

## Front Page News

# RCC looks to fill board seat that has attracted little interest

By Chris Bristol of the Daily Courier

Do you live in Central Point or Gold Hill or Rogue River and care about Rogue Community College, good governance and public service?

For the second time in two years, the college is casting about for a new board member who lives in Zone 3, a portion of northwestern Jackson County that includes Central Point as well as Gold Hill, Rogue River and even Wimer.

Meeting on Tuesday at the Table Rock Campus in White City, the board declared a vacancy for the Zone 3 seat held by Jeff Lang, a banker who had served the last two years on an interim basis as an appointee.

The seat is open after Lang chose not to stand for election in May, nobody else filed for the seat, and the top vote-getter out of 362 write-in votes was found afterward to be unqualified.

The same scenario played out in 2021, when Lang's predecessor, Shawn Hogan, chose not to seek reelection. Nobody filed and the top write-in candidate was disqualified due to residency rules.

Board chair Pat Fahey said the board wants to fill the seat as quickly as possible. A map showing the boundaries of the seven RCC board zones can be found at [rogucecc.edu/board](http://rogucecc.edu/board), and the Jackson County Elections office, 541-774-6148, can answer more specific questions about residency requirements.

The interim appointment runs for two years and will appear on the next regular district election, currently set for May 2025. At that time, the elected candidate will serve the remainder of the four-year term, which expires June 30, 2027.

Tuesday's meeting was the last for longtime board members Patricia Ashley and Claudia Sullivan, who were unseated in last month's election by Jonathan Bilden and Indra Nicholas, respectively. The newcomers will be sworn in next month.

Ashley and Sullivan both said they will miss their time on the board.

"I think this is the best group in town," said Ashley, a retired television producer from the Eagle Point area who had served since 2007 and was its most senior member.

The seven-member board — five in Jackson County and two in Josephine County — is responsible for programs, budgets, policies, college contracts and supervision of the college president.

Board meetings are held once a month on the third Tuesday of each month, with periodic special meetings and committee work. Meetings rotate between the RCC campuses in Grants Pass, Medford and White City, as well as via Zoom.

For an application or more information, contact Rachelle Brown at 541-956-7001 or [rbrown@rogucecc.edu](mailto:rbrown@rogucecc.edu).

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Reach city editor Chris Bristol at 541-474-3716 or [cbristol@thedailycourier.com](mailto:cbristol@thedailycourier.com).

