

# Oregon U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley hosted a town hall in Ashland Sunday

- [By: Luke Doten](#)

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ASHLAND, Ore. – Oregon U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley hosted a town hall meeting in Ashland to talk to Southern Oregonians about issues important to them. This is one of a series of town halls with another happening Sunday night in Josephine County.

Attendees had the chance to ask Senator Merkley questions about proceedings in the senate and his thoughts on issues they face. Some of the most popular issues with Jackson County residents were aid packages for Ukraine and Israel, drug use and housing.

NewsWatch 12 talked to Senator Merkley before the town hall. He told NewsWatch 12 that his biggest responsibility this legislative session was to secure as much money as possible for the state to tackle these issues, such as drug addiction.

“We're spending so much on jails and incarceration, can we do a lot more instead to treat addiction as a public health challenge,” Merkley said. “ My role as a U.S. Senator for Oregon is to try to get as much in resources to the state as possible.”

The crowds' favorite question was when a 12-year-old asked Senator Merkley about the average day for a U.S. Senator.

Senator Merkley has another town hall Sunday night at the Rogue Community College Redwood Campus Student Center at 5:30 p.m.