



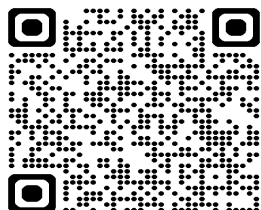
Columbia County Voters' Pamphlet

General Election November 3, 2026



Attention

注意事項 유의 사항 Внимание Atención Chú ý



Selected portions of this county voters' pamphlet are available in Simplified Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. These translations can be found online at oregonvotes.gov/ColumbiaVP

本县选民手册的部分内容提供简体中文版本。可以访oregonvotes.gov/ColumbiaVP 获取该译本。

카운티 유권자 팸플릿 내 선택된 부분은 한국어로 준비되어 있습니다. 번역은 온라인 oregonvotes.gov/ColumbiaVP에서 찾아보실 수 있습니다.

Отдельные части брошюры избирателей этого округа доступны на русском языке. Эти переводы можно найти в Интернете по адресу oregonvotes.gov/ColumbiaVP

Algunas secciones de este folleto para votantes del condado están disponibles en español. Estas traducciones están disponibles en línea en oregonvotes.gov/ColumbiaVP

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/ColumbiaVP

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PLEASE NOTE

- **Not all the candidates or measures in this Voters’ Pamphlet will be on your ballot.** The content of your ballot is determined by your registration’s residential address (This can be found on your return identification envelope near the signature line). Your official ballot will contain only the candidates and issues which apply to your residence. If your residential address is incorrect, please update your registration.
- **Not all candidates submit information for the Voters’ Pamphlet.** As a result, there will be candidates on your ballot that are not in the Voters’ Pamphlet.
- **Columbia County Elections prints information as submitted.** We do not correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, errors or inaccurate information.



The Columbia County Voters' Pamphlet is published to provide information about the local candidates and measures appearing on your ballot. It also allows the sharing of important information about the November 3, 2026, General Election.

- **Oregon General Election.** The General Election takes place in November of every even-numbered year. This election is usually the biggest regarding voter turnout and ballot content; it covers Federal, State, County, City, and some service district elections. Some of the content culminates from the nominating elections held during the May Primary.
- **Ballot mailing dates:** Ballots will be mailed countywide starting October 14 and should arrive between October 19 and October 23.
- **Voters' pamphlet:** The voters' pamphlet provides information about local candidates and measures on your ballot. Not all candidates submit statements, so some may not appear in the pamphlet.
- **Voter no longer at your address:** If you receive a ballot for someone who no longer lives at your address, please take the following actions:
 - If they have moved, write "RETURN" on the envelope and place it in your mailbox.
 - If they have passed away, write "DECEASED" on the envelope and return it the same way.
- **Your vote matters!** Be sure to sign the attestation on your ballot return envelope and mail your ballot **at least 7 days before election day**, whether it is Election Day or the day before, and you want to ensure your return is timely-postmarked, request one over the counter.
- **Ballot Drop Sites:** Official ballot drop sites are available as an alternative to mailing. Columbia County's drop sites are listed in the voters' pamphlet.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Columbia County Elections at (503)397-7214 or email us at elections@columbiacountyor.gov.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your County Clerk.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Klug".

Debbie Klug
Columbia County Clerk

Columbia County

Clerk

Debbie Klug

Sheriff

Brian Pixley

Treasurer

Mary Ann Guess*

City of Clatskanie

Council Members A

Tyler Gentry*

Robert (Bob) Emminger*

Scott Hadlock*

Amanda M Owen*

Russell Finney-Leggroan*

Mayor

Deborah Hazen

Shaun Ripplinger*

Glenn Rhodes

City of Columbia City

Council Members A

Logan Gilbert-Renner*

Mike Raszewski*

Mayor

Alexander Reed*

City of Prescott

Council Member, Position 1

Larry Hudnall*

David Larson*

Council Member, Position 3

Gina Harrington*

Mayor

Mandie Alali*

Recorder

Jewel Lee*

Treasurer

Keli D Von Pinnon*

City of Rainier

Council Member, Position 1

Scott T Cooper*

Council Member, Position 3

Jeremy Howell*

Council Member, Position 4

Al Guist*

Susan Hulsopple*

Charleen Ratkie*

Council Member, Position 5

Robert duPlessis*

Mayor

Michael Kreger*

Vanessa Meza

Garye Twichell*

City of Scappoose

Council Members A

John E Riutta

Kim Holmes

Jeannet Santiago*

Mayor

Joe Backus*

City of St. Helens

City Council A

Sarah Stephenson

Mark Gundersen

Daniel A Grant

Jeremy Evans

Nicholas Hellmich

Mayor

Jennifer Massey

Steve Toschi

City of Vernonia

Council Members A

David Paul Sterner*

Gary Brown

Joseph Dombek

Richard Traver*

Mayor

Charlie Kibben

Susan Wagner

Columbia SWCD

Director, At-Large Position 2

Brenda Vassau*

Director, Zone 1

Paul M Gibbons

Rachell Meyers*

Director, Zone 2

Jason C Busch*

Director, Zone 3

A Alex Devin*

Clatskanie PUD

Director, Subdivision 3

Jeannie Mustola

Director, Subdivision 4

Don Hooper*

Columbia River PUD

Director, Subdivision 1

Andy Kriech*

Director, Subdivision 2

Craig J Melton*

Director, Subdivision 5

Donald Clark*

Neal Sheppard

McNulty Water PUD

Director, Subdivision 1

No Candidate Filed

Director, Subdivision 2

Richard Anyan*

Measures

5-312 City of St Helens

Police Services, Child Safety, 24/7

Police Patrol Local Option Levy

5-313 City of Columbia City

Approval of a Police Department

Operations Levy for Five Years.

5-314 Columbia County

Columbia County Transient

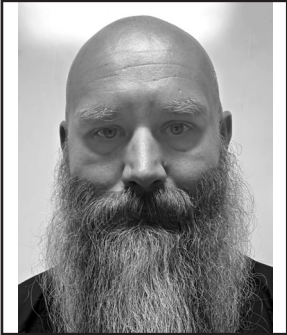
Lodging Tax Measure

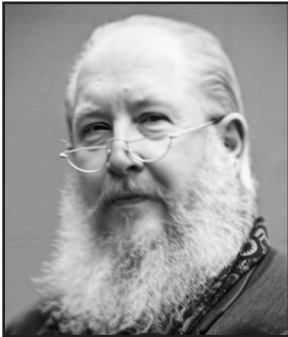
5-315 Clatskanie Park & Rec

Five-Year Local Option Tax for Park

Operations

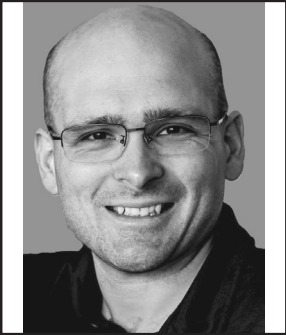
Columbia County	Columbia County
Clerk	Sheriff
 Debbie Klug OCCUPATION: Columbia County Clerk OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Real Estate; Columbia County: Deputy Recorder, Administrative Assistant, Deputy County Clerk, County Clerk EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Real Estate School of Oregon; Portland Community College; Portland State University; NACo Professional Development Academy- High Performance Leadership PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Appointed Columbia County Clerk in 2021; Elected Columbia County Clerk in 2022 Oregonian: Being a lifelong Oregonian, I have called Columbia County home for the last 24 years. Through the years, I have had the opportunity to help my community by volunteering with the local school district and serving as a committed member of the Kiwanis organization. Experience: I have worked in the County Clerk's office for over 20 years and have had the honor of serving as County Clerk since July 2021, when I was appointed by the County Commissioners. I was then re-elected to the position in 2022. In 2025, I earned the designation of Certified County Clerk. Elections: Elections are an important part of the job, and my team and I are committed to upholding integrity by conducting open, transparent, and secure elections that welcome observers. Goals: Since taking office, we have launched a new property recording alert service that automatically notifies property owners whenever documents are recorded in their names. We have also enabled online marriage license applications. We are currently digitizing documents to create a searchable database. My commitment is to continue digitizing documents, to extend our services for customer convenience, and to manage our resources responsibly. As the current Columbia County Clerk, I have more than 20 years of experience and training. I will continue to seek ways to improve the department and the service it provides. I thoroughly enjoy working with the citizens of this county, and it would be an honor to continue serving as your Columbia County Clerk. Thank you for your continued support! <i>(This information furnished by Debbie Klug)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	 Brian Pixley OCCUPATION: Columbia County Sheriff OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Sheriff, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Deputy- Columbia County Sheriff's Office (2010-present); Scappoose Police Officer (2006-2010); Columbia County Sheriff's Deputy (2003-2006) EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: B.S., Eastern Oregon University; Executive Level Certifications in Patrol and Corrections; Executive Leadership Training: National Sheriff's Academy, Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) Command College and Sheriff's Institute, National Association of Counties High Performance Leadership Academy, FBI-LEEDA, and more. PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Columbia County Sheriff's Office, OSSA Executive Leadership Team, DPSST Policy Committees It has been my honor to serve as your Sheriff, and I ask for your vote to continue serving our community. Over the past eight years, I have worked to build a professional, accountable, and community-focused Sheriff's Office. We have expanded to 24-hour patrol coverage, improved efficiency, strengthened relationships with partner agencies, and increased our presence throughout Columbia County. I am proud of the men and women who serve our county and the commitment they demonstrate. While we have made progress, important challenges remain. Law enforcement continues to face increasing demands, drug-related and property crime, behavioral health concerns, aging infrastructure, and the need for reliable emergency communications. Meeting these challenges requires experienced leadership, practical solutions, and responsible management of taxpayer resources. My priorities remain clear: • Protecting public safety • Maintaining accountability • Ensuring the Sheriff's Office remains responsive to our citizens • Advocating for the resources necessary to keep our communities safe while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars I never take this position, or the trust placed in me by the people of Columbia County, for granted. The Sheriff's Office exists to serve our citizens, and I remain committed to leading with integrity, professionalism, common sense, and dedication to service. I am proud of what we have accomplished, but there is still work ahead. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Columbia County and ask for your vote for Sheriff. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. VOTE TO RE-ELECT SHERIFF BRIAN PIXLEY <i>(This information furnished by Brian Pixley)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

City of Clatskanie	
Mayor	
 Deborah Hazen OCCUPATION: Freelance Writer/Consultant/Historian; Clatskanie Foundation President; Clatskanie Cultural Center co-manager; Clatskanie Historical Society President; Clatskanie Senior Citizens, Inc. director; Flippin Castle Guide and Curator. OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Reporter/Editor/Publisher of The Clatskanie Chief; Staff Writer, The Oregon Journal; Clatskanie Chamber of Commerce President; Clatskanie Heritage Days volunteer; Columbia County Economic Team; Clatskanie IOOF/Cultural Center Restoration Chair; Flippin Castle Restoration Chair. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Madras High School, honor graduate; Bard College, one year; Portland State University, three years PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Columbia County Board of Property Tax Appeals, chair; Columbia County Museum Commission, chair. COMMUNITY UNITY: Clatskanie has accomplished great things when people work together: the swimming pool, library, athletic fields, park improvements, IOOF Hall/Cultural Center and Castle restorations, murals... Let's agree to disagree on outside issues and unite behind projects that benefit our home town. Let's reawaken the tradition of volunteers working hand-in-hand with the City, Schools, Parks, Emergency Services, etc. to accomplish more than paid public workers can do alone. PROTECT THE PEACE: Right now, Clatskanie can't afford its own police force. Debbie will leverage her relationships with state, county and city leaders to join forces with community members to seek creative solutions that will make us all safer. FOCUS ON THE FUTURE: Like it or not, Clatskanie will change - for better or worse. Let's focus on a positive future with thriving businesses, affordable housing, local family-wage jobs, and the revenue we need to improve and maintain law enforcement, emergency services, schools, streets and roads, water and sewer systems - all of the things we need to ensure a happy, prosperous community for years to come. EXPERIENCE MATTERS: Through years of news reporting, leadership in volunteer projects, participation in local and county-wide organizations, Debbie's knowledge, experience, and communication skills make her the most qualified to serve as Clatskanie's next Mayor. <i>(This information furnished by Deborah Hazen)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	 Glenn Rhodes OCCUPATION: Teacher, Clatskanie Middle High School; Middle School Coach OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Teacher, Jemtegaard Middle School, Washougal, Washington; Teacher, Monticello Middle School, Longview, Washington EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Central Washington University, Bachelor of Arts in Education, 2008; Clatskanie High School, 2000 PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: None. Clatskanie has been part of my story for as long as I can remember. Growing up between Clatskanie and Westport, my family didn't come from money or influence. We called places like Solhaven Apartments and Mr. Ed's Travel Park home. What we did have was a community where people looked out for one another. That stayed with me and helped shape the teacher, coach, and community member I wanted to become. I worked hard to come home and become a teacher in the community that helped raise me. Today, I'm in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, at community events, and working with local families. I've raised money to bring more resources and opportunities to our students, coached our kids, supported school fundraising, and volunteered my time. I'm running for Mayor to bring a fresh perspective and practical, forward-looking leadership focused on three priorities: Community: Supporting families, youth, seniors, parks, programs, and organizations that bring people together. Local Businesses: Working with local businesses and entrepreneurs to encourage opportunity and help our local economy grow. Infrastructure: Focusing on reliable water and sewer systems, streets, parks, public spaces, and essential city services while pursuing grants and partnerships whenever possible. I don't pretend to have every answer. What I bring is a willingness to listen, do the homework, bring people together, and work toward solutions. This town gave a lot to a kid who started with very little. Running for mayor is my opportunity to give back and help build a stronger Clatskanie. <i>(This information furnished by Glenn Rhodes)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

City of Scappoose	City of Scappoose
City Council	City Council
 Kim Holmes OCCUPATION: Executive Director, Circular Action Alliance Oregon OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Owner and Principal Consultant, 4R Sustainability, Inc; Vice President of Sustainability, Plastics Industry Association EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Bachelor of Art in Anthropology and History from University of Maryland(1999); Master of Urban Studies, Portland State University(2008) PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Current: Scappoose City Councilor(2022-2026); Scappoose CERT member(2026); Past: Vice-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee(2019-2022); member of the 50-year Plan Advisory Committee(2022-2025); member-at-large Columbia County Solid Waste Advisory Committee(2024-2025). Serving the community of Scappoose as a City Councilor for the past four years has been a great honor. I am proud of what our Council, city staff, and community have accomplished together, and I believe Scappoose is well positioned for an even stronger future. During my first term on Council, we hired a new City Manager who has brought strong leadership and a renewed focus on serving our community. We have also worked to strengthen the Scappoose Police Department and supported strategic improvements to ensure our officers have the resources they need to serve our residents effectively. The City of Scappoose remains focused on economic development, parks, and access to outdoor spaces to create a healthy, connected community. If reelected, I will focus on creating recreational opportunities for residents of all ages, maintain responsible financial stewardship, support public safety, and thoughtful economic development that benefits our community. It would be an honor to continue to serve as your City Councilor, to work collaboratively with my fellow councilors and City Staff to continue to make Scappoose a great place to live, work, and build community. Endorsed by Scappoose Mayor and City Councilors: Joe Backus, Tyler Miller, Jeannete Santiago, Joel Haugen, Marty Marquis, John Riutta <i>(This information furnished by Kim Holmes)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	 John E Riutta OCCUPATION: Product Development and Product Compliance Manager, Celestron; Publisher, The Well-read Naturalist OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Market Development Manager, Leupold & Stevens EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: University of Oregon, MBA; George Fox University, MA Education; Lewis & Clark College, BA English Literature PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Scappoose City Council, Appointed 2025 My purposes in seeking election to the position to which I was appointed on the council in 2025 is simple: to work with my fellow council members to help keep the city of Scappoose running smoothly, to preserve and strengthen our small-town community, and to enable carefully reviewed and well-considered improvements to be made where needed that enhance the lives of all who call Scappoose home. Among these are enhancing opportunities for small locally-owned businesses, encouragement of the development of housing that is affordable to our young people so they need not leave our community in order to make a life for themselves, and promoting activities that will strengthen our connections with our neighbors, both those who have been here for generations and those recently arrived. There are two things I will not do. I will not approve any use of Flock camera systems in the city and I will not approve any development of data centers here. I view the first of these as invasive of the privacy of the people of our community, and the second as a wasteful drain on our electric and water systems without providing any significant benefit to our community in return. If these are goals you share, I hope I will receive your vote in November. <i>(This information furnished by John E Riutta)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

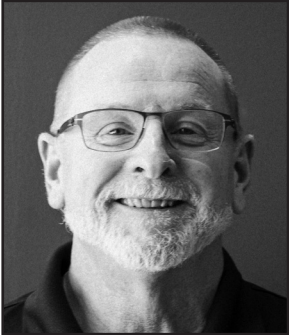
City of St. Helens	City of St. Helens
Mayor	Mayor
 Jennifer Massey OCCUPATION: Mayor, City of St. Helens; Industry Executive, 22 years; Business Owner, 20 years; Steamfitter, UA Local 290, 27 years. OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Corporate executive in construction; operated businesses; steamfitter; risk management experience for multimillion and billion-dollar projects across construction, manufacturing, transportation, and energy. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Degrees in Occupational Safety and Health/Fire Science and Risk Management; risk management credentials across industries. PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Current Mayor, City of St. Helens; St. Helens Budget Committee; Scappoose Bay Advisory Council; National Building Trades Opioid Taskforce; ANSI A10 Construction and Demolition; HAMMER/ Department of Energy Hazardous Materials Federal Training Center. RESULTS FOR ST. HELENS I ran for office to reshape how City government serves its people by prioritizing transparency, accountability, communication, and community first decision making. Examples include: - Protected taxpayers: I authored and championed an ordinance requiring voter approval before non-utility fees can be added to City utility bills. - Advanced public safety: I helped advance the police station into construction, ensuring taxpayer funds already collected were used for public safety. - Supported economic redevelopment: I assisted with the Arcadia Paper Mill sale, positioning the property for economic growth and redevelopment. THE WORK CONTINUES My priorities are to: - Establish recurring revenue and expand our tax base by attracting family wage employers - Protect 24-hour police coverage and child safety - Support responsible industrial development that considers infrastructure capacity, utility demands, environmental impacts, community benefits, and character of St. Helens - Improve access to City information through transparency, communication, and accountability My background in executive leadership, business, construction, labor, risk management, and budgeting gives me the experience to solve complex problems, safeguard taxpayer dollars, and drive projects to completion. I am not motivated by a title. I am motivated by delivering results for our community. There is more work to be done, and I respectfully ask for your vote to keep St. Helens moving forward. ENDORSEMENTS: - UA Local 290 Plumbers and Steamfitters - St. Helens Police Association - IBEW 48 - Columbia Pacific Building Trades - PMCA JenniferMasseyforMayor.com <i>(This information furnished by Jennifer Massey)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	 Steve Toschi OCCUPATION: I owned and operated my own business for over thirty years, but now I'm mostly retired and I have the time to fight for you. OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: 30 years of civil law practice defending victims from attempted fraud. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: High school graduate, college graduate and a juris doctor. My education and experience are qualifications to help me help the council and you solve the increasingly complex challenges facing our beautiful City. PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: I've been an advocate for the people and businesses of our city for several years including being on the budget committee for three years and drafting a ballot argument against the May 2026 attempt to increase our water fees. I also submitted a ballot argument against the current requested levy in this voter's pamphlet. Planning Commission 2021-2023, which helps with land use issues. I WILL PROTECT THE COMMUNITY NO TAXES/FEE HIKES Plenty of money - millions of dollars - are already available in the budget to fix our roads, <u>to keep our library fully open</u>, and to have top-notch police services. We don't need more taxes. <u>Department cost overruns are out of control</u>. These tax hikes really hurt folks on fixed incomes and working families alike. If you honor me with your vote, I will insist upon and require responsible financial management. Restore the Library: 37,000 library visits last year. A community asset like that should never have been closed, even partially. I will serve our entire community – that means everyone. MAYOR = ETHICS and DUTY TO YOU – I have no conflicts of interest. My wife of 37 years, Robyn, grew up in St. Helens. Her family has been in this area for over 100 years. My nieces and nephews go to St. Helens schools. Preserving the way of life for all families in St. Helens is my top priority. I love this town. Please vote for me because I know WE CAN DO BETTER and with your help we will. Endorsed by: Douglas Morten, Former Councilor Antonia Doggett, Local Artist Janice Zuccarini <i>(This information furnished by Steve Toschi)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

City of St. Helens	City of St. Helens
City Council	City Council
 Sarah Stephenson OCCUPATION: Small Business Consultant OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: HR Professional EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Scappoose High School, Diploma; B.S., Psychology from PSU PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Precinct Committee Person About Me I grew up in Columbia County and chose to build my business and raise my family here in St. Helens, because of this community and its people. I like my neighbors and my community. I value listening with curiosity and seeking to understand, which means treating people with respect and welcoming different viewpoints. Why Vote Sarah for St. Helens As a local small business owner, I spend my days listening to clients, partnering with them to solve problems, and building processes that help their businesses succeed. Those same skills, listening first, then building real solutions, are what St. Helens City Council needs right now. I'm running because St. Helens deserves a council that puts residents first. Here's how I'll do that: • Focus on bringing family-wage jobs back to St. Helens and keeping the city budget in line with what our economy can actually support, instead of continually passing the cost on to voters. • Promote direct communication between the community and public officials, not feedback forums where a PR consultant stands between us, confusing issues and preventing clarity. • Support a thoughtful, deliberate budget process that doesn't introduce chaos and instability into our public service employees' lives. • Direct funding toward the departments that touch daily life most: our Library, Parks and Recreation. • Challenge assumptions and voice concerns of people whose interests aren't currently considered by our local government. I'm running because this city has given me a home and community, and I want to give back by being a Councilor who listens intently, asks honest questions, and makes decisions with the people of this city in mind. St. Helens is my home, and I'm asking you for your vote and the opportunity to serve our city well. Endorsements • Progressive Action for Columbia County • Columbia County Democrats <i>(This information furnished by Sarah Stephenson)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	 Mark Gundersen OCCUPATION: City Councilor; Aid and Assist Liaison, Columbia Community Mental Health. OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Columbia Community Mental Health, 2014 to present; former commercial printing press operator, 20 years. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Eastern Oregon University, Bachelor of Science in Sociology with concentration in Anthropology. PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: St. Helens City Councilor; St. Helens Budget Committee; Scappoose Bay Marine Board; Administration Department and Planning Commission assignments. STEADY LEADERSHIP. INDEPENDENT VOICE. ST. HELENS FIRST. I ran for City Council to represent residents, ask hard questions, and make practical decisions based on what strengthens our community. That remains my commitment. Public safety is a core City responsibility. I will continue fighting to protect dependable police services and ensure our officers have the resources necessary to serve St. Helens, while insisting taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly. My career in community mental health gives me firsthand experience with people navigating difficult circumstances and complicated systems. It has taught me to listen, look beyond easy answers, and focus on solutions that actually work. I also believe strong communities are built long before someone enters City Hall. Years of coaching local youth taught me the value of teamwork, accountability, opportunity, and showing up for the next generation. St. Helens needs responsible growth that strengthens our tax base, supports local businesses, creates opportunity, and protects the character of the community we call home. We need thoughtful planning, quality recreation, safe neighborhoods, and a City government that communicates openly and remembers who it works for. I will not vote for something simply because it is popular, convenient, or expected. I will ask questions, weigh the facts, and make the decision I believe best serves St. Helens. I did not run to be a yes man. I ran to be your voice. I respectfully ask for your vote to continue serving St. Helens with independence, common sense, and integrity. <i>(This information furnished by Mark Gundersen)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

City of St. Helens	City of St. Helens
City Council	City Council
 Daniel A. Grant OCCUPATION: Lead Pastor of Resonate Jesus OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Assistant Pastor; Janitor; English teacher(ESL); Missionary; Swing Driver; In-N-Out Associate; Youth Pastor; Children's Minister; EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Masters of Missiology- Northwest University; Honours (Bachelor of Arts) in Theology- Northwest University; Bachelor of Arts in Psychology- BIOLA PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Deputy Headboy- Allen Glen High School- Appointed 2002; Chairman of the Learners representative council-Elected 2001; Student representative on the school board-Appointed 1998 Leader in various capacities, with 24 year's experience Lead Pastor of a vibrant St Helen's Church Chaplain on the board at the Women's Creekside Clinic Scout Cub Master to Pack 775 Small business owner Toastmasters International Daniel is running for City Council because he cares for his community in a larger capacity beyond leading a local church. He sees politics, and the city council, as a way to serve people NOT control them. He desires to help our community and give a voice to all St Helens' citizens. He has been married to his wife for 18 years, is a father of three amazing teenage boys and has a heart for all families. He wants to uphold our valuable traditions while also taking into account what makes the most sense for everyone in the community. He is a man with a wide variety of skill-sets and life experience including an international upbringing, honors in his post graduate degrees, owning a business, serving on a local community board for the Pregnancy Center and much more. He is a deeply caring and empathetic individual who is always looking for ways to improve the lives of the people around him. He is a careful listener and has a keen mind and desire for study. A Vote for Daniel is a vote for humility, integrity at the highest level and someone who will care for and be of service to you. Daniel needs your vote! <i>(This information furnished by Daniel A. Grant)</i>	 Jeremy Evans OCCUPATION: Actuary OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Actuary in the life insurance and annuity industry, focused on ensuring long-term financial commitments stay funded. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Diploma, South Albany High School, Albany, Oregon (2003); Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, Portland State University (2007); Fellow (FSA, 2014) and Associate (ASA, 2012) of the Society of Actuaries PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Member, City of St. Helens Budget Committee. I chose St. Helens for what it offers: close enough to Portland to matter, far enough to still breathe - rivers, forest, and wildlife outside our door. My wife was born and raised here, with family roots running deep across the city and county. In 2016 we chose to raise our son here, close to family, in the place we now both call home. He's never known another home, and we've never looked back. Choosing this town is why I'm running now. I'm an actuary. My work is making sure the numbers hold up over the long run, not just for one good year. On the city's Budget Committee, I've watched St. Helens do the opposite - patching everyday costs with one-time money, like selling land, while our reserves fall well below the city's own 20% policy floor - short of the two-month cushion recommended as best practice. That's the quiet reason core services get threatened, and it's how a beloved library ends up on the chopping block. I'm running to break that cycle: Protect our library - for real. Not halfway, not year to year. The residents who've shown up repeatedly to fight for it deserve a council that treats the library as essential. I will. Live within our means. I won't gamble with your money. Match spending to the revenue we can count on, and rebuild the reserves that carry a city through a hard year. I won't grandstand. I'll do the unglamorous work: read the budget, ask the hard questions, hear every side, and protect what makes St. Helens home. I'd be honored to earn your vote. <i>(This information furnished by Jeremy Evans)</i>
The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

City of St. Helens	City of Rainier
City Council	Mayor
 Nicholas Hellmich OCCUPATION: QMHA, Assistant Manager, CCMH OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Mortgage, Credit, Financial Councilor, Community Action Team; Branch Manager, Wauna Credit Union EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Southridge High School, 12th Grade PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Appointed Parks and Trails Commission I'm running for St. Helens City Council because I believe our city deserves leadership that puts people before politics. I'm not running for a political party or ideology. If you ask me what party I represent, my answer is simple: my party is the citizens of St. Helens. I believe local government works best when we stop looking at issues as Republican versus Democrat or liberal versus conservative and start asking a more important question: What is best for our community? My experience in the financial industry and nonprofit sector has shaped the way I approach leadership. I understand the importance of responsible budgeting, working within limited resources, planning for the future, and making difficult decisions. But I've also learned that behind every budget, policy, and decision are real people who are affected by the choices government makes. That is why fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability are so important to me. I want St. Helens to have a balanced and sustainable budget, a fully operational library, and reliable city services. I want to bring industry and economic opportunity back to our community while developing recurring revenue that reduces the need to continually place additional financial burdens on residents. I also believe residents deserve a meaningful voice in their government. City Hall should listen before it acts, explain how decisions are made, and be willing to answer difficult questions. I won't agree with everyone on every issue, and I don't expect everyone to agree with me. What I can promise is that I will listen, do my homework, ask questions, and make decisions based on what I believe will best serve St. Helens. I'm running to represent neighbors, families, workers, businesses, and residents across our community. I'm running for the citizens of St. Helens—because they are the only party I answer to. <i>(This information furnished by Nicholas Hellmich)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	 Vanessa Meza OCCUPATION: Home Care Aide (HCA) OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Win Co Foods was my previous employer. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: I graduated from Bonita High School PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: I assisted a friend with her campaign and have worked at voters' polls. Hello, my name is Vanessa Meza. I was born in California in Arcadia. I do not agree with California politics for those of you that would be worried about this. I moved up from California in 2015 and moved to Rainier in 2017. I started getting involved in the community in 2018, volunteering at Rainier Days with my family. Most of our community service has been in St Helens because my son was taking taekwondo classes there three days a week. Mental Health Fairs, Megga Egg Hunt, taekwondo fundraising, and Halloween festivities just to name a few. I have an Associates Degree in Business and took government classes. I was the parent president for the Head Start Program in California, an ambassador for four out of six clubs in college, a part of student council in college and very heavily involved in the community with many activities and events that were taking place throughout several years. With over 25 years of experience selling advertising, I have developed social skills, communication skills and the ability to come up with solutions to issues at hand. I always have an answer and a solution for anything. A very good friend of mine said, "If you want something done, ask a busy person. You are a busy person." I am committed to the community, and eager to learn from everyone about what is important as a community. Dedication is the key to getting those things done. Being involved is what I do. Currently, I am a licensed Home Care Aide (HCA) in Longview. Being prepared for emergencies is a priority when dealing with people who have disabilities. Emergency preparedness is my middle name. I am quick with a whip when it comes to dealing with crisis situations. <i>(This information furnished by Vanessa Meza)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

City of Vernonia	City of Vernonia
Mayor	Mayor
 Charlie Kibben OCCUPATION: Retired; Vernonia Christian Church Elder OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: United States Army Colonel Retired, 1984-2013; Vernonia Small Business Owner, 2020-2023; Vernonia Senior Center Board and President, 2020-2025 EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: University of Phoenix, Doctorate in Leadership and Management; Central Michigan University, Master of Science in Administration; Methodist University, Bachelor of Arts with Honors in History PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: None My family and I have lived in Vernonia for over 24 years, and I have a deep appreciation for this community. I take great pride in our small town, and it has been my honor to serve my church, the Vernonia Senior Center, and our local American Legion. As a former small business owner and longtime resident, I understand the challenges we face here in Vernonia. I am committed to serving all the citizens of Vernonia with the intention to see that every voice is valued and everyone has a sense of empowerment. Priorities: Accountability: I understand budgets, strategic planning, and the importance of details. I will always advocate for enforceable accountability and transparency. I believe we must establish and sustain trust between our local government and the community to promote an environment that prioritizes the needs of Vernonia. Livability: Vernonia deserves good schools, beautiful parks, public safety and great infrastructure. My experience in leading large and diverse organizations has enabled me with the ability to solve complex problems using a commonsense approach. I know how to work collaboratively with fellow citizens to focus on making life better for all Venorians. Recreation: We have one of the most beautiful towns in Oregon. Our parks, rivers, trails, and lake provide an abundance of recreational activities. I will always strive to take good care of our local treasures to ensure Vernonia continues to be a great place to live and raise a family. Endorsement: Rick Hobert, Current Mayor of Vernonia <i>(This information furnished by Charlie Kibben)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b)) <td>  Susan Wagner OCCUPATION: Retired; eBay business owner since 1997 OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Community Action Team, Contract Coordinator and Resource Developer; Columbia County Flood Recovery, Volunteer; Vernonia & Monument School Districts, Special Education Assistant; Home Depot EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Santa Monica college; Southern California Institute of Architecture; California State University, Northridge PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: 2016-2020, 2022-current: Elected, Vernonia City Councilor; 2026 Vernonia School District Budget Committee; 2018- appointed to Columbia County Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC); 2019- appointed to Columbia County Economic Advisory Committee; 2010-2015: Vernonia Planning Commission, Member, Vice-Chair, Chair; 2012- 2025, Vernonia School District Board Member, Elected; 2011-14, 2016-current: City of Vernonia Budget Committee (Chair, Vice Chair and Citizen Member various years) I moved to Vernonia from Colorado with my husband and daughter in summer 2006. We were drawn to Vernonia for its location and its people. We knew Vernonia would be an amazing place for our daughter to grow up. When the flood hit on December 3, 2007, I knew I needed to step up and give back to the community that had become my chosen home. I showed up at City Hall, volunteered to help and ended up being hired by Community Action Team in January 2009, working until retiring in May 2025, serving CAT's clients, those most in need throughout Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties. I firmly believe in investing in my community as I am able, financially or in voluntary or elected roles. I love being part of the solution, working with my neighbors, listening to my fellow community members, and helping Vernonia continue moving forward in a sensible and level-headed manner. I've always believed you can't just say " someone should do something," without being willing to step up and be that someone. I want to continue to be that someone, to continue to serve you and our community, as your Mayor. My broad and varied experience and background has served the community well as a member of the City Council and I hope you will honor me with your support as I step up to the role of Mayor. <i>(This information furnished by Susan Wagner)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b)) </td>	 Susan Wagner OCCUPATION: Retired; eBay business owner since 1997 OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Community Action Team, Contract Coordinator and Resource Developer; Columbia County Flood Recovery, Volunteer; Vernonia & Monument School Districts, Special Education Assistant; Home Depot EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Santa Monica college; Southern California Institute of Architecture; California State University, Northridge PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: 2016-2020, 2022-current: Elected, Vernonia City Councilor; 2026 Vernonia School District Budget Committee; 2018- appointed to Columbia County Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC); 2019- appointed to Columbia County Economic Advisory Committee; 2010-2015: Vernonia Planning Commission, Member, Vice-Chair, Chair; 2012- 2025, Vernonia School District Board Member, Elected; 2011-14, 2016-current: City of Vernonia Budget Committee (Chair, Vice Chair and Citizen Member various years) I moved to Vernonia from Colorado with my husband and daughter in summer 2006. We were drawn to Vernonia for its location and its people. We knew Vernonia would be an amazing place for our daughter to grow up. When the flood hit on December 3, 2007, I knew I needed to step up and give back to the community that had become my chosen home. I showed up at City Hall, volunteered to help and ended up being hired by Community Action Team in January 2009, working until retiring in May 2025, serving CAT's clients, those most in need throughout Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties. I firmly believe in investing in my community as I am able, financially or in voluntary or elected roles. I love being part of the solution, working with my neighbors, listening to my fellow community members, and helping Vernonia continue moving forward in a sensible and level-headed manner. I've always believed you can't just say " someone should do something," without being willing to step up and be that someone. I want to continue to be that someone, to continue to serve you and our community, as your Mayor. My broad and varied experience and background has served the community well as a member of the City Council and I hope you will honor me with your support as I step up to the role of Mayor. <i>(This information furnished by Susan Wagner)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

City of Vernonia	City of Vernonia
County Council	County Council
 Gary Brown OCCUPATION: Service Manager for 8 years at local Cat Dealership OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: I spent 35 years with a Caterpillar dealership in the Sacramento, California area. During the last 20 of those years, I served in supervisory and management roles, leading teams, overseeing daily operations, mentoring employees, and focusing on delivering high-quality service and customer satisfaction. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: San Juan High School, Completed 12th grade with Diploma in 1981; American River Community College, 2 years, Studied Heavy Equipment PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Have served two years on the Vernonia City Budget Committee, and recently started serving on the Vernonia Parks Committee. I have lived in Vernonia for a little over three years. My family and I moved here from Citrus Heights, California, seeking a community with a true small-town atmosphere, and we found exactly that. We fell in love with Vernonia from the very beginning. For the past two years, I have attended most City Council meetings to better understand how our local government serves the community. I have also served on the City's Budget Committee for two years and recently joined the Parks Committee. These experiences have given me a greater appreciation for the work that goes into making Vernonia such a wonderful place to live. I have worked for Caterpillar dealerships for 43 years and have served in supervisory and management roles for the past 32 years. Throughout my career, I have developed strong leadership, communication, budgeting, and problem-solving skills. I believe one of my greatest strengths is listening to others, understanding different perspectives, and working collaboratively to find practical solutions. I am running for City Council because I want to give back to this community and help preserve the small-town character that makes Vernonia so special. If elected, I will listen carefully, make thoughtful and responsible decisions, and always serve with integrity, respect, and common sense. I would be honored to earn your trust and your vote. I have also been endorsed by the current Mayor Rick Hobart. <i>(This information furnished by Gary Brown)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	 Joseph Dombek OCCUPATION: Retired physician OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: 25 years as a chiropractic physician, 10 of those years in Vernonia; Fisheries biologist on the Bering Sea in Alaska; Lab tech in artificial insemination industry; Warehouse forklift driver; Manager, Domino's Pizza; Flag car driver up and down East coast delivering manufactured homes; Horseracing track restaurant; Baskin Robbins; Roofer's helper; Stone mason's helper EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Wyoming Valley West HS, Pennsylvania – Diploma; Pennsylvania State University - BS Microbiology; Western States Chiropractic College - Doctor of Chiropractic PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Elected as Constable - Kingston, PA; Precinct Committee Person - Columbia County OR Working in Vernonia over the past 10 years has allowed me to get to know and serve many of our community here as a physician. I would be honored to now serve our community on the city council. <i>(This information furnished by Joseph Dombek)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

OREGON VOTING RIGHTS

(Not all encompassing)

1. You have the right to vote if you are a US citizen, are a resident of Oregon, are 18 years old and are registered to vote.
2. You have the right to receive a new ballot if, prior to returning your ballot, you make a mistake.
3. You have the right to receive assistance in casting your ballot.
4. You have the right to vote even if you have a guardian and even if you need help reading or filling out your ballot.
5. You have the right to use a signature stamp or other mark but first you have to fill out a form. No one can sign for you.
6. You have the right to leave some choices blank on your ballot. The choices you do mark will still count.
7. You have the right to vote if you are in line to return your ballot at any official drop site by 8 PM on Election Day.
8. You have the right to cast a secret ballot.
9. You have the right to cast a “provisional ballot” if your name does not appear on the voter roll.
10. You have the right to know if your ballot, was counted.
11. You have the right to vote even if you are homeless.
12. You have the right to vote if you have been convicted of a felony once you have been released from custody, even if you are on probation or post-prison supervision.
13. You have the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of State if you think your voting rights have been denied.

(Oregon Constitution, Sections 2 and 3; ORS Chapters 137, 246, 247, and 254; Vote By Mail Manual; Help America Vote Act of 2002; OAR 165-001-0090 and 165-007-0030)

VOTER REGISTRATION

Qualifications to register to vote

To register to vote in Oregon, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of Oregon
- At least 16 years old

If you are not yet 18 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

How to register to vote

ONLINE. Register to vote online at www.oregonvotes.gov.

MANUALLY. Complete Oregon Voter Registration Card. Registration cards are available at any county elections office or at designated state agencies, including the Department of Motor Vehicles and some public assistance agencies.

When to update your registration

Update your registration if your

- Residential address changes,
- Mailing address changes,
- Your name changes, or
- You wish to change political affiliation.

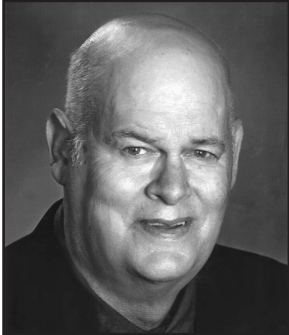
Registration Deadline

A new registrant must register to vote by the 21st calendar day before an election to be eligible to vote in that election.

Am I registered to vote?

If you are already registered or think you might be registered to vote, visit www.oregonvotes.gov to:

- check if you are registered to vote
- view your registration information
- update your voter registration
- find contact information for your county elections office

Clatskanie Peoples Utility District	Columbia River People's Utility District
Director, Subdivision 3	Director, Subdivision 5
 Jeannie Mustola OCCUPATION: Clatskanie Parks & Recreation District - Pool Manager & Operator OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Finance-Consumer/ Commercial Lending, Wauna Credit Union EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Clatskanie High School- Diploma PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Clatskanie People's Utility District- Director, Subdivision #3, 2020 to present As your current Clatskanie PUD Subdivision #3 Director, I am proud to serve our community and remain committed to providing reliable, low-cost power while making thoughtful decisions for the future. Our PUD continues to provide some of the lowest electric rates in the state. Maintaining that advantage requires careful planning, strategic financial management, and a continued focus on controlling costs while making wise investments in the long-term reliability and strength of our system. I believe our community is best served by making practical use of the resources available to us. That means supporting responsible power generation and taking advantage of renewable energy resources that help keep costs low while maintaining a reliable supply of electricity. As a publicly owned utility, our responsibility is first and foremost to the people we serve. I will continue to support thoughtful, practical decisions that prioritize affordability, reliability, responsible generation, and the long-term financial health of our PUD. I would be honored to continue serving our community as your Clatskanie PUD Subdivision #3 Director and working to ensure our locally owned utility remains reliable and positioned to serve our community for generations to come. <i>(This information furnished by Jeannie Mustola)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))	 Neal Sheppard OCCUPATION: Retired OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Thirty-five years in the public works field. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Graduated St Helens High School; Certificate of Management, Portland Community College PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Five years as Director, Subdivision 5 of the Columbia River People's Utility District After retiring in 2019 I looked for options to stay active and become more involved in a way where I could contribute more to my community. A perfect opportunity presented itself when I applied for the opening on the Columbia River PUD Board of Directors in 2020. After going through the interview process, I was honored to be offered the position to represent the citizens of Subdivision Five and in 2022 I was elected to serve a full 4-year term. My thirty-five years of experience in the public utility field gives me the appropriate background to make informed decisions and ensure that the Columbia River PUD continues its mission to provide excellent and reliable service at an affordable and competitive cost to its customers. It would be my privilege to be elected to the Columbia River PUD Board of Directors to serve another term, using my background and experience to represent the citizens of Subdivision Five. <i>(This information furnished by Neal Sheppard)</i> The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

If you make a mistake that cannot be corrected, call the Columbia County Elections Office (503) 397-7214 and **request a replacement ballot**. One will be mailed to you provided the request is received within time for mailing. Otherwise, you may pick up a replacement ballot in person.

What if I don't vote on everything on the ballot?

Your ballot will still be counted. If you choose not to vote for a particular office or measure, this is tallied as an "undervote", and the rest of the ballot will count as you intended.

What if I don't sign my return envelope?

You will be sent a notice in the mail that you have not signed your ballot. Follow the instructions on the notice to remedy your unsigned ballot and it will be counted. You must remedy your ballot by the 21st day after the election for it to be counted.

What if I sign my spouse's return envelope?

This is a common occurrence, call Columbia County Elections Office (503) 397-7214 to receive specific instructions on how to remedy this (single line through bad spouse signature and good spouse sign in adjacent space) OR you can request a new ballot.

What if I don't put my ballot into the secrecy sleeve?

Your ballot will still be counted. The secrecy sleeve is purely optional, and the ballot return envelopes now have a security weave incorporated in them.

What if I don't receive my ballot?

If you are a registered voter and don't receive your ballot the week after ballots are mailed out, call the Columbia County Elections Office at (503) 397-7214.

Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District

Director, Zone 1



Paul M. Gibbons

OCCUPATION: Clatskanie's veterinarian at PippinDoc, 5 years; Small farm operator at Pippinstock, 8 years

OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND: Veterinarian since 1994; Mixed animal country practice: 3 years; Wildlife, exotic, companion animal independent contractor, 11 years; Conservation medicine UC Davis Wildlife Health Center, 3 years; Chief operating officer Turtle Conservancy international conservation, 8 years

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: UC Davis residency and MS in conservation medicine; University of Illinois Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; Saint Louis University BS in biology

PRIOR GOVERNMENTAL EXPERIENCE: Board Secretary, Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, elected in 2024

My wife and I own and operate a 34-acre farm in Clatskanie, including 20 acres of forest and 1,000 feet of Conyers Creek. We provide eggs, vegetables, herbs, and foraged forest products to support our community's food security. PippinDoc, my veterinary practice, is dedicated to helping the people of Clatskanie to care for our companion animals.

For eight years, we have attended Lower Columbia River Watershed Council meetings, and the Council helped us secure grant funding to plant more than 700 native trees and shrubs on our property. I now serve as Vice Chair of its Board. Our involvement with the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District began in 2021, when it built upon the Watershed Council's work, securing a larger grant to stop bank erosion, improve shade, control reed canary grass, and reactivate salmon spawning grounds on our land.

In 2024, in response to community concerns about Conservation District staff and management, I ran for and was elected to the Board. Over the past two years, we completed the District's first strategic planning process in more than 15 years, hired an experienced and effective Executive Director, and refocused the District's priorities back to its core mission: supporting landowners whose livelihoods depend on healthy soil and water.

If elected, I will continue implementing the District's renewed focus on bringing both economic and conservation success to the working lands of north Columbia County.

(This information furnished by Paul M. Gibbons)

The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county. (ORS 251.335 (3b))

VOTING- EASY STEPS

Complete Your Ballot

1. Vote your ballot.

Look at your Official Ballot. Find the candidate or measure response (YES or NO) of your choice for each contest. To vote, completely darken the oval to the left of the response of your choice with black or blue ink.

To vote for a write-in candidate, one whose name does not appear on the Official Ballot, completely darken the oval to the left of the solid line provided for the office and write the full name of the candidate on that line.

2. Review your ballot.

Make sure you have correctly marked your choice for each contest. Your official ballot may contain contests printed on both front and back.

3. Get ready to return your ballot.

Place the ballot in the return identification envelope. You may choose to use the optional secrecy sleeve or not, election staff have processes in place that protect the secrecy of your ballot regardless.

Read the Voter’s Statement on the return envelope and sign on the signature line. Your ballot will not be counted if the return envelope is not signed. Every signature is checked against the registration signature on file and the signatures must match for the ballot to be counted.

4. Return your ballot.

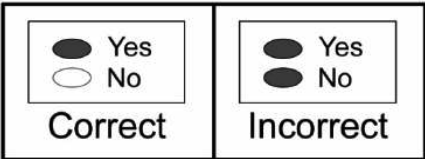
- **By mail:** Return postage is prepaid. Your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day. Please be aware of the USPS pick up time of the location you are using on Election Day, as only picked up ballots would receive the timely postmark.
- **In person at an official drop site:** Deliver the signed and sealed return envelope to any official drop site no later than 8pm on Election Day.

CHECK YOUR BALLOT

Completely fill in the oval next to your choices.

Check for overvotes.

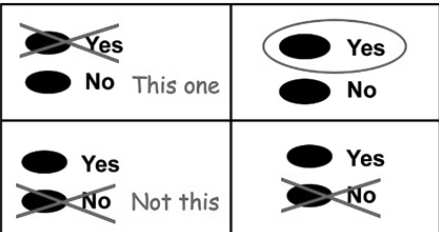
If you vote for more candidates than allowed for an office or if you vote both ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ on a measure, it is called an overvote. Your vote will not count for that candidate or measure.



If you make a mistake or change your mind while marking your ballot, you may request a replacement ballot from the Elections office or you may make your changes to your ballot on hand.

If you make changes to your ballot choices, make your choice obvious. Election workers will inspect each ballot to make sure your intent is understood and the ballot is counted correctly.

Examples of how to make your intent clear are below.



You do not have to vote in all contests. Your other votes will still count.

You cannot change your vote once you have mailed or dropped off your ballot.

Contact Columbia County Elections to ask for help if:

- you make a mistake
- your ballot is damaged
- your ballot is lost
- or for any other reason.

Columbia County Elections (503) 397-7214
elections@columbiacountyor.gov

Measure 5-314

BALLOT TITLE

COLUMBIA COUNTY TRANSIENT LODGING TAX MEASURE

QUESTION: Shall Columbia County implement a County-wide transient lodging tax to be paid by lodgers?

SUMMARY: Columbia County proposes County-wide transient lodging tax which would be added to the retail price paid for lodging in hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, RV parks, campgrounds, vacation rentals and other similar transient lodging facilities for stays less than 30 days.

For lodging in cities that collect a transient lodging tax, the County will charge 4% of the retail price. In unincorporated Columbia County and in cities that do not collect a transient lodging tax, the charge will be 13% of the retail price. Lodging operators and intermediaries, such as Airbnb, may retain a percentage of tax collections to cover their costs. 50% of the net County lodging tax will be dedicated for tourism promotion, tourism related facilities, and/or resilience grants for small businesses in the restaurant and lodging industry. The remaining 50% will be used to support County services. This measure is expected to raise approximately \$150,000 to \$300,000 annually. Upon approval of this measure, the County will implement the transient lodging tax by ordinance consistent with applicable statutes and administrative rules.

Under Oregon law, revenue from any newly established local lodging tax must follow strict funding distributions. 50% of net revenue must be dedicated exclusively to funding tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities within the County. Examples of tourism programs that may be funded include improvements to the County Fairgrounds and County Parks and resiliency grants for small businesses in the restaurant and lodging industry. The remaining 50% may be allocated to the County general fund to support County services that rely on the General Fund, which include the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, the Juvenile Department and several others.

The TLT will be collected directly by lodging operators or online booking intermediaries (such as Airbnb and VRBO) at the time a guest pays for a stay. These operators will remit the collected funds quarterly. The County intends to contract with the State of Oregon to collect TLTs for the County in order to avoid an additional administrative burden on operators.

In 2003, the Oregon Legislature passed a transient lodging tax law that allowed cities and counties in Oregon to collect local transient lodging taxes. Since that time a majority of counties and cities in Oregon have adopted transient lodging taxes.

Submitted by:
Casey Garrett
Board of County Commissioners, Vice Chair

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Over the last 2 years the County needed to implement mandatory furlough days for general fund employees, reduce general fund positions by 14 FTE, use one-time resources, and sell County assets to balance the General Fund budget.

The County's General Fund is made up almost exclusively of property taxes which by law cannot increase more than 3% annually. Because expenses are growing faster than revenues, the County is facing the need to cut and/or reduce the quality of mandated and discretionary services funded by the General Fund.

A Report issued in 2019 reviewed the County's fiscal sustainability and identified transient lodging taxes (TLTs) as a revenue generating tool that does not raise property taxes and shifts the impact to County visitors who put burdens on the County's systems but do not pay property taxes.

The County proposes establishing a new County-wide Transient Lodging Tax. The TLT will be paid exclusively by guests staying in temporary lodgings-such as hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, campgrounds, RV parks, and short-term vacation rentals for less than 30 consecutive days. Long term renters would not pay a tax on rent.

The tax structure will account for existing city TLTs to prevent inequitable burdens. If approved, the TLT rates will be implemented as follows:

13% in all unincorporated areas of Columbia County, as well as inside incorporated city boundaries that do not collect their own local TLT;

4% inside the boundaries of cities that collect a city TLT.

The County intends to implement a reduced rate for overnight lodging in Columbia County Parks for Columbia County residents.

NO ARGUMENTS FOR THIS MEASURE WERE FILED.

Measure 5-314

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Taxpayers Association of Oregon urges

Vote NO on Measure 5-314.

4 REASONS TO OPPOSE THE COLUMBIA COUNTY LODGING TAX

Vote NO on the countywide transient lodging tax.

#1. Up to 13% on Every Overnight Stay.

In unincorporated Columbia County and in cities that don't already tax lodging, this measure adds a 13% tax to every hotel, motel, B&B, RV park, campground, and vacation rental stay under 30 days.

#2. It Taxes Small, Local Businesses First.

This isn't a tax on out-of-state corporations — it's a tax on family-run motels, campgrounds, and short-term rental hosts who now have to collect, report, and remit a brand-new tax to the County.

#3. Only Half Goes to Tourism.

The County's own numbers show only 50% of the new revenue is dedicated to tourism promotion and small-business resilience grants. The other half goes straight into general county government services — not the industry paying the tax.

#4. It's an Open-Ended Estimate.

The County estimates this will raise \$150,000 to \$300,000 a year — a wide, uncertain range that leaves voters guessing what they're actually approving. Visitors already pay state and local taxes to stay in Columbia County. A 13% surcharge makes local lodging less competitive against neighboring counties — and hands County government a new, permanent revenue stream with no sunset date.

VOTE NO on the Columbia County Transient Lodging Tax Measure.

**Join the movement to keep taxes low
& stop government waste, fraud and abuse
at OregonWatchdog.com (since 1999)**

Submitted by:
Taxpayers Association of Oregon

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Taxpayers Association of Oregon urges

Vote NO on Measure 5-314.

TOURISTS TODAY, WHO TOMORROW?

Every new tax starts small and sounds reasonable. Columbia County's lodging tax is no different — until you read the fine print.

A 13% tax on every overnight stay in unincorporated areas. **No sunset clause.** No rate cap. And a funding formula that hands half the money to general county government rather than the tourism industry actually paying the bill.

The County's own notice admits the new revenue could be as little as \$150,000 or as much as \$300,000 a year — a number vague enough that even the County isn't sure what it's asking voters to fund.

This is how permanent taxes get built: start with visitors, who don't vote in local elections, then let the revenue stream become a permanent line in the county budget that nobody has to revisit. Once the collection system is in place, raising a lodging tax later is a lot easier than creating one from scratch.

Local motel owners, campground operators, and short-term rental hosts will spend the next several months building new billing systems, filing new paperwork, and explaining a new charge to every guest — for a tax whose exact purpose the County can't yet define with precision.

NO on 5-314

**Join the movement to keep taxes low
& stop government waste, fraud and abuse
at OregonWatchdog.com (since 1999)**

Submitted by:
Taxpayers Association of Oregon

Measure 5-312

BALLOT TITLE

POLICE SERVICES, CHILD SAFETY, 24/7 POLICE PATROL LOCAL OPTION LEVY

QUESTION: Shall St. Helens levy \$1.46 per \$1,000 assessed value for 24/7 police operations, child protection, five years beginning 2027-28? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: This measure would authorize the City of St. Helens to enact a five-year local option property tax levy at \$1.46 per \$1,000 of assessed value beginning fiscal year 2027-28. Levy proceeds would be deposited into a dedicated police fund, used only for police purposes, and not used for non-police services.

Beginning July 1, 2027, proceeds from the levy would fund:

1. Investigations referred by Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), addressing local crimes against children including child exploitation.
2. One detective who would initiate child exploitation and protection investigations, serve as liaison with ICAC, and serve as a School Resource Officer; and
3. Maintain consistent, continuous 24/7 police patrol coverage during the term of the levy that will otherwise be unfunded.

This is a property tax levy and would not be charged on utility bills.

If the measure is not approved, the City will be unable to have a detective dedicated to child protection, child exploitation and as School Resource Officer or maintain 24/7 patrol coverage after July 1, 2027.

The estimated tax cost for this measure is an **ESTIMATE ONLY** based on the best information available from the County Assessor at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate. The estimated total amount of money to be raised for each year of the proposed local option tax would be approximately:

\$1,730,000	2027-28
\$1,782,000	2028-29
\$1,835,460	2029-30
\$1,890,525	2030-31
\$1,947,240	2031-32
Total	\$9,185,225

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This measure would authorize a five-year local option property tax levy for St. Helens police funding, and collections will begin in 2027. Costs for police services the City plans to fund exceed property tax revenues by more than \$2 million.

For the current fiscal year, 2027-28, the City has arranged bridge financing that will maintain current police staffing levels until June 30, 2027. Without additional revenue beginning July 1, 2027, the City would need to reduce police staffing or find other revenue.

As a result of the \$2 million shortfall, such police services cannot be funded from existing city revenues. This measure would provide police services at the current level for five years. The levy would begin in fiscal year 2027-28 (collected beginning 2027) and would be imposed at a rate of \$1.46 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Levy proceeds would be deposited into a dedicated police fund and used only for police purposes. The proceeds from the levy would fund:

1. Investigations referred by Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) concerning local child protection and child exploitation. ICAC is a network of over 6,200 agencies investigating child exploitation and crimes against children. ICAC refers more cases to the City than it can investigate without a detective dedicated to such investigations;
2. One detective who would serve as initiating investigator of crimes against children and child exploitation, serve as liaison with the ICAC, and as a School Resource Officer; and
3. Continuous 24/7 police patrol coverage.

This measure is a local option property tax levy. It would not be charged on utility bills. Levy proceeds may not be used for non-police purposes.

The levy is estimated to raise \$1,730,000 in FY 2027-28, \$1,782,000 in FY 2028-29, \$1,835,460 in FY2029-30, \$1,890,525 in FY2030-31, and \$1,947,240 in FY2031-32 for an estimated five-year total of \$9,185,225.

At the proposed rate, the annual cost would be \$146 for property assessed at \$100,000, \$292 for property assessed at \$200,000, and \$438 for property assessed at \$300,000. Property taxes are based on assessed value, not market value.

If the measure is approved, the City would receive dedicated police funding for five years. It will allow for the police department to continue to investigate crimes against children, including child exploitation crimes, provide one detective who would serve to initiate such investigations and as a School Resource Officer, and provide consistent police patrol services 24/7.

If the measure is not approved, the City will not have a detective dedicated to crimes against children including child exploitation, coordinating with ICAC, and serving as School Resource Officer, and the City will be unable to maintain 24/7 patrol coverage.

Submitted by:
Jennifer Massey
Mayor, City of St Helens

Measure 5-312 Arguments

ARGUMENT FOR

As Columbia County Sheriff, I understand the public safety demands facing our communities, but I also understand the financial and staffing realities of providing those services.

St. Helens is facing a REAL POLICE FUNDING AND STAFFING PROBLEM. Saying that is not fear mongering. It is simply acknowledging what happens when an agency does not have enough people or resources to handle the calls for service its community expects.

I also want St. Helens residents to understand **WHAT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CAN AND CANNOT DO.**

CCSO DOES NOT HAVE THE STAFFING OR FINANCIAL CAPACITY TO SIMPLY TAKE OVER THE CITY OF ST. HELENS' POLICE WORKLOAD IF CITY POLICE SERVICES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. Columbia County covers approximately 657 square miles. Our deputies already cover a large geographic area while responding to emergencies, investigating crimes, serving civil process, assisting other agencies, performing search and rescue, patrolling the waterways within Columbia County, and handling the many other responsibilities of a county sheriff's office. **We have staffing and budget limitations of our own.**

Mutual aid is an important part of law enforcement, and we will always help our neighboring agencies when we can. But **MUTUAL AID IS NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR A POLICE DEPARTMENT.** When one agency loses significant capacity, the calls don't go away. Someone still has to answer the phone, respond to the emergency, investigate the crime and help the victim. That responsibility simply gets shifted to agencies that are already working hard to cover their own communities.

This isn't about politics. It's about making sure people have someone available when they need law enforcement.

ST. HELENS NEEDS ENOUGH POLICE OFFICERS TO SERVE ST HELENS, AND THAT ALLOWS CCSO TO SUPPORT THE, NOT ONLY SHPD, BUT ALSO THE REST OF THE COUNTY.

I support **MEASURE 5-312** because I believe maintaining reliable local law enforcement is important to protecting victims, officers, families, and our entire community.

SHERIFF BRIAN PIXLEY

Columbia County Sheriff

Submitted by:
Brian Pixley
Columbia County Sheriff

ARGUMENT FOR

As Columbia County District Attorney, **I see the consequences of crime long after the emergency lights are gone.** By the time a case reaches my office, its strength depends heavily on the quality of the investigation that came before it.

- **Evidence must be preserved.**
- **Witnesses must be found and interviewed.**
- **Digital records must be secured.**
- **Search warrants must be supported.**

- **Victims must be heard, protected, and kept engaged.**
- **Follow-up must occur.**

THE BURDEN OF PROOF DOES NOT BECOME LOWER BECAUSE A POLICE DEPARTMENT IS UNDERSTAFFED.

I understand that if Measure 5-312 fails, St. Helens Police staffing is projected to fall from **19 SWORN OFFICERS TO 9.** From a prosecutor's perspective, **I cannot fathom how a department reduced to that level could continue handling the same volume and complexity of cases it handles today without serious consequences.**

Serious crimes will still occur. Child abuse, domestic violence, sexual offenses, exploitation, and other violent crimes will still require extensive investigative time. But lower-level crimes matter too. Theft, property crimes, vandalism, fraud, and other offenses affect victims and the quality of life in a community. With dramatically fewer officers, some of those cases may receive limited follow-up or may not be investigated to the extent residents expect because personnel must be prioritized toward urgent calls.

Measure 5-312 would maintain **continuous 24/7 patrol coverage** and provide **dedicated investigative capacity for child exploitation and child protection cases**, including coordination with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and School Resource Officer responsibilities.

PROSECUTORS CANNOT RECREATE EVIDENCE THAT WAS NEVER COLLECTED.

We cannot replace an investigation that staffing did not allow to be completed. Once critical evidence is lost, a courtroom cannot simply bring it back.

THAT IS THE GRAVITY OF THIS DECISION.

- **Victims deserve more than a report number.**
- **Children deserve specialized attention.**
- **Our community deserves a justice system with the capacity to investigate serious crimes and hold offenders accountable.**

FOR THOSE REASONS, I SUPPORT MEASURE 5-312.

Submitted by:
Joshua Pond
Columbia County District Attorney

ARGUMENT FOR

My name is Janelle Adams, and through my work with the **Columbia Sexual Assault Response Network**, I have spent years alongside people during some of the most traumatic moments of their lives.

When someone experiences sexual violence, abuse, exploitation, or violence against a child, making the decision to tell someone can take extraordinary courage.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THEY FINALLY ASK FOR HELP MATTERS.

Victims need more than an initial police response. They need investigations completed. Evidence must be gathered. Interviews must occur. Follow up matters. Cases involving children, sexual exploitation, and abuse can require significant time, specialized training, coordination, and persistence.

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

Measure 5-312 Arguments

This measure provides a detective dedicated to child exploitation and child protection investigations, serve as St. Helens' liaison to the **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force**, and provide **School Resource Officer responsibilities**.

WITHOUT ADEQUATE STAFFING, THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES DO NOT DISAPPEAR.

- **The victims do not disappear.**
- **The investigations do not disappear.**

They simply compete for the limited time of fewer officers who are also answering emergencies, domestic violence calls, crashes, disturbances, thefts, assaults, welfare checks, and every other call our community generates.

THAT IS WHAT CONCERNS ME MOST.

A victim who finally finds the courage to speak should not enter a system stretched so thin that officers simply do not have the time and resources necessary to give these cases the attention they deserve.

CONTINUOUS 24/7 PATROL COVERAGE. For victims of violence, abuse, or exploitation, there is no convenient hour for a crisis. These events happen at night, on weekends, and behind closed doors.

When someone reaches out for help, someone needs to be available to answer.

And after that first response, someone needs the capacity to continue the investigation.

- **Behind every case number is a person.**
- **Behind every child exploitation investigation is a child.**
- **Behind every sexual assault report is a survivor whose life has been changed.**

WE CANNOT FORGET THEM WHEN WE TALK ABOUT POLICE STAFFING

That's why adequate public safety resources matter.

Submitted by:
Janelle Adams
Columbia Sexual Assault Response Network- CSARN

ARGUMENT FOR

I was born in St. Helens in 1929. At 97 years old, I have spent nearly my entire life watching this community grow and change. Through all those years, one thing has always mattered to me: feeling safe in the place I call home.

My husband was a police officer. I understand what it means when an officer answers a call in the middle of the night, responds to a frightened family, arrives at a medical emergency, or simply provides reassurance when someone is alone and afraid.

Today, I still live independently. I value that independence deeply. But independence also depends on knowing that help is available when it is needed. **If I fall, become ill, hear someone outside my home, or face an emergency, response time matters. Sometimes minutes matter.**

I have watched St. Helens grow from the small town of my childhood into the city it is today. Growth is inevitable, but

losing the sense of safety and community that made St. Helens special does not have to be.

I live carefully. I am on a limited income, and I understand better than most that every dollar matters. I do not take additional costs lightly. But I also know that there are some things a community cannot afford to lose.

Public safety is one of them.

Our children deserve protection. Families deserve help when they call. People living alone deserve to know someone will respond. Our officers need enough staffing to be there when an emergency happens.

At 97, I have learned that communities are not measured only by what they build. They are measured by how they care for one another.

For me, protecting that sense of safety, security, and community is worth fighting for. To my fellow citizens please join me in voting YES!

Submitted by:
Betty Spady Haas

ARGUMENT FOR

As a former law enforcement officer, someone involved with our schools, and a community member who cares deeply about children, **I look at Measure 5-312 first through the eyes of our kids.**

CHILDREN ARE AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE WE ARE ENTRUSTED TO PROTECT.

Measure 5-312 would fund a detective dedicated to child exploitation and child protection investigations, serve as St. Helens' liaison to the **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force**, and serve as a **School Resource Officer**.

That matters. Children facing exploitation, abuse, threats, or online predators need trained investigators with the time and resources to pursue those cases. Students, parents, teachers, and school staff also benefit from having a direct connection with local law enforcement.

24/7 PATROL COVERAGE IS ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN RESPONDING TO CRIME.

Police officers can be among the first emergency responders to arrive. When seconds matter, trained officers may begin CPR, administer emergency aid, provide naloxone, or take other lifesaving measures while additional medical help is still responding. Federal public health guidance recognizes law enforcement as part of the first responder system and specifically addresses lifesaving interventions such as naloxone and CPR.

The City's official ballot title states that without Measure 5-312, **CONTINUOUS 24/7 POLICE PATROL COVERAGE WILL BE UNFUNDED AFTER JULY 1, 2027.**

PUBLIC SAFETY ALSO AFFECTS THE FUTURE OF ST. HELENS.

We want businesses and industry to invest here, **create jobs, expand the tax base, and help reduce the burden on existing residents.** The City's own economic development planning identifies attracting new businesses, restoring

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Measure 5-312 Arguments

industrial property to the tax rolls, and increasing revenues to reduce the burden on residents as important goals.

BUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY CANNOT BE SEPARATED.

Businesses and families considering a community care about crime, theft, fraud, emergency response, schools, and whether adequate police services exist to protect people and property.

For me, this comes back to something very simple.

- **Children deserve protection.**
- **Families deserve help when they call.**
- **Officers need enough staffing to respond safely and effectively.**
- **And a community that wants to grow must maintain the public safety infrastructure necessary to support that growth.**

Those are the services and the future at the center of Measure 5-312. Join me in voting YES!

Submitted by:
Reed Hjort

ARGUMENT FOR

OUR CHILDREN SHOULD NEVER BE AN AFTERTHOUGHT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY.

Measure 5-312 addresses critical responsibilities of our Police Department:

- **Protecting children**
- **Investigating child exploitation**
- **Maintaining a connection with our schools**
- **Keeping local police patrol available around the clock**

NO ADDITIONAL STAFFING

The measure would **maintain** a detective dedicated to child exploitation and child protection investigations. That detective would also serve as St. Helens' liaison to the **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force** and as a **School Resource Officer**.

Children cannot always protect themselves. Families should know that when something serious happens, there is a trained local investigator focused on these cases. Students should know there is a trusted law enforcement presence connected to their schools. Parents should know their community takes online exploitation, abuse, threats, and child safety seriously.

BUT PROTECTING CHILDREN DOES NOT STOP AT THE SCHOOL DOORS.

Without the additional police funding, St. Helens is projected to go from **19 SWORN OFFICERS TO ONLY 9**. That is a loss of more than half of the sworn officers available to serve our city.

Nine sworn officers would be responsible for:

- patrol shifts
- emergencies
- investigations
- domestic violence calls
- crashes
- welfare checks
- disturbances
- arrests

- crimes in progress
- other calls day and night

CRIME DOES NOT KEEP BUSINESS HOURS. EMERGENCIES DO NOT WAIT UNTIL MORNING. A CHILD IN DANGER CANNOT BE TOLD TO CALL BACK WHEN STAFFING IS AVAILABLE.

The City's official ballot title states that without Measure 5-312, **CONTINUOUS 24 HOUR POLICE PATROL COVERAGE WILL BE UNFUNDED AFTER JULY 1, 2027.**

THIS IS NOT A MINOR REDUCTION IN SERVICE. It would fundamentally change the level of local police protection available in St. Helens.

- **Our children deserve protection.**
- **Our schools deserve a direct connection to local law enforcement.**
- **Our families deserve help when they call.**
- **Our officers deserve enough people beside them to safely do the job our community asks them to do.**

MEASURE 5-312 PLACES THAT PUBLIC SAFETY DECISION DIRECTLY BEFORE OUR COMMUNITY.

Submitted by:
Citizens for a Safe St. Helens
PAC 25128

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Measure 5-312 Arguments

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Two tax increase requests in one year! Let's get a government that works for us, not the other way around. Don't reward mismanagement of your money by parting with more of your money. 85% of you voted against the water fee in May 2026. You sent a strong message to the city council to better manage your tax dollars. But, the current administration ignored you--disrespected you really-- by immediately placing a higher tax on the ballot and borrowing a million dollars rather than managing the overruns. There is no need to almost double your city portion of your property taxes. There are millions in the budget to cover full police services, 24hrs. a day. Our problem is lack of accountability. St. Helens officer top salaries are \$96,000 a year, plus pension and medical. According to Ziprecruiter, St. Helens police salaries are 5.4% above the State average. But some officers are being paid more than \$200,000 a year due to overtime and bonuses, and several more than \$180,000 a year, plus pension, plus benefits. (Source: actual pay records from the city obtained via the Freedom of Information Act). We are building a new police station, our water rates are being raised, a police fee is on our water bills, and the police budgets have been raised 138% in 10 years while our population has increased by only 7%. The rejection of this levy is an easy decision. We can provide top pay in the State for these essential services without the new tax/levy. We need new leadership at the government level to bring the spending into control in all departments. We need leadership that isn't putting personal gain ahead of the interests of the people. Voting "no" on this tax only solves part of the problem. You have the chance to right the ship with your vote. We can do better and it starts with this -election.

Submitted by:
Steve Toschi

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

As a retired culinarian and bakeshop instructor, I am on a fixed income. I closely watch my pocketbook, and I know others in town who do, as well. We all struggle to keep up with rising expenses, therefore waterbill hikes and fees are especially troubling!

When we voted in May 2026, 85% of us rejected the \$24.00 monthly water fee increase request. Voting that out was OUR STRONG MESSAGE to city government for more prudent management of town finances.

But did they listen? NO! And they are still NOT listening! At All! They have NOT reduced spending. City finances are still running terribly amuck!!

So, what is THEIR solution to this deficit?
They NOW slap a PROPERTY TAX LEVY on the ballot!
PEOPLE -- Vote NO on this tax levy that will substantially raise your property taxes and renters' monthly rents, as well. Say no, VOTE NO! NO TAX LEVY!

PEOPLE - HOW DO WE STOP THESE CITY FINANCIAL PROBLEMS?

People -- we need change in our city government NOW!
VOTERS -- we have the opportunity NOW to vote out the present problematic officials who are running for office again. We have the opportunity NOW to cast our votes bringing NEW BLOOD into our city government positions.

New blood, that will be fair, equitable, not raise fees or taxes, and manage our city money with our best interest in mind.
New blood that will NOT pump hordes of money into one and

only one city department here in town. New blood with NO biases. New blood WITHOUT conflicts of interest. New blood that will value all city departments, and work to fund each responsibly. New blood that will keep our precious library and other community resources financially solvent.
SAY YES to NEW politicians who will manage our money closely and BE OUR FIDUCIARIES.

VOTE NO ON THIS TAX LEVY!
VOTE NO ON THE GOVERNMENT WHO BROUGHT IT TO YOU.

Thank you.

Submitted by:
Janice M Zuccarini

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Many people who live in St Helens are barely getting by and are facing hard times. The cost of living increases while their income does not. In May 2026, voters overwhelmingly rejected--by 85%-- the \$24.00 water fee request on the ballot.

But this rejected fee is a small thing when compared with what the proposed levy will add: an estimated \$300-\$700.00 fee per year per homeowner, forcing some with fixed incomes out of their homes.

Through our taxes we already can and do support the police with generous salaries and lifetime pensions upon completion of their service. But we cannot afford this levy. Support measures that will encourage tourism in a fiscally prudent manner while taking the needs of citizens into account. Vote to restore hours to the wonderful library that provides countless opportunities for children and our community at large. Vote for informed responsible leaders with these goals.

But say NO to this levy and NO to those in our city government who are not being good stewards of taxpayers' money.

Submitted by:
NM Jarrell

Measure 5-313

BALLOT TITLE

APPROVAL OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS LEVY FOR FIVE YEARS

QUESTION: Shall Columbia City impose \$1.95 per \$1,000 of assessed value for police department operating revenue for five years beginning 2027-2028? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: The City of Columbia City is submitting to voters for approval a levy of \$1.95 per \$1,000 of assessed value for a period of five years beginning in fiscal year 2027-2028. The City currently has a five-year levy of \$0.90 per \$1,000 assessed value; however, that levy is due to expire after the 2026-2027 tax year. This levy would replace the current levy. The tax revenue from this measure will be used to provide funding to the City Police Department so they can continue to provide protection services for the citizens and businesses of the City. If this measure does not pass, the City will be required to reduce police services.

The amount of funds raised by this proposed levy for each of the next five fiscal years is estimated to be as follows: \$450,861.00 in fiscal year 2027-2028; \$464,387.00 in fiscal year 2028-2029; \$478,318.00 in fiscal year 2029-2030; \$492,668.00 in fiscal year 2030-2031; and \$507,448.00 in fiscal year 2031-2032; for a total of \$2,393,682.00.

Submitted by:
Kim Karber
City Administrator/Recorder

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Columbia City is proposing a five-year local operating levy at a rate of \$1.95 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If approved, this levy will begin in fiscal year 2027-28 and is estimated to raise approximately \$2,393,682 over five years. One hundred percent of the tax revenue will directly fund personnel, equipment, and daily operational costs for Columbia City police protection.

Columbia City maintains one of the lowest permanent property tax rates in Oregon (\$1.1346 per \$1,000). Except for Prescott (population 84), it has the lowest tax rate in Columbia County. Since Columbia City is primarily a residential “bedroom community” with minimal taxable commercial or industrial developments, the vast majority of local funding relies directly on homeowners.

In 2010, the City Council identified police protection as a critical General Fund service, but the total tax revenue generated by the City’s existing permanent tax rate fell short of funding a staffed Police Department, so a levy became necessary. Columbia City residents have reliably supported local law enforcement through local option levies for fifteen years. The initial \$0.67 levy approved in 2011 was successfully renewed in 2016, and adjusted to \$0.90 in 2021. The current measure replaces the expiring 2021 levy to ensure uninterrupted public safety coverage.

This local option levy is for \$1.95 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a home with an assessed value of \$300,000, this represents a total annual investment of \$585.00 (about \$1.60 a day) dedicated strictly to local public safety. This represents an increase of \$315 per year (about \$0.86 per day) over the current police levy, which expires in June of 2027. Property taxes are based on assessed value, not market value.

The current police levy is being subsidized by diverting funds from the City’s General Fund operating resources, and is not sustainable. If the measure is not approved, the City will be forced to reduce police protection services or cut other City services.

NO ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST THIS MEASURE WERE FILED.

Clatskanie Parks & Recreation

Measure 5-315

BALLOT TITLE

FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION TAX FOR PARK OPERATIONS

QUESTION: Shall Clatskanie Park and Recreation District impose \$0.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value for park operations beginning in 2027-2028? This may cause property taxes to increase more than three (3) percent.

SUMMARY: The Clatskanie Park and Recreation District will use tax revenue from this measure for daily park maintenance, make repairs to aging infrastructure, including the swimming pool, park maintenance and pool staffing. Without this additional revenue the district's continued ability to maintain the pool and park buildings with staff and equipment could be in jeopardy. The proposed rate will raise approximately \$111,490 in 2027-2028, \$115,950 in 2028-2029, \$120,587 in 2029-2030, \$125,411 in 2030-2031 and \$130,427 in 2031-2032 for a total of \$603,865. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the County assessor at the time of the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.

For a home assessed at \$400,000, the proposed levy will add an additional \$40.00 per year to the owner's tax bill or \$3.33 per month to a monthly mortgage payment.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Clatskanie Park and Recreation District is an important part of our community. Implementing a five-year local option levy to support park and pool operations would provide funding to maintain the level of service our community has grown accustomed to.

Currently, the District employs two part-time maintenance staff members from April through September and one part-time maintenance staff member from October through March. However, the park requires maintenance year-round. Additional levy funds would allow for improvements in safety, accessibility, and recreational opportunities.

To offer competitive wages and operate the swimming pool seven days a week--with lessons, exercise classes, and open swims--the optimum number is 20 to 22 lifeguards, a manager, and an assistant manager. Unfortunately, the current budget cannot sustain this level of pool staffing while also supporting necessary park maintenance staff.

The District's permanent tax rate was established in 1960 at \$0.3483 per \$1,000 of Columbia County assessed value. This rate is no longer adequate to fund staffing, maintenance, and aging-infrastructure needs.

The levy would be in effect for five years, beginning with the 2027-28 fiscal year. At a levy rate of \$0.10 per \$1,000 of Columbia County assessed value, the cost for a home assessed at \$400,000 would be \$40 per year.

As costs for employees, maintenance, repairs, equipment, and daily operations continue to rise, it is important that we protect the park, swimming pool, and facilities that make our park the "Jewel of Our Town."

Submitted by:
Glenn Raschke
Clatskanie Parks & Recreation District, Board Director

NO ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST THIS MEASURE WERE FILED.

BALLOT RETURN

You may vote your ballot and return it as soon as you receive it. Ballots may be returned via mail or at a drop box. Return Methods:

Mail: Return postage is prepaid. Your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day. Please be aware of the USPS pick up time of the location you are using on actual Election Day (only picked up ballots will receive the timely postmark).

Drop off: - Deliver as soon as possible to an official drop box by 8:00 pm Election Day. Ballots may be delivered to any official ballot drop box in Oregon. Ballots received in this manner after 8pm will not count.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
BALLOT DROP SITE LOCATIONS**

24-Hour drop-off is available at all locations.

Columbia County Courthouse
230 Strand St, St Helens

Scappoose City Hall
33568 E. Columbia Ave

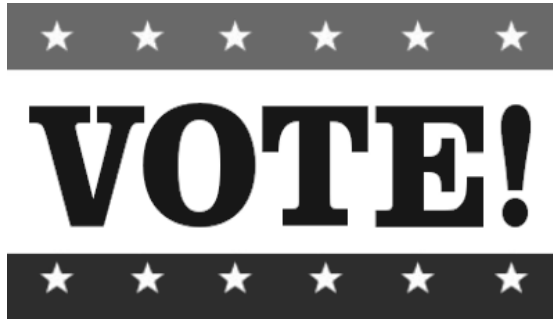
Clatskanie Library
11 Lillich St, Clatskanie

Rainier City Hall
106 W. B St, Rainier

Vernonia Public Library
701 Weed Ave, Vernonia

Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD
12525 Oregon Highway 202, Mist

END OF COLUMBIA COUNTY VOTERS’ PAMPHLET
REMEMBER TO CHECK BOTH SIDES OF YOUR BALLOT.



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