

The time for a charter amendment to make the Ashland city recorder an appointed staff position rather than an elected position is long overdue. This elected position was created in 1908. The times have changed since then and the recorder position must change, too.

Vote YES on Measure 15-227.

Here's why:

1. The recorder is a secretarial/recordkeeping position. Administrative positions should be filled based on the knowledge, skills and abilities of qualified applicants, not on the basis of who gets the most votes in an election.
2. There are no minimum qualifications for the position. Making it appointive allows the City to create qualifications and recruit for qualified candidates. An elected recorder need not have secretarial or administrative skills.
3. An appointed recorder would allow the city to draw from a larger pool of applicants. Currently, the pool is limited to registered voters in the City of Ashland.

Opponents of 15-227 have two main (and flawed) arguments: 1. We've always done it this way; and 2. An appointed city recorder would make City government less transparent.

However, "we've always done it this way," is the worst possible reason for continuing to do something the wrong way. History is rife with examples of evils and bad ideas that were perpetrated because "we've always done it this way." This is an "always done it this way" that needs to change. Let's change it.

As for transparency, there isn't a shred of evidence that the 240 Oregon cities with appointed recorders are less transparent than Ashland. What's more, it's the Council's job, not the recorder's, to ensure transparency, which is required by state law. The recorder is simply an administrative functionary who helps the Council (and the staff) in that regard. Additionally, an appointed recorder who failed to meet their obligations under state law could be summarily fired. An elected recorder could not.

The time has come. Vote YES on Measure 15-227 to make the city recorder appointed.

(This information furnished by Dave Kanner, former city administrator.)

Argument in Favor

Ashland's city recorder should be a staff position, not an elected one. Vote YES on measure 15-227.

Changing the recorder to a staff position would make the position more responsive and accountable, and would allow the city to recruit and hire the best qualified person from a broader pool of applicants. The current City Charter provision, adopted in 1908, restricts candidates for city recorder to Ashland registered voters only, and contains no minimum qualifications.

The city recorder is NOT a policy-making position. The city recorder is simply the board secretary for the City Council, and the administrative keeper of city records. It's merely common sense that a secretarial/record-keeping position should be hired, not elected.

The notion that an elected recorder makes the city more transparent has no basis in fact. The recorder has no access to or involvement in the operations of city departments, and the recorder is not an auditor. Under current State law an annual audit is performed by qualified professionals, not by city recorders.

Finally, the current city recorder position is unsupervised, and is thus unchecked with regard to working hours, competency, or handling of public records. This measure would provide supervisory oversight for the position.

Vote for good government. Vote YES on measure 15-227

Tonya Graham, Mayor of Ashland
Paula Hyatt, City Councilor
Bob Kaplan, City Councilor
Eric Hansen, City Councilor
Jeff Dahle, City Councilor
Alan De Boer, former Mayor
Dennis Slattery, former Ashland City Councilor
Stefani Seffinger, former City Councilor
Stephen Jensen, former Ashland City Councilor
Michael Morris, former City Councilor
David R. Chapman, former City Councilor
Allen Drescher, former City Councilor
Gregory "Greg" Williams, former City Councilor
Pat Acklin, former City Councilor
Phil Arnold, former City Councilor
Susan Reid, former City Councilor
Mike Gardiner, former Ashland Parks & Rec Commissioner
Dave Kanner, former City Administrator
Gino Grimaldi, former City Administrator
Greg Scoles, former City Administrator

(This information furnished by Brian L. Almquist, former City Administrator.)

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Ballot Title

15-228

Amending Ashland City Charter Article XIV-Chief of Police.

QUESTION: Shall the City of Ashland Charter be amended to allow the Chief of Police to designate a Sergeant-at-Arms?

SUMMARY: A "Yes" vote for this measure amends the City Charter to allow the Chief of Police to designate another individual to act as the Sergeant-at-Arms of at City Council meetings in the event the Chief of Police is unable to attend.

A "No" vote means the existing language in the City Charter remains that the Chief of Police shall attend all meetings of the City Council.

Explanatory Statement

Article XIV-Chief of Police Powers and Duties Section 2 currently requires "The Chief of Police shall attend all meetings of the City Council, and perform the duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms of that body,..." The Charter's current language does not allow for any consideration to schedule, illness, or training opportunities that may conflict with the City Council meetings.

This Measure would allow for the Chief of Police to designate another uniformed individual to fulfill the Sergeant-at-Arms duties in the event the Chief of Police is unable to fulfill that duty.

Results of a "No" Vote.

If this measure does not pass, the existing charter language will remain in place which does not allow for anyone other than the Chief of Police to act as Sergeant-at-Arms at City Council meetings.

(This information furnished by the City of Ashland.)

Measure 15-229 Evans Valley Rural Fire Protection District 6

Ballot Title

15-229

Five-year local option tax for general operations.

QUESTION: Shall the District impose \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years, beginning 2025-2026, to fund general operations? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: Evans Valley Fire District #6 provides fire and life safety services within the territory of the district. If adopted, this measure would replace the current levy of \$0.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value with a new levy of \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A new levy will allow for maintaining current service levels in the district. Without the new levy, service reductions will occur, jeopardizing the district's ISO rating and potentially affecting homeowners' insurance rates.

The proposed levy of \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed value would secure funding to retain two firefighter positions currently funded by an Oregon State Fire Marshal's Capacity Grant. The two firefighter positions have been vital for the district's emergency response services. Grant funding for the firefighter positions expires May, 2026.

The replacement levy would also fund essential services such as the student staffing program, apparatus replacement, facilities maintenance, and equipment replacement. Without the replacement levy, the district will be unable to maintain its level of fire and life safety services within the district.

The proposed rate will raise approximately \$410,309 in 2025-2026, \$422,619 in 2026-2027, \$435,297 in 2027-2028, \$448,356 in 2028-2029, and \$461,807 in 2029-2030, for a total over five years of \$2,178,388.

replacement fund. Given rising costs and call volumes, the Board of Directors believes this levy is necessary to ensure adequate fire and life safety coverage in the district and meet the community's emergency response needs.

Evans Valley Fire District No. 6 operates independently as a "special district," separate from cities or counties. Established in 1963, it is governed by an elected Board of Directors representing the interests of district residents. This board, and a budget committee comprised of five district citizens, make policy decisions and financial recommendations to ensure cost-effective delivery of fire, emergency medical, and life safety services.

(This information furnished by Evans Valley Rural Fire Protection District 6.)

Explanatory Statement

The Evans Valley Fire District No. 6 Board of Directors voted to propose a new five-year local option tax levy of \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed value to replace the current levy of \$0.36 per \$1,000, starting in fiscal year 2025-2026. This measure will be put to a vote on the May ballot, seeking approval from district residents.

In 2023, the Fire District secured grant funding for two firefighter positions for three years through the Oregon Fire Service Capacity Program. These positions have been filled and have enhanced the district's ability to respond promptly to emergencies. However, this grant funding will expire in May, 2026. The proposed levy aims to sustain these positions and maintain current service levels beyond the grant's expiration.

Without the new levy, service reductions will occur, jeopardizing the district's ISO rating and potentially affecting homeowners' insurance rates.

A "Yes" vote on the levy would ensure funding for the Fire District through fiscal year 2029-2030, enabling the continuation of current service levels and the retention of paid staff positions. This funding will support the district in meeting the increasing demands of emergency calls (fire, medicals, public hazards, and wildland fires) and maintaining essential equipment, apparatus, and facilities.

The Fire District's permanent tax rate is \$1.2905 per \$1,000 of assessed value, but additional revenue from the local option levy is crucial to fully funding operations, preserving facilities, maintaining apparatus, and maintaining the apparatus

Measure 15-229 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Every second counts. When a loved one is experiencing a medical emergency or there is a fire on your property, you need someone to show up quickly and tend to the issue. Few people plan to use the services of our Fire District, but it is expected that trained personnel and apparatus are readily available to assist when the need arises.

Many don't know this, but our Fire District is almost entirely staffed by volunteers. Currently, there are three paid personnel. Two of these people started on July 1, 2023 thanks to a three year staffing grant that we received. With the presence of these extra people, our response time has significantly decreased.

The money collected via property taxes doesn't pay the entirety of the District's bare-bones budget. The difference comes from grants. However, successfully receiving a grant once doesn't guarantee that we will receive it in the future.

Our current funding model is 20 years old. When this special local option levy was first enacted, there was enough money to fund apparatus and equipment replacement, facilities maintenance, and the student staffing program. Now, 20 years later, there is only enough to barely fund the student program. Currently, among the 13 Fire Districts between Jackson and Josephine Counties, we are third from the bottom in the taxes that we collect. With the extra money generated by this levy, we would be in the middle at 7th place. This doesn't get us close to fully paid staffing. This money would allow us to continue to pay the two new personnel when the grant runs out.

This Fire District wants to maintain the current level of service afforded by the staffing grant. Without these personnel, the District's ISO fire rating could go up which would raise homeowners insurance rates. Please consider voting "yes" on Measure 15-229. Respectfully, Kathryn Henning, Director, Evans Valley Fire District #6

(This information furnished by Kathryn Henning, Evans Valley Fire District #6.)

Argument in Favor

As a lifelong resident of Evans Valley, I've seen many changes in our local fire department. From its tiny building that housed one fire truck in the 1950's, to today's beautiful station, it has grown with our valley. As our area grows, the call rates have risen substantially, increasing the need for funding the Apparatus Replacement Program and the ability to retain our two paid firefighter positions. Having lost our home of 22 years to a fire in 2003, we understand the urgent need for our Fire District to be able to respond rapidly. My husband and I urge you to VOTE YES ON MEASURE 15-229, enabling the Evans Valley Fire District to continue serving our valley at peak efficiency.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Martin Sund

(This information furnished by Cheryl Martin Sund.)

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Measure 15-229 Arguments

Argument in Favor

When we call 911, we want fast response!

The current *one-time* grant received by EVFD #6 has made it possible – for the first time – to have staff on duty 24/7 at our Fire Station. That means when someone calls 911, help comes directly from the Fire Station to the emergency.

In the past, funds have been too limited to pay for full-time staffing. As a result, the Fire Station was left unmanned during some daytime hours and most overnights. For many addresses served by EVFD #6, that meant waiting twice or three times as long for help to arrive.

Whether it's a medical emergency, house fire, land fire, motor vehicle accident, or trees and wires down on the road, when someone calls 911, every second really does count.

We don't want to lose our current level of protection.
We support this measure!

Respectfully,
Nancy Joeckel

Endorsed by:

Crystal Anderson
Joan Driscoll-Knoeppel
Debra Krein
Ron Lopes
Jenny O'Connor
Jeremy O'Connor
Scott Purrier, Senior Pastor Evans Valley Bible Church
Dale Ten Broeck
Arlyce Ten Broeck

(This information furnished by Nancy Joeckel.)

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Measure 17-118 Three Rivers School District

Ballot Title

17-118

Authorizes Bonds to Improve Safety, Security, and Reroof Aged Buildings

QUESTION: Shall Three Rivers School District issue \$39 million in bonds for school capital costs and receive a \$6,000,000 matching grant? 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: School Districts in Oregon depend on local support to fund capital improvements. The District has been awarded a \$6,000,000 grant which will be available only if the bonds are approved. If approved, this measure would finance capital costs within the District, including:

- Safety and security measures with a focus on access control at all locations
 - Additional fencing
 - Manned Gates
 - Buzz-in entry systems
 - Cameras
 - Key card entry
 - Security lighting
 - Security Doors and hardware
- Re-roof 18 buildings throughout the District to maintain structural integrity and protect the community's investment in school district facilities

Bonds would mature in 16 years or less from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to be \$0.55 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value. Actual rates may vary based upon interest rates incurred and changes in assessed value.

costs, our district receives the same funding per student from the State as smaller districts. Over the years, we have diligently pursued various funding opportunities, but capital improvements heavily rely on local support. With your approval of the \$39,000,000 bond measure, we have secured a matching state grant of \$6,000,000, maximizing the impact of every dollar invested in our schools.

Your vote for this bond measure is not just a vote for our schools; it's an investment in the future of our community. The projected tax rate associated with this bond is \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For example, a property assessed at \$300,000 would contribute \$165 per year for the 15-year bond term.

Together, we can provide safe, secure learning environments for our students to help them thrive and succeed.

(This information furnished by Three Rivers School District.)

Explanatory Statement

This bond measure is a critical step in ensuring the safety, security, and integrity of our school buildings within Three Rivers School District. With a focus on re-roofing aging structures and enhancing security measures, this initiative will benefit over 4,000 students and 600 staff members across our 14 schools.

Enhancing School Security

In response to evolving safety concerns, our Safety Team and local law enforcement have assessed our school buildings and campuses. The proposed strategy aims to strengthen school perimeters by managing entry and exit points, deterring and delaying potential threats. \$11 million has been allocated for security enhancements, including fencing, gates, and advanced entry systems, we are prioritizing the safety of our school community.

Addressing Urgent Roofing Needs

Many of our district's buildings are over 60 years old and in critical condition, as identified in a recent long-range facility plan. Re-roofing these structures is essential to maintaining their structural integrity and preventing future costs. With \$35 million dedicated to re-roofing 18 buildings across the district, the safety and functionality of our aging facilities will be enhanced.

Overcoming Funding Challenges

Despite the vast area we serve and significant transportation

Jackson County Commissioner, Position 2



**Denise
Krause**
Democrat

Occupation: Public health consulting

Occupational Background: Retired healthcare executive, state government 25 years

Educational Background: University of Kansas, B.A./B.A.; Monterey Institute of International Studies, M.A./M.A.; University of Mississippi Medical Center, M.S./Ph.D.

Prior Governmental Experience: Director, Rogue Valley Transportation District; Rogue Valley Transportation Budget Committee; Precinct Committee Chairperson

I am committed to honest, responsible government and proudly lead the grassroots Jackson County for All initiative to update the County Charter. Adding two commissioners will provide better representation and accountability for our population of nearly a quarter million. Making the commissioner position non-partisan will extend fundamental fairness to the county's largest group, non-affiliated voters, as done already in 26 of Oregon's 35 counties. All citizens will be able to vote for county commissioner in the primary or be a candidate under the same rules.

Since I am urging reform of our County system, I will set an example. Two current commissioners take \$143,416 salaries (\$45,000 more than the Governor) which will soon increase again. I will immediately take the reduced salary of \$75,000 two years before the JCFA Measures take effect, and put the focus back on public service, including holding regular town hall meetings. Commissioners should not be bunkered behind locked doors. The job should be about community outreach and communication, and better planning to meet existing and future needs.

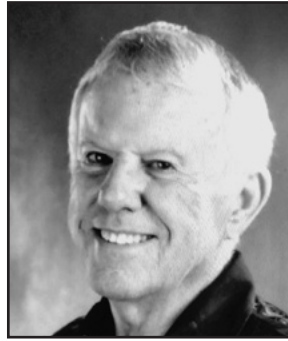
Commissioners must be leaders in solving our county's problems, such as the inadequate jail and animal shelter, loss of trust in the judicial system because of lack of space for judges, and complex issues surrounding homelessness, mental health and addiction. We need to confront these issues with urgency, innovation, and the input of you, the voter.

I look forward to employing my professional experience and skills to benefit Jackson County's citizens. In the first phase of my 25-year career, I analyzed and cross-checked management. Then I became top management. With this background, I will focus on ensuring that the County's bureaucracy is efficient and transparent.

(This information furnished by Denise Krause.)

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

Jackson County Commissioner, Position 2



**David
Arrasmith**
Republican

Occupation: Jackson County Assessor; January 2017 through December 2024

Occupational Background: Prior to 2017 I was Deputy Assessor

Educational Background: San Jose State University (Bachelor of Science; Business Administration); Passed the Certified Public Accountant Exam

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

*As Jackson County Assessor, I manage a staff of 36 employees. For the tax year 2023-2024, the County Assessor's office generated \$368,647,212 in property tax revenue that was then distributed to local cities, school districts, fire districts, etc.

Community Involvement Past and Present:

- As chairman of RVTD, I along with four other local government officials, co-signed with Governor Victor Atiyeh Resolution No. 82-1-MPO that designated the Rogue Valley Council of Government (RVCOG) as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Medford Statistical Area.
- Board Member, Rogue Federal Credit Union
- Member, Medford/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
- Member, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development
- Member Rotary Club of Medford
- Volunteer for Children's Miracle Network
- I pledge to support the Jackson County Mission Statement and strive to provide public services that protect and enhance the quality of life in the County, as determined by the people, laws, and available resources!
- There are 36 counties in Oregon, and all but Jackson County are dues-paying members of the Oregon Association of Counties, and that fact stands out like a black eye. AOC was formed in 1906 to share information; lend a helping hand to each other. Let us restore our membership!
- As your next elected commissioner, I will forego the commissioner's annual retreat, and direct those funds towards customer service!
- I believe commissioners salaries are out of alignment with what is reasonable, logical, and defensible. Let us work to adjust those salaries; convert positions to nonpartisan; and increase positions from 3 to 5, for a more representative government!

(This information furnished by David Arrasmith.)

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

Jackson County Commissioner, Position 2



Randy Sparacino
Republican

Occupation: Mayor, City of Medford

Occupational Background: Chief – Medford Police Department; Chief Policy Advisor – City of Medford; Small Business Owner; United States Army

National Guard and Reserve; Fly Fishing Instructor

Educational Background: Master's in Management; Bachelor's in Social Science, Southern Oregon University

Prior Governmental Experience: Rogue Community College Board of Education; Jackson County Airport Advisory Committee; City of Central Point Budget Committee; Oregon Association Chiefs of Police Board

"I love Southern Oregon and have dedicated most of my adult life protecting and serving it. My experience as Mayor of Medford, public policy advisor, and in law enforcement make me uniquely equipped to meet the important challenges facing Jackson County."

- **Randy Sparacino**

Leadership • Integrity • Experience

Experience to Lead.

"Randy has served our community with distinction for over 30 years. The leadership he brings from all that service will be crucial as a county commissioner."

- **County Commissioner Dave Dotterer**

Engaged with Jackson County's Issues.

"I've worked with Randy on many issues. Most recently, we've been working on developing the plans for a new jail in Jackson County. Randy brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and pragmatism that will help our county immensely."

- **County Commissioner Rick Dyer**

Values All the People He Serves.

"Randy's greatest strength is his ability to build consensus—to bring different groups together, be very collaborative, and to listen. All those things contribute towards Randy being a great leader and somebody we need at the county level."

- **David Wright**

Additional Endorsements:

U.S. Representative Cliff Bentz • Former U.S. Representative Greg Walden • County Commissioners Dave Dotterer and Rick Dyer • Sheriff Nate Sickler • Mayor of Phoenix Terry Baker • Phoenix City Councilor Scott Clausen • Eagle Point City Councilor David Lacombe • Medford City Councilors Jessica Ayres, Nick Card, Tim D'Alessandro, Chad Miller, Zac Smith • Former City Councilor Claudette Moore • Builders Association of Southern Oregon • Jessica Gomez • Kevin Keating • Lily Morgan • Travis Snyder • Randy Jones

Electsparacino.com

(This information furnished by Randy Sparacino.)

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

Jackson County Assessor



Angela Stuhr

Occupation: Valuation Manager, Jackson County Assessor

Occupational Background: Real Estate Agent, Century 21; Construction Project Management & Staff Appraiser, Shenhon Company; Underwriter & Mortgage Lender, Wells Fargo

Educational Background: University of Iowa, Bachelor of Business Administration

Prior Governmental Experience: None

I am Angela Stuhr, and I am asking for your vote for Jackson County Assessor. I have been with the Assessor's office for more than fifteen years, and as valuation manager I currently plan and direct residential and commercial values, appeals, exemptions and various special assessment programs allowed under Oregon law.

I believe in an office that works as a team, relying on the energy, intelligence and contributions of all staff members. I am committed to professional service, fairness and accuracy, while upholding high ethical standards, the Oregon Constitution, Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules.

Prior to joining the Jackson County Assessor's office I worked in real estate sales, construction management, appraising, underwriting and mortgage lending. I relied upon property records for every transaction, and this experience showed me the importance of maintaining accurate assessor information.

Property taxes fund services that are important to you, such as law enforcement, fire protection, libraries and schools. I will work to ensure this office maintains accurate records, provides prompt and respectful services, and helps taxpayers with fair value outcomes.

(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 Surveyors 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 Right Examiner, Oregon. Certified Federal Surveyor.

Prior Governmental Experience: Jackson County Surveyor, 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.
- Coordinate the County Surveyor's activities with other county departments to create a more efficient process for the public.
- Develop and maintain mapping databases and online applications for internet-based delivery of over 150 years 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 a 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 utmost 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.

Party Affiliation & Ballot Content

Since this is a primary election, the **Democratic** and **Republican** parties will use this election to nominate their candidates for the November 5, 2024 General Election. Please remember that your ballot will only contain the candidates and measures for which you are eligible to vote. The content of the ballot you receive is dependent upon your party affiliation and the districts in which you reside.

- If you are registered with a major political party (**Democratic or Republican**), you will receive your party's nominating ballot that will contain the candidates of your party along with any nonpartisan candidates and measures.
- If you are registered with a minor political party (**Constitution, Independent, Libertarian, No Labels, Pacific Green, Progressive, Working Families**) or have listed **Other** as your party selection, you will receive a nonpartisan ballot with only nonpartisan candidates and measures.
- If you are not registered with any political party (**Not a member of a party**), you will receive a nonpartisan ballot with only nonpartisan candidates and measures.

The last day to register to vote or change your political party affiliation for the May 21, 2024 Primary Election is **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**.

Register/Update Online

Visit www.oregonvotes.gov to register to vote online. If you are already registered to vote, visit www.oregonvotes.gov/myvote to check your registration and update if necessary.

Register/Update by Mail or In Person

Registration forms are available online at www.oregonvotes.gov or at Jackson County Elections, 1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501.



Important Deadline!

The deadline for registering to vote or changing your political party affiliation is **Tuesday, April 30th**.

Visit oregonvotes.gov/myvote to;

- Check your registration;
- Update your registration; or
- Register to vote.

You may also visit Jackson County Elections at 1101 W Main St, Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501 for your voter registration needs.

Track Your Ballot!

The United States Postal Service offers Informed Delivery. Once signed up, you will receive an email with an image of mail pieces to be delivered that day. You will know when your ballot hits your mailbox. To sign up for this service, go to informedelivery.usps.com.

In order to determine whether your ballot was received by your county election official, please visit oregonvotes.gov/myvote where you can track your ballot.

