

## Community

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# Merkley announces town halls in Roseburg, Ashland, GP

Daily Courier



**Mark Jones**  
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U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley has announced he will be making public appearances on a swing through Southern Oregon next weekend.

Merkley will first hold a town hall in Roseburg on Saturday, March 2, then will travel to the Rogue Valley for town halls the next day, March 3, in Ashland and Grants Pass.

The Portland Democrat said he has held more than 540 town halls across the state since taking office in 2009 and has never failed to keep his promise to hold an open town hall for each of Oregon's 36 counties every year. His town halls locally in 2021 and 2022 were held virtually because of the pandemic.

"There is simply no substitute to hearing directly from folks about the ideas and priorities that matter most to them and their communities," he said in a statement on Friday. "Oregonians' thoughts help shape my work in Congress, including positions on policies, ideas for bills, and strategies for securing resources for every corner of our state."

Merkley's last town hall tour in 2023 came on Feb. 5, 2023, when he appeared at RCC in Grants Pass and at Lone Pine Elementary School in Medford.

The schedule next weekend is as follows:

- Saturday, March 2, Douglas County town hall, 5:30 p.m., Umpqua Community College, Southern Oregon Wine Institute.
- Sunday, March 3, Jackson County town hall, 12:30 p.m., Ashland High School gymnasium.
- Sunday, March 3, Josephine County town hall, 3:30 p.m., Rogue Community College, Redwood Campus student center, Grants Pass.

Oregon's other senator, Ron Wyden, had planned to visit the Rogue Valley earlier this month but canceled because of unanticipated voting in Washington.

His last town hall in Southern Oregon was on May 24, 2023, at North Valley High School in Merlin. Prior to that, he appeared at Phoenix High School on April 8, 2023.