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ELECTION 2026: Your guide to the Nov. 3 ballot in Jackson County

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Races for Congress, Oregon Legislature, city and county posts, plus local measures, go before voters; mail-in ballots sent out Wednesday, Oct. 14

Editor's note: Look for updates to this story as election developments warrant.

Voters in Jackson County will decide on races for Congress, the Oregon Legislature, city and county races and several ballot measures in the Nov. 3 general election.

Ballots were being mailed out Wednesday, Oct. 14, to all registered voters. New voters should have registered by Oct. 13 to be included in the upcoming election.

The Voters' Pamphlet with information on each candidate, including endorsements, was mailed out Oct. 7-9.

See the Jackson County Voters' Pamphlet online here.

See the state Voters' Pamphlet online here

Signed and sealed ballots must be returned to an official ballot drop site by 8 p.m. on election day. Drop boxes open Oct. 14 and are located in Medford, Central Point, Rogue River, Eagle Point and Shady Cove.

Find official ballot box locations at https://jacksoncountyor.gov/departments/elections/ballot_box_locations.php

Election Results

Preliminary election results will be posted online after 8 p.m. on election night at: https://jacksoncountyor.gov/

Additional information about the Nov. 3 general election is available online at: https://jacksoncountyor.gov/departments/clerk/elections/index.php

If voters need assistance with voting or casting their ballot, they are encouraged to call the Jackson County Elections Office at 541-774-6148.

Election 2026 Guide

Measures

15-243 in Ashland

Requiring Voter Approval for New or Increased Fee or Tax

QUESTION: Should Ashland's Charter be amended to require voter approval of a City of Ashland Utility Bill Fee or Tax?

15-244 for Jackson County Vector Control

Five-Year Local Option Levy for Vector (Mosquito, Fly) Control

QUESTION: Shall District impose five-year operating levy of $.05/$1,000 of assessed value beginning FY2027-28? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than 3%.

Candidates

Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Two seats on the Jackson County Board of Commissioners are up for grabs Nov. 3.

Incumbent Republican Colleen Roberts, first elected to the board in 2014, is in a race against Democrat Isabella Lee Tibbetts, who grew up in Phoenix, for Position 3. Roberts campaign message touts her advocacy for improved wildfire policies for the region, ensuring timber funding from Oregon and California Railroad Revested (O&C) Lands and said she hoped to prioritize delisting of the grey wolf from the endangered species list due to impacts of the growing population on ranchers and farmers. Lee Tibbets campaigned on improved access to local government, enhanced disaster preparation and improved mental health and addiction resources for the region.

Republican Rick Dyer, an attorney who has owned several businesses in Jackson County, was elected alongside Roberts in 2014 and will also face a Democratic challenger, former Silicon Valley tech manager Lyndi Reichenbach, for Position 1. Dyer's campaign touts his work to creatively fund capital improvement projects including the multi-use facility at the Expo.

Jackson County Elections Clerk Chris Walker, who has held the role since 2008, is running unopposed for another four year term. Jackson County Sheriff Nate Sickler, first elected to his role in 2018, is also running unopposed.

State and federal

State Senate District 3

A trio of candidates will face off to replace Democrate Jeff Golden, who initially planned a bid for reelection but withdrew from the race in February. I a challenge to the two-party system, Independent/Green Party candidate Clay Bearnson is facing off against Democrat Denise Krause and Republican Brad Hicks. Bearnson, a former Medford City Council member, has campaigned for campaign finance reform, expanded election access and universal healthcare.

Krause, a former longtime hospital administrator, has campaigned on affordability, housing, education and protections for vulnerable populations. Hicks, a former Medford Chamber CEO, campaigned on a slogan of "Bringing the ABC's back to Salem: Affordability, Balance, and Common Sense."

State House District 5

Seeking reelection for State House District 5, which covers southern Jackson County, incumbent Rep. Pam Marsh, D-Ashland, will face off against Republican Alexander Krigsvold, who did not appear to have a campaign page. A former Ashland City Council member and head of a nonprofit providing drug and alcohol treatment, Marsh was first elected to the Legislature in 2016 and has served on committees focusing on homelessness, education, energy and the environment.

State House District 6

Representing areas in Southern Oregon including the city of Medford and much of Jackson County, State House District 6 incumbent Kim Wallan, R-Medford, will face a challenge by Democrat John Holm. Wallan's campaign page speaks to her work in making Oregon more business-friendly, fighting illegal cannabis grows and modernizing forest management. Holm, a disabled Medford resident who does not have a campaign page, has previously spoken of fighting for wage fairness.

OR District 2 Congress

In the race for Oregon's District 2, which covers two-thirds of the state including most of Eastern Oregon east of the Cascades as well as Jackson and Josephine counties, Democrat Chris Beck will seek to unseat incumbent Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario.

First elected in 2020, Bentz has been criticized for discontinuing town halls and declining campaign debate invitations, reportedly due to audience behavior. Bentz's legislative page touts his work to defend the economic and resource interests of rural Oregon, including work to have gray wolves delisted from the endangered species list and to ensure environmental groups are following laws intended to hold them accountable.

Beck, a Democrat and former Oregon legislator living in Phoenix, is campaigning on Social Security, rural health care, federal spending and other issues impacting rural Oregon. Beck served as a state representative from 1997 to 2003. Beck's campaign page declares that Oregonians "deserve a representative that shows up."

City candidates

Ashland City Council

Ashland voters, for the first time, will choose among candidates running for at-large, open council seats rather than individually numbered positions, according to www.Ashland.news. Under the new system approved in 2024, the top three finishers out of 12 will earn four-year terms, while the fourth-place finisher will serve a two-year term. [See more coverage: Election 2026: Ashland City Council candidates say why they're the best choice]

The dozen candidates include Ashland School Board member Dan Ruby; Southern Oregon University graduate Aydin Timmons; union steward for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Jack Buckley; the former owner of the Black Sheep Pub & Restaurant, Clarinda Merripen; a member of the Social Equity and Racial Justice Advisory Committee, Brandon Polanco; Linda

Adams, the board secretary of Trusted Homes, an Ashland nonprofit community land trust; longtime Ashland resident Kerry Kencairn, who is a current member of the Ashland Planning Commission; Ronan Kilkelly, a longtime Ashland theater electrician and union steward for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; Brian Hellwig, a self-employed sales and marketing consultant and father of two; Victoria Slaboda, a stagehand specialist for OSF; and Teresa Cisneros, a nonprofit executive who has been on the Governor's Racial Justice Council.

The only incumbent council member to seek reelection is Bob Kaplan.

Ashland Parks Commission

Ashland voters will also appoint three new parks commission members to four-year terms from a list of five. None of the current commissioners — Jim Bachman, Justin Adams, or Rick Landt — are seeking reelection. Commissioners Mike Gardiner and Dan Weiner's terms on the five-member commission run through 2028.

Contenders for three available seats include Alison Wren, an Asante nurse and mountain bike coach; musician David Young; Jeff Bonnington, a retired professional who moved to Ashland about a decade ago; Michael Dotson; executive director of the Ashland conservation organization Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center; Russ Feingold, an integrative health practitioner; Brian Long, an outdoor school education assistant.

Municipal Judge, 4 Year Term, Vote for One

Ryan Mulkins (incumbent)

Central Point City Council

In the race to fill three Central Point City Council seats, only one of three four-year terms will see a contested race. Incumbent Neil Olsen will seek reelection to his Ward 1 position and incumbent Sarah Roberts will seek to retain her Ward 3 seat. For Ward 2, Adam Korth, a curriculum and content development creator for Rogue Creditor Union, will face off against, Jerry

De La Fuente, a training manager for Ledcor US Heavy Civil and Mining, to replace outgoing incumbent Kelley Johnson.

Eagle Point City Council, mayor

Available seats for the mayor and three city council members are uncontested in Eagle Point. Incumbent Mayor Kathy Sell is seeking reelection. Of three four-year council member positions, incumbent councilor Bradley Hewitt is seeking reelection. Two council newcomers are vying for appointment to two council seats, being vacated by Council President Kevin Walruff and councilor Jessica Welch.

Local business owner and longtime community member Michael Stanek, and district controller for Southern Oregon Education Service District and CPR instructor Colton Cochran are each running unopposed for those two seats.

Gold Hill City Council, mayor

In the race for the Gold Hill mayor's seat and three council positions, current Council President Melia Biedscheld — a retired speech pathologist — will appear on the ballot to replace outgoing Mayor Ron Palmer, who is not seeking reelection. Four candidates will appear on the ballot to fill three available council positions; incumbents Sherylene Stancliff, Joe Berggren and Rick Martin will seek reelection with newcomer Bob Davis-Guy, a retired nuclear medicine technologist and beekeeper, will offer a fourth option. Voters will be asked to vote for three of the four.

Jacksonville City Council

In the race to fill three four-year terms on the Jacksonville City Council, three candidates will vie uncontested for three available seats; incumbents Andrew Hellenthal, a national manager for National Manager for Terracon Consulting, and attorney Talon Reed will seek reelection while retired business executive Beth Lindsay is running to fill the seat being vacated by incumbent Kenneth Gregg.

Medford City Council

Three of four available seats on the Medford City Council will see a contested race in the Nov. 3 election. For Ward 1, Brian Sjothun, retired Medford city manager, is running unopposed to fill the seat of outgoing Council President Jessica Ayres, who will not seek reelection.

Three remaining seats bring multiple candidates for voters to choose from. For Ward 2, three newcomers will contend for the seat being vacated by current Ward 2 councilor Zac Smith — U.S. Dept. of Agriculture hemp compliance and enforcement officer and Medford School District board member Michael Williams; Kids Unlimited director of educational services Beto Vargas; and Chris Ryan, regional operations manager for BELFOR Environmental and Compliance.

For Ward 3, incumbent Kevin Stine, a local educator and provider of naval military funeral honors, will seek reelection in a race against Jefferson Baroque Orchestra Director Abigail Mace.

Ward 4 incumbent Nick Card, VP of operations for his family's trucking business, Combined Transport, will vie for his seat in a race against a newcomer, Rogue Community College instructor Alan Jackson.

Phoenix City Council, mayor

Four available seats — mayor and three city council members — are all uncontested. Mayor Al Muelhoefer will run unopposed for another two-year term while incumbent council member Michael Shunk will seek reelection to one of three four-year terms. Newcomers Kim Hosford, a school psychologist, and Tim Larive, a real estate appraiser, are running to replace incumbents Angie Vermillion and City Council Vice President Larry Dickson, who are not seeking reelection.

Rogue River City Council

Three available four-year terms will appear on the ballot with three unopposed incumbent candidates; Dee Copley, Mark Allen Minegar and Sherrie Moss are all running to serve another four-year term.

Shady Cove City Council, mayor

Following the July recall of former Mayor Lean Richardson, races in Shady Cove are all uncontested.

John L. Scott principal broker Terry Rasmussen will seek the office of mayor. Incumbent council member Paige Winfrey and business analyst and Shady Cove Emergency Management Commission member Natalie Swedener are running to fill a pair of available four-year terms, while retired accounting software consultant and newcomer Samuel Clark is seeking voter appointment to an unexpired two-year term.

Talent City Council, mayor

The race to fill the mayor's seat and four council positions in the city of Talent City Council election will come with a mix of familiar names and newcomers — all uncontested.

Longtime mayor Darby Ayers-Flood and incumbent council members Haleigh Martin and Eleanor Ponomareff did not file for re-election. For the mayor's seat, Daniel Collay, executive director of the Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, is running to serve a four-year term.

For four available council seats, incumbent Colette Paré-Miller will seek another four-year term in Position 1. Newcomer Donna Ruiz, co-owner of Back Door Art Studio and Gallery, is running to fill a two-year unexpired term for Position 2. Position 3 incumbent Nicole Greider is seeking another four-year term. Kevin Smith, a newcomer and construction project manager, is running unopposed to serve a four-year term.

Butte Falls Town Council, mayor

Butte Falls voters will choose a new mayor and vote to fill three council positions. Newcomer Gerald Scriven will seek to replace outgoing Mayor Trish Callahan, who is not seeking reelection. Council positions 4, 5 and 6 are all four-year terms; incumbent Stacy Equitz is running unopposed; incumbent Jerry Scriven will face off against Loretta Ellis; newcomer Doug Ownby will seek a four-year term for Position 6.

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