

JOSEPHINE COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Official Primary Election | **May 21, 2024**

Dear Josephine County Voter,

Your county voters' pamphlet for the **May 21, 2024 Primary Election** has been inserted within the state pamphlet in a cost-savings cooperative effort between Josephine County and the Secretary of State. Each page of your county voters' pamphlet is clearly marked with a gray color bar on the outside edge. Please read through your pamphlet as it will provide you with information regarding the candidates that are printed on your ballot. Your pamphlet contains candidate statements submitted by those who have chosen to pay the required fee for their information to appear in your pamphlet.

Since this is a primary election, the Democratic and Republican parties will use this election to nominate their candidates for the November 5, 2024 General Election. Please remember that your ballot will only contain the candidates and measures for which you are eligible to vote. The content of the ballot you receive is dependent upon your party affiliation and the districts in which you reside.

- If you are registered with a major political party (**Democratic or Republican**), you will receive your party's nominating ballot that will contain the candidates of your party along with any nonpartisan races and measures.
- If you are registered with a minor political party (**Constitution, Independent, Libertarian, No Labels, Pacific Green, Progressive, Working Families**) or have listed **Other** as your party selection, you will receive a nonpartisan ballot with only nonpartisan races and measures.
- If you are not registered with any political party (**Not a member of a party**), you will receive a nonpartisan ballot with only nonpartisan races and measures.

If you are a registered voter and have not received your ballot in the mail by Thursday, May 9th, please call your County Clerk's office at (541) 474-5243.

ENCOURAGE YOU TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE: it's your choice and it's your voice!

Sincerely,



RHIANNON HENKELS
Josephine County Clerk & Recorder

Are you registered to vote? The receipt of this voters' pamphlet does not guarantee you are a registered voter. You may check your registration status at www.oregonvotes.gov or by contacting your local elections office at (541) 474-5243. The deadline for new registration and party updates is **April 30, 2024**. Additional voter registration information is available in the state portion of your voters' pamphlet.

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ATTENTION: This is the beginning of the Josephine County voters' pamphlet. The county portion of this joint voters' pamphlet is inserted in the center of the state's portion. Each page of the county voters' pamphlet is clearly marked with a gray color bar on the outside edge. All information contained in the county portion of this pamphlet has been assembled and printed at the request of County Clerk Rhiannon Henkels.

Translation Information

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/JosephineVP**

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

주 유권자 팜플렛의 선택된 부분은 한국어 준비되어 있습니다. 번역은 온라인 **oregonvotes.gov/JosephineVP** 에서 찾아볼 수 있습니다.

Отдельные части брошюр избирателей этого округа доступны на русском языке. С данными переводами можно ознакомиться в Интернете по адресу: **oregonvotes.gov/JosephineVP**

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

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/JosephineVP**

HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE:

1. Complete your ballot

To vote, completely fill in the box next to your choice.

To vote for a person not on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the “write-in” line, then neatly write the name of the person on the line provided.

You do not have to vote on all contests. Those you do vote on will still count.

2. Check for errors

If you vote for more options than are allowed, your vote **will not count** for that contest.

If you think you made a mistake, call the Josephine County Elections Office.

If you would like to change your choice on a contest, draw a solid line through your original choice, then make your next selection.

3. Optional: Use the “secrecy” sleeve

If you use the optional “secrecy” sleeve, put only your voted ballot (not another person’s ballot) inside. Then, put only your secrecy sleeve inside your return envelope.

(If we receive an envelope with more than one ballot inside, all enclosed ballots are rejected and not counted.)

You are not required to use the “secrecy” sleeve.

4. Sign your return envelope

You must sign your return envelope or **your vote will not count.**

We verify every signature on every envelope against the voter files.

5. Return your ballot

- By mail – Stamps are no longer required (ballot return envelopes in Oregon now use prepaid postage)
- At any Official Ballot Drop Site (see list on the back of this pamphlet)
- At the County Clerk’s/Elections Office

WHAT IS A PREPAID POSTAGE ENVELOPE?

You don’t have to find a stamp

With prepaid postage, you no longer have to search for a stamp to mail back your voted ballot.

All ballots in Oregon will be sent to voters with a prepaid postage return envelope.

How does it work?

If you mail back your voted ballot, the Post Office will charge the State of Oregon for each ballot sent back to an Elections Official.

Only those ballots sent back through the mail will be charged to the State.

What about Drop sites?

Using one of Josephine County’s 8 drop sites is faster, cheaper and will reach us before the deadline.

Return your ballot

- By mail (must be postmarked by Election Day)
- At any Official Ballot Drop Site (see list on the back of this pamphlet)
- At the County Clerk’s/Elections Office

WHAT ABOUT POSTMARKS?

Beginning January 1, 2022, **postmarks can count.** However, your ballot must be:

- Signed,
- Postmarked on or before Election Day,
- Received by the County Clerk’s Office within seven days after Election Day.

Josephine County Elections

web: www.josephinecounty.gov
email: clerk@josephinecounty.gov

ph: (541) 474-5243
tty: (800) 735-2900

PRECINCT COMMITTEEPEOPLE

What is a Precinct Committeeperson?

If you are a member of the Democratic or Republican party, you will receive a ballot with “Precinct Committeepersons” on it.

- These are people who represent their political party in each precinct on a countywide “Central Committee”.
- Precinct Committeepople help set the party agenda and party platform.
- They act as directors of the local party Central Committee, attend meetings of the committee, help candidates run for office, and conduct the business of the party.
- Central Committees elect people to represent the county at the state level, and those members select the representatives to the national committees.
- They also help select replacements for vacated state offices (Oregon House or Senate offices).

Voting for Precinct Committeepersons (PCPs):

To qualify as a Precinct Committeeperson (PCP), one must have lived in the county and have been registered in their political party for at least 180 days prior to the Primary Election. A person can represent the precinct in which they live, an adjacent precinct (within the same county) or another precinct within the same House District (within the same county). They serve a two-year term.

A Committeeperson is elected in each precinct for every 250 voters (or major part thereof) that are registered in the precinct as of September 13th (251 days prior to the Primary Election). There is a list showing the positions available as well as a list of current position holders from both parties on our website.

Your ballot will indicate how many offices are available in your precinct. For instance, it would say “Vote For Six” if there are six offices available for your precinct. If you are not registered as a Democrat or Republican, Precinct Committeepersons will not appear on your ballot.

- You **do not have to vote** for any PCPs (yes, the rest of your votes will still count).
- You do not have to complete each available position if you do not want to.
- Where a candidate has filed, mark your selection like any other race.
- If you want to write in a name that is not on the ballot, fill the box next to “Write-in”, then neatly write the person’s name of your choice on the line provided.
- To be elected, a “write-in” candidate must:
 - A. receive at least 3 (three) votes from members of their party in that precinct
 - B. and have filed an SEL 105D before election night
 - C. or someone else needs to have filed an SEL 105N before election night



- Only write-in candidates who have the appropriate SEL 105 D or N form filed with the elections office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Night will have their names listed on official results.

Measure 17-116 Josephine County

Referred to the People by Initiative Petition

17-116

Replacement of Josephine County Charter

QUESTION: Should Josephine County voters repeal the existing Charter and replace it with this updated version?

SUMMARY: This Measure is a proposal to modify the existing Josephine County Charter by repealing the existing Charter and replacing it with the Charter outlined/accompanying this Measure.

This Measure's Charter includes much of the existing Charter within it.

This Measure's Charter modifies Chapters I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII of the existing Josephine County Charter. The modifications to these Chapters include updating/modernizing the language, modifying residency requirements from 6 to 24 months for elective officers, changing the number of County Commissioners, the process for electing County Commissioners, the compensation structure for County Commissioners, establishing a County Manager, modifying Legal Counsel and the Surveyor from elected to appointed positions, and requiring that elective offices are nonpartisan.

also modifies the time for replacing a commissioner vacancy from 30 to 45 days and removes the limitation on Commissioner pay outlined in Section 25.2 of the current Josephine County Charter.

Under the proposed new Charter, Chapter VII removes the enumerated list of rights outlined in the existing Charter (2nd Amendment, 1st Amendment, Due Process) sections 29.1 through 29.10 and replaces it with "[t]he people of Josephine County respect and support the Constitution including all amendments current and future, of the United States and the State of Oregon."

Finally, Chapter VIII of the proposed new Charter outlines "continuity" for the County if this measure is approved by the Josephine County voters, including which Officers remain and for how long, and states that the new Charter goes into effect thirty days after approval from the Josephine County voters.

(This information furnished by Joshua Eastman, District Attorney State of Oregon / Josephine County.)

Explanatory Statement

This measure is a proposal to replace the existing Josephine County Charter with a new Charter that modifies Chapters I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII of the existing Josephine County Charter.

Under the proposed new Charter, Chapter I would require that all elected County Offices be non-partisan and prohibit references to, or affiliations with, any political party. Chapter II's modification states that any powers not enumerated in the Charter still lie with the County.

Under the proposed new Charter, most of the changes are in Chapters III and V. Chapter III modifies the number of Commissioners from 3 to 5, with 1 from each of 4 districts and 1 "at large." The elections for the five Commissioners would be staggered. The four districts are required to be updated every ten years to ensure that the population of each is, and remains, allocated evenly. Chapter III modifies residency requirements for the Commissioners from 6 months to 24 months. It limits the number of consecutive terms for Commissioners to three four-year terms. Chapter III also modifies compensation for Commissioners to 15% of Circuit Court Judge's salary with no benefits. Chapter III also modifies the Commissioners' meetings requirements and allows "authorized media" to be present during executive session.

Chapter V creates a County Manager as the "only appointive officer" and outlines the process for selecting the County Manager and compensation of the position. Chapter VI also removes the "Department Head" process and modifies Legal Counsel and the Surveyor from elected positions to appointed.

Under the proposed new Charter, Chapter IV modifies and expands on "local budget law" and authorizes the County to be a debtor while removing the County Debt Limitation. Chapter IV also removes the "County Animal Control Support" section of the existing Charter.

Chapter VI of the proposed new Charter modifies the residency requirements for the other elected positions from 6 to 24 months and broadens what constitutes a vacancy in office. Chapter VI

Measure 17-116 Josephine County

HOME RULE CHARTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF JOSEPHINE COUNTY

PREAMBLE

We the people of Josephine County, Oregon, in order to avail ourselves of self-determination in county affairs, to the fullest extent now or hereafter granted or allowed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Oregon, by this Charter confer upon the County the following powers, subject to the following restrictions, and prescribe for it the following procedures and governmental structure.

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARIES

Section 1. NAME. The name of the county as it operates under this Charter continues to be Josephine County.

Section 2. NATURE AND LEGAL CAPACITY. Under this Charter the County continues to be an agency of the state under home rule and a body politic and corporate.

Section 3. BOUNDARIES. Under this Charter the boundaries of the County are its boundaries as prescribed by state law at the time this charter takes effect or as modified in accordance with state law after that time.

Section 4. COUNTY SEAT. The county seat of the County government continues to be in the City of Grants Pass.

Section 5. NONPARTISAN. All elective County offices shall be nonpartisan and shall remain so in all subsequent performance of the duties and responsibilities of the office. Petitions, declarations of candidacy or ballot listings shall contain no reference to any political party or to any political affiliation of the candidate.

CHAPTER II POWERS

Section 1. GENERAL GRANT OF POWERS.

Except as this Charter provides to the contrary, the County has authority over matters of County concern to the fullest extent now or hereafter granted or allowed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Oregon, as fully as though each power comprised in that authority were specified in this Charter.

Section 2. CONSTRUCTION OF POWERS.

This Charter shall be liberally construed, to the end that, within the limits imposed by the Charter or the constitution or laws of the United States or the State of Oregon, the County has all powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its affairs, including all powers that counties may now or hereafter assume under the home rule provisions of the constitution and laws of Oregon. The powers are continuing powers, and no enumeration of powers shall be construed to be exclusive or to restrict the authority that the County would have if the particular power were not mentioned.

Section 3. WHERE POWERS VESTED.

Except as this Charter provides to the contrary and subject to the initiative and referendum powers residing in the people of the County,

- (1) the legislative power of the County is vested in, and is exercisable only by the Board of County Commissioners, and
- (2) all other powers of the County not vested by this Charter elsewhere are vested in the Board of County Commissioners and are exercisable only by it or by persons acting under its authority.

CHAPTER III BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Section 1. BOARD OF FIVE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- (1) The Board of County Commissioners, hereinafter called "the Board," shall consist of five Commissioners, one of whom shall be elected at large and four who shall be elected for districts. Each member's vote shall be equally weighted.
- (2) Candidates for the office of District Commissioner shall be nominated from the numbered district in which the candidate resides. Residency must be consistent with the requirements of this Charter.
- (3) There shall be one Commissioner position for each of four districts. The following districts shall be established from which the Commissioners shall be elected or appointed to fill a vacancy: District 1; District 2; District 3; District 4.
- (4) Voters from even-numbered districts shall elect one District Commissioner each at the November general election in presidential election years.
- (5) All voters shall elect the At-Large Commissioner at the November general election in presidential election years.
- (6) Voters from odd-numbered districts shall elect one District Commissioner each at the November general election in nonpresidential election years.
- (7) A primary election shall be held on the date of the biennial primary election for the year in which each Board position is elected. The two candidates for each Board position receiving the highest number of votes shall be nominated for placement on the general election ballot. If only one or two candidates qualify for the primary election ballot, then that candidate or those candidates will automatically advance to the general election. If one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for that office at the primary election, then that candidate alone is certified as elected.
- (8) At the general election, the candidate for each Board position who receives the highest number of votes cast shall be certified as elected.
- (9) Only registered voters may vote, and voters may cast a vote for a District Commissioner and an At-Large Commissioner, but no voter may cast more than one vote for each candidate.
- (10) In addition to any other qualifications for office established by this Charter, the following shall be qualifications for the office of County Commissioner.
 - (a) Any candidate for the office of Commissioner must be and remain a resident of the district that they will represent for twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding the nominating election date or appointment date. No appointive officer or County employee may serve on the Board.
 - (b) If elected, such person, while holding office as a Commissioner, shall remain at all times a resident of their district.

Measure 17-116 Josephine County

Section 2 REDISTRICTING

- (1) Following the release of the decennial census of the United States, the County Elections Officer shall review the population densities of each district and, within 120 days of the release of the census, shall present to the Board a map detailing any necessary modification of boundaries.
- (2) The Board shall, within 45 days of the submission of the revised map, alter the boundaries of the Commissioner districts by ordinance so that the total population is allocated nearly equally between the four districts. Each district shall consist of contiguous territory and shall be as compact as possible.
- (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, no boundary creation, position re-designation or boundary change shall disqualify a Commissioner from completing the term of office to which that Commissioner was elected or appointed.

Section 3. TERMS OF OFFICE

Except Commissioners appointed to vacancies on the Board of County Commissioners, the term of office of a County Commissioner begins on the second Monday after the first January 1 after the commissioner is elected to the office and continues four years and until the succeeding Commissioner qualifies for the office.

Commissioners shall serve no more than three consecutive terms in office. Terms are considered consecutive unless they are at least four (4) years apart.

Section 4. BOARD CHAIR.

At its second regular meeting each year, the Board of County Commissioners shall designate one of its members Board Chair and one of its members Vice Chair for the year. If three members of the Board cannot agree on the designation of a Chair, the member of the Board who has served on the Board for the longest continuous period of time shall act as Chair. The Chair shall:

- (1) preside over the Board meetings,
- (2) preserve order at the meetings,
- (3) enforce the rules of the Board, and
- (4) have whatever additional functions the Board prescribes via ordinance and consistent with this charter.

The Vice Chair shall preside over the meetings of the Board in the absence of the Chair and shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by Board rules.

Section 5. QUORUM.

A majority of the Board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 6. MEETINGS.

By ordinance, the Board of County Commissioners shall prescribe rules governing its meetings, procedures, and members. All Board meetings shall be public and conducted in accordance with state law. Recorded minutes shall be kept of all proceedings of the Board in accordance with state law on public meetings and shall be posted on the County's electronic media. Voting shall be by roll call, including the Chair, and the ayes and nays shall be recorded in the minutes. The concurrence of at least three members of the Board is necessary to decide any question before the Board.

- (1) Regular Board Meetings. Regular business meetings shall be held at least twice monthly. Notice is given 48 hours before a scheduled meeting stating the time, place and tentative agenda with supporting documents as available. Notice is posted at the Commissioners' Office in a conspicuous place as well as on the County electronic media, and/or other news media.
- (2) Other Board Meetings. May be held upon the call of any Commissioner. Notice is given 48 hours before a scheduled meeting stating the time, place, and tentative agenda with supporting documents. Notice is posted at the Commissioners' Office in a conspicuous place as well as on the County electronic media, and/or other news media.
- (3) Executive Sessions. Notice of an executive session shall state the specific provision of law authorizing the executive session. Executive session means any meeting, or part of a meeting, of a governing body which is closed to certain persons for deliberation on certain matters. Authorized members of the press may attend executive sessions but may not disclose specified information. Minutes of executive sessions may be limited to material the disclosure of which is consistent with state law.
- (4) Emergency Sessions. Definition: The existence of a clear and present danger or threat to life or property of the people of Josephine County resulting from a disaster, either natural or man-made, including, but not limited to, earthquake, conflagration, flood, war, plague, pestilence, or riot; an occurrence that would be obvious as an emergency to any reasonable or prudent person.
- (5) An emergency session of the Board may be held upon the call of any Commissioner, shall be open to the public, and allow for public comment. A meeting may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances, but the minutes for such a meeting shall describe the emergency justifying less than 48 hours' notice.
- (6) All Commissioner meetings are to be made accessible to the public by electronic media or call-in and recordings of meetings posted to the Commissioners' website in a timely manner.

Section 7. COMPENSATION AND COMMISSION EXPENSES

County Commissioners shall serve without salary and without benefits. As recognition for the service rendered by the County Commissioners, each shall serve with a stipend equal to 15 percent of the Circuit Court Judge salary.

Section 8. ORDINANCES.

- (1) An ordinance may embrace but one subject and matters properly connected therewith. The title of the ordinance shall express the subject.
- (2) The ordaining clause of an ordinance shall read:
 - (a) in case of adoption by the Board of County Commissioners alone, "The Board of County Commissioners of Josephine County ordains as follows:"
 - (b) in case of adoption or ratification by the voters of the County, "The People of Josephine County ordain as follows:"
- (3) Except as this section provides to the contrary, before an ordinance is adopted, it shall be read fully and distinctly in open meeting of the Board

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on two days at least 13-days apart. All readings of an ordinance shall be public hearings. If any changes are made during a reading, that reading will be continued to a date no less than 13 days following the reading.

- (4) Except as subsection (5) of this section allows to the contrary, an ordinance necessary to meet an emergency may, upon being read first in full and then by title, be adopted at a single meeting of the Board by unanimous vote of all its members present. This subsection shall not be used by the Board in adopting an ordinance that imposes or provides exemptions from a tax, assessment, or charge for the purpose of raising revenue. An emergency ordinance shall be deemed automatically repealed 120 days from the date of its enactment.
- (5) Any reading required by subsection (3) or (4) of this section shall be read in full, unless:
- (a) the Board votes to read by title only; and
 - (b) not later than one week before the reading of the ordinance, a copy of it is provided each member, copies of it are available in the office of the Board of County Commissioners, notice of the availability is posted at the Commissioners' office in a conspicuous place as well as on the County electronic media and/or other news media.
- (6) An ordinance adopted after being read by title only may have no legal effect if any section incorporating a change in the ordinance as introduced is not read fully in open meeting of the Board prior to the adoption of the ordinance.
- (7) Within three days after the Board adopts an ordinance, the person who presides and the person who serves as recording secretary at the meeting at which the ordinance is adopted shall sign the ordinance and indicate its date of adoption.
- (8) An ordinance adopted in accordance with this section, if not an emergency ordinance, shall take effect on the 90th day after the date of its adoption, unless it prescribes a later effective date or is referred to the voters of the county. If an ordinance is referred to the voters, it shall take effect only upon the approval of a majority of those voting on the proposed ordinance. An emergency ordinance may take effect immediately upon the date of its adoption.
- (9) Any ordinance adopted by the Board imposing, increasing, or providing an exemption from taxation shall receive the approval of the voters of the county before taking effect.

CHAPTER IV FINANCE

Section 1: LOCAL BUDGET LAW

Budgets and supplemental budgets shall be made and approved in accordance with the Local Budget Law of the state.

Total outlays for any fiscal year shall not exceed total receipts for that fiscal year. Total outlays shall include all outlays of the County except for those made for repayment of debt obligations and liabilities. Total receipts shall include all receipts of the County except for those derived from, or dedicated to the repayment of, bonded borrowing.

DEBT RELIEF: On the basis of home rule, Josephine County is hereby authorized to be a debtor that is eligible to petition for debt relief before a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 2: OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAM PROJECTION.

The Board of County Commissioners shall be responsible for the preparation and presentation of a five-year projection of the operating budget and capital program to accompany the proposed annual budget in its presentation to the county budget committee. This projection and the proposed budget shall be presented in a form which compares them to such projections made in the five years preceding the year of submission. The projection shall be considered as informational and not binding upon the future action of the Board.

Section 3: VOTER APPROVAL REQUIREMENT FOR CAPITAL PROGRAMS OR PROJECTS.

The Board shall not enter into any capital program or project agreement of any kind with any financial agent, agency, or individual without prior approval of Josephine County voters at a regular election.

A capital program or project shall include, but not be limited to, real estate or construction projects, whether by the issuance of bonds or by lease purchase agreement or other type of agreement, and remodeling and furnishing.

CHAPTER V ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. APPOINTIVE OFFICER.

The one appointive officer of the County is the County Manager. The Board shall appoint and may remove the County Manager by a majority vote of all incumbent members of the Board.

Section 2. COUNTY MANAGER.

(1) Appointment and Removal. The County Manager shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioner on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications and experience.

Applicants for the position of County Manager shall be solicited widely and shall be screened by the usual personnel procedure. The Board of Commissioners shall select a panel competent to evaluate the qualification of the candidates. The panel shall interview the screened candidates and submit to the Board of Commissioners a list of from five to seven of the best qualified candidates. The Board shall make its selection from this list.

The County Manager is evaluated by the Board, serves at its pleasure and may be removed by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members.

(2) Vacancy. In the event of a vacancy or disability, the Board of Commissioners shall immediately appoint a qualified acting County Manager until the Board either determines that the Manager is able to resume the duties of the office or appoints a new County Manager.

(3) Compensation. The County Manager's compensation shall be commensurate with the responsibilities of a chief administrative office. The Manager may not engage in any other business or occupation.

(4) Duties. The County Manager is responsible to the Board of Commissioners for the proper and

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efficient administration of the County government. The Manager shall:

- a. Coordinate the work of all offices and departments, both elective and appointive, and devise ways and means to achieve efficiency and economy in all County operations.
- b. Appoint, suspend or remove, subject to confirmation by the Board of Commissioners, the County Counsel, the County Surveyor and all department heads, except those for whose election or appointment this Charter makes other provisions. Appointments shall be on the basis of related experience, executive and administrative qualifications as determined by screening and selection procedures comparable to those used for classified management personnel.
- c. Formulate and present to the Board plans to implement policies and accomplish goals established by the Board.
- d. Assist the Finance Director in preparing an annual budget for all departments and agencies for which the Board is responsible or which requests County funds.
- e. Have responsibility for the administration of the budget after its adoption by the Board.
- f. Provide for in-depth analysis and review of all County programs on a regular basis in a manner that the Board may make policy decisions.
- g. Provide and implement systems of adequate checks and controls to safeguard County money and property.
- h. Work with all other government entities, federal, state, regional and local, in the best interest of the entire County.

The County Manager shall have other powers and shall perform such other duties as are consistent with this Charter.

- (5) Board Meetings. The County Manager may attend any meeting of the Board of Commissioners, except that attendance at a meeting at which the Manager's evaluation or removal is considered shall be at the Board's discretion.

The County Manager may participate in the deliberations of the Board but may not vote.

Section 3. ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS.

The County departments existing at the inception of this charter shall continue until reorganized, unified, abolished, or new departments are established.

Section 4. ELECTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.

- (1) The elective administrative officers of the county are the Commissioners, Sheriff, the Assessor, the Treasurer, and the Clerk.
- (2) Unless expressly provided herein to the contrary, the regular term for all elected officers is four years.
- (3) All elective administrative officers shall be nonpartisan in filing for office, election to office and subsequent performance of the duties and responsibilities of the office.

CHAPTER VI PERSONNEL

Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS.

- (1) An elective officer of the county:

- (a) shall be a legal voter of the county and
- (b) shall have resided in the county twenty-four (24) months immediately before assuming office and maintain that residency during their term in office.

(2) In addition to the foregoing qualifications, the Sheriff, Assessor, Treasurer, and Clerk, shall have those qualifications as prescribed under this charter and state law.

(3) Appointive personnel of the county shall have whatever qualifications the Board of County Commissioners prescribes or authorizes.

Section 2. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNTY OFFICERS.

Nomination of a candidate for an elective County office shall be as prescribed under state law. Election of a candidate so nominated shall be in the manner prescribed by state law for electing candidates to county offices.

Section 3. RECALL.

An elective officer of the County may be recalled in the manner, and with the effect, now or hereafter prescribed by the constitution and laws of the state.

Section 4. VACANCIES IN OFFICE.

A County office shall be deemed vacant:

- (1) for any cause prescribed by state law for county offices,
- (2) death,
- (3) resignation,
- (4) taking up residence as per state law outside their representative area,
- (5) conviction of a felony,
- (6) failure to meet the eligibility requirements of the office specified in state law or this Charter.

The Board may prescribe additional causes of vacancies in appointive offices.

Section 5. FILLING OF VACANCIES.

(1) The Board shall publish notice of a vacancy to be filled by appointment. Notice is posted at the Commissioners' Office in a conspicuous place as well as on the County electronic media, and/or other news media. This notice shall request qualified individuals to apply to serve until the person elected at the next general election takes office by filing an application with the Board of Commissioners. The Board shall appoint a qualified person to the vacancy from the applications received. The Board shall fill a vacancy within 45-days after the occurrence of the vacancy.

If the Board does not have a quorum because of vacancies on the Board, the power to appoint, to fill such vacancy, is thereby transferred to a Temporary Board composed of the other elective administrative officers.

- (2) A vacancy in an appointive office of the County shall be filled by the Board or pursuant to its authority.

Section 6. COMPENSATION.

The compensation and job-related expenses of personnel in the service of the County excluding County Commissioners, shall be fixed annually by the Budget Committee as required by state law.

Measure 17-116 Josephine County

Section 7. PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

The Board shall provide for the establishment and administration of a system of personnel administration for the County.

CHAPTER VII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

Except as County ordinance prescribes to the contrary, the manner of exercising the initiative and referendum with reference to a County proposition, shall be the manner prescribed by the constitution and laws of the state for doing so.

Section 2. ELECTIONS ON COUNTY PROPOSITIONS.

Except as this Charter or County ordinance enacted pursuant to it provides to the contrary:

- (1) An election on a proposition concerning the County shall be conducted as prescribed by state law governing voting on such propositions; provided, however, that such an election may be held at a regular primary or general election or a special election called by the Board. A special election may not be held sooner than 90 days after the filing of the initiative or referendum petition, or after the measure has been referred to the voters by the Board.
- (2) An initiative measure and a referendum may be proposed by the signatures of qualified County voters of a number equal to the following percentages of the total number of votes cast in the county for all candidates for Governor at the regular gubernatorial election next preceding the filing of the petition:
 - (a) Initiative petitions, six percent
 - (b) Referendum petitions, four percent
- (3) An initiative petition shall include the full text of the proposed measure, which may embrace one subject only and matters properly connected therewith.
- (4) An initiative petition must be filed with the County Clerk not less than 90 days before any primary or general election at which the proposed measure is to be voted upon.
- (5) A referendum petition upon an ordinance may not be filed more than 90-days after enactment of the ordinance.
- (6) An initiative measure takes effect on the date of its adoption. A referendum delays the effective date of an ordinance until the date of an election at which the ordinance is approved by the people.

Section 3. CHARTER AMENDMENT AND REPEAL.

- (1) In accordance with state law, an initiative measure to amend, revise or repeal this Charter shall be placed on the ballot at:
 - (a) the next available County election date,
 - (b) a regular primary or general election date, whichever comes first.
- (2) An initiative petition to submit a Charter Amendment or Repeal to the voters must be filed with the County Clerk not less than 90-days before any County election date or any primary or general election at which the proposed measure is to be voted upon.

(3) This Charter shall be amended, revised or repealed only through the use of the initiative process (as defined in Chapter VII of this Charter) and no County ordinance shall prescribe to the contrary.

(4) The procedure for repeal of this Charter by the initiative is as prescribed by this Charter or by the authority of this Charter for the initiative and referendum, except that the number of signatures required on a petition to repeal this Charter is equal to at least 8 percent of the total number of votes cast in the county for all candidates for Governor at the regular gubernatorial election next preceding the filing of the initiative.

Section 4. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Charter, including its amendments, is or becomes illegal, invalid or unenforceable, that shall not affect the legality, validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Charter.

Section 5. ADHERENCE TO STATE AND FEDERAL LAW

The people of Josephine County respect and support the Constitution including all amendments current and future, of the United States and the State of Oregon.

CHAPTER VIII TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. CONTINUITY.

- (1) The taking effect of this Charter causes no break in the existence or legal status of the County.
- (2) All rights, claims, causes of action, contracts and legal administrative proceedings of the County that exist just before the Charter takes effect continue unimpaired by the charter after it takes effect. Each shall then be in the charge of the office or agency designated by the Charter or by its authority to have charge of it.
- (3) All County legislation, orders, rules and regulations that are in force just before this Charter takes full effect remain in force after that time, insofar as consistent with the charter, without change until amended or repealed.
- (4) A County Commissioner who is in office when this Charter or any amendment of this Charter takes effect may continue in office for the term for which then elected or appointed and will continue to receive compensation and benefits for that term. The current Position 1 Commissioner will continue as the At-Large Commissioner until the end of the original elected term followed by a 2-year At-Large Commissioner election in 2026 to align with presidential election.
- (5) District Commissioners 2 and 4 will be elected to 4-year terms in 2024. District Commissioners 1 and 3 will be elected to 2-year terms in 2024 then followed by full 4-year terms in 2026.
- (6) The County Counsel and the Surveyor in office when this Charter takes effect may continue in office for the term for which they were elected.

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Charter shall take effect on 30 days following approval by the Josephine County voters.

Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Vote **YES** Measure 17-116 **IT MAKES SENSE**

Measure highlights ...

- **MODERNIZES and revises our operating charter to IMPROVE how Josephine County works, WITHOUT INCREASING COST.**
- **ELIMINATES COMMISSIONER SALARIES, Benefits and PERS retirement. Instead, provides them with a fair SMALL PAYMENT for their SERVICE.**
- **RETURNS our Charter to its ONLY PURPOSE, flexibility with HOW WE CHOOSE TO WORK TOGETHER IN OUR COUNTY, removing topics it cannot take care of, which have other more effective tools.**
- **REMAKES THE COMMISSIONER BOARD with FIVE part-time people to make decisions on future directions, plans, and issues.**
- **IMPROVES CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT with a NON-PARTISAN commissioner you select from YOUR AREA.**
- **USES SALARY, BENEFITS & PERS SAVINGS for new commissioners to HIRE A PROFESSIONAL COUNTY MANAGER to run our multimillion-dollar county operations, with ACCOUNTABILITY. Commissioners will hire, direct (and fire as needed!)**
- **MAKES our COUNTY GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT, with the BOARD SETTING DIRECTION and a PROFESSIONAL MANAGING all our operations!**

WANT TO KNOW MORE? Be INFORMED before you vote.

Go to www.jococrg.org

VOTE YES on 17-116 for IMPROVED COUNTY REPRESENTATION, MANAGEMENT, AND OPERATIONS

Bill Kohn, MD
Carolyn Kohn
Kate Dwyer
Jean Major
Yolanda Bruton
Cheryl Bruner

(This information furnished by Bill Kohn, MD.)

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Argument in Favor

You

Do you ever get tired of being irrelevant? You hear our local County Commissioner candidates saying they are going to do this and that and X, Y, and Z. And in the end, it all seems to come out the same. It is time to have the government do things for you.

You want the government to serve you and have it work for you. The current structure for our county government has never performed well and its forty-three years outdated. There is a better way.

The structure proposed by measure 17-116 is a new structure with you centered in the middle of it. You vote for your local home district commissioner. That leader lives in your district and works for you. That is where you bring your problems, and your commissioner collaborates with you. All five new commissioners; one at large for the entire county, and one for each of the four districts, will collaborate with you. These are part-time positions with a stipend of \$22,000 annually with no benefits. Outside of required meetings at the courthouse, one would expect the new commissioners to work out of their homes or use existing offices to meet individuals dealing with the county. This approach saves you money. These savings will be redirected to hire a professionally trained and experienced county manager reporting to the five commissioners. This structure is a representative government which we do not have today. Isn't it time you voted for you?

We need to make clear that this change is a top-level replacement of the existing ineffectual and outdated charter that served yesterday. We all will live with our future government. Why not live knowing county government is designed for you?

Vote yes for Measure 17-116. It is about you.

(This information furnished by Larry J West, Citizens for Responsible Government.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Josephine County's charter is basically a business plan organizing the structure of governance in much the same way as businesses, special districts and school districts organize elected or appointed boards of directors, management and employees. **The current charter was approved by voters in 1981.** Over the years it has become bogged down with unenforceable amendments that have little to do with governance and more to do with attempts to politicize the document.

Josephine County's charter needs updating. A Charter Review Commission, appointed by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, recently spent two years discussing with County Counsel how to update and streamline the charter so it more closely resembles the governance plan it was meant to be. Measure 17-116, incorporates the Commission's recommendations to reflect the 21st century needs of a county nestled in one of Oregon's famed riverside woodlands where prosperity in the coming years will depend on the ingenuity of its leaders and residents.

Currently the three full-time, at-large Commissioners draw large salaries and generous benefits. Measure 17-116 reduces Commissioners' compensation and expands the board to five part-time members. Four will be elected in districts and one at-large. The districts give rural areas **better representation.**

Each Commissioner will be paid by stipend. Many special districts in the state pay their elected members a stipend. The stipend amount is based **solely** on the charter's formula of fifteen percent of a circuit court judge's salary. The savings of current Commissioners' salaries and benefits will be used to hire a **professional** County Manager to oversee day-to-day operations in the courthouse.

There are no additional costs associated with this measure. There is nothing in Measure 17-116 that takes away anyone's rights. Oregon State and U.S. constitutions will continue to protect people's rights. Measure 17-116 provides a **better framework** for meeting the county's challenges of today as well as those in the future.

Vote "YES" on Measure 17-116.

(This information furnished by Ken Beatty, Citizens for Responsible Government.)

Argument in Favor

There are no hidden agendas in this proposed charter. It is simple and straightforward. Read it in its entirety. Compare it to the current and read the legal annotations; both are available on the website (jococharter.com) and chronicle the two-year effort by the Charter Review Commission appointed by the County Commissioners.

And believe this **concise summary of Measure 17-116** written by your **Josephine County District Attorney:**

This Measure is a proposal to modify the existing Josephine County Charter by repealing the existing Charter and replacing it with the Charter outlined ... [in] this Measure.

This Measure includes much of the existing Charter within it.

This Measure's Charter modifies Chapters I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII of the existing Josephine County Charter. The modifications to these Chapters include updating/modernizing the language, modifying residency requirements from 6 months to 24 months for elective officers, changing the number of County Commissioners, the process for electing County Commissioners, the compensation structure for County Commissioners, establishing a County Manager, modifying Legal Counsel and the Surveyor from elected to appointed positions, and requiring that elective offices are nonpartisan (Initiative Petition Cover Sheet, approved 6/14/23).

The Measure will not cost taxpayers more money. It will be a better use of taxpayers' money.

It will shift the three fulltime County Commissioners' salaries and benefits - totaling over \$400,000 a year- to five part-time Commissioners, paid by stipend, with no benefits, and one qualified County Manager.

It will bring more effective government and better representation.

Four Commissioners will be elected in their districts. The fifth Commissioner will be elected at-large.

Join the Supporters and Contributors who want to improve our County Government by providing YOU representation and experienced management:

- Thousands of voter signatures in just 11 weeks to qualify for this ballot.
- Hundreds of donors to help spread the word.
- Numerous public endorsers

Vote YES. Let's make positive change.

(This information furnished by Jane Slama/Dorothy Yetter.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Favor

A "YES" vote on Measure 17-116 would finally give those of us in Wolf Creek, Sunny Valley, and Jumpoff Joe Creek a voice in Josephine County's government. For too long we have lived in the land of the forgotten, with few elected officials concerned about what goes on in our neighborhood. By including us in a district of some 22,000 people instead of with the entire 88,000 population of the county, our voices can more easily be heard and recognized. With an elected representative who can concentrate on this area's unique assets and challenges we can become working members of our county instead of the northern backwater too sparsely populated to merit much of a commissioner's time.

A "YES" vote on Measure 17-116 divides us into districts for better understanding but also unites us at the table when five non-partisan commissioners come together to do what's best for all of us instead of just the areas with the most of us.

George and Pam Baxter, Sunny Valley
Ray Baxter, Sunny Valley
George Pizzo, Jumpoff Joe Creek
Steve Names, Jumpoff Joe Creek
Steve and Debra Lawwill, Sunny Valley
Steve and Rachel Vaughn, Sunny Valley
Cynthia Woods, Sunny Valley
David and Susan Hembree, Wolf Creek
Eric Rich, Sunny Valley
William Gregory, Sunny Valley

(This information furnished by George Baxter, Rural Voters for Measure 17-116.)

Argument in Opposition

WHY VOTE NO

ON

17-116 Replacement of Josephine County Charter

Title: Home Rule Charter For the Government of Josephine County

It seems to w4acg and maybe to you too, that, the main reason for this charter change is to **bring** in the un-elected county manager. Which will be hired by and **serve** at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners, and, who is, only responsible too the Board of County Commissioners. **Not To The Citizens.**

To pay for the new position, the NEW commissioners Salary and Benefits will be eliminated, and shall serve as **elected volunteers**, each with a token stipend equal to 15% of the Circuit Court Judge salary.

Lets Leave the Charter As Is

Please Look very close at the their district MAP. All 4 commissioner districts ARE located in parts of Grants Pass, which is also the largest Voting Block of the county. So all or part of our Board of County Commissioners could be from Grants Pass. Representing Josephine County residents.

Lets Leave the Charter As Is

Reducing the Board of County Commissioner meetings, to **Twice Monthly**. Why, maybe because the citizens may not have any issues. But when we do have issues we can publicly address the Board weekly, and get results.

Lets Leave the Charter As Is

It seems that Section 5 "Adherence to State and Federal Law" is just there for the people. And not the government, as per the charter:

"The people of Josephine County respect and support the Constitution including all amendments current and future, of the United States and the State of Oregon."

Granted, elected official's must take an Oath, but citizens are not required too. So why have section 5?

Lets not act on this 17-116 Measure yet, there are many other issues to resolve

Please Vote No

Paid for by: We're For A Constitutional Government (w4acg.com)

(This information furnished by James Rafferty, We're for A Constitutional Government.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Vote-No on Measure 17-116

We're For A Constitutional Government (w4acg.com) opposes the new Charter Replacement. Why?

First of all there is nothing wrong with our current Home Rule County Charter. **(except it's not being completely followed)**

Vote-No

All of our current amendments, we passed, have been removed and replaced by the **Proposed charter** chapter 7 section 5 "Adherence to state and federal law" Only by the **people of Josephine County** (not government).

Vote-No

Proposed charter (chapter 3 section 1) changes the demographics of the Board of County Commissioners by modeling after the City of Grants Pass administration.

(The four **elected volunteer** district commissioners are similar the city council and the at-large commissioner is like the city mayor).

The county managers selection is to be "solicited widely" (only for professionals). Keep in mind all inherent problems the CITY manager(s) had, costing thousands. The proposed county manager is **not** elected, and is **only** accountable to the BCC, adding another layer of Bureaucracy.

Vote-No

Proposed charter changes the BCC's weekly public meetings to twice monthly, **limiting** our right to publicly air our grievances and personal contact.

Vote-No

Proposed charter (chapter 3 section 6) changes BCC Compensation.

Our current charter address commissioner Compensation, Chapter 6 Section 25 (2) and our State Constitution Article VI Section 10 confirms this Amendment legal. (not currently complied with)

Vote-No

Government is always looking for ways of levying TAX dollars. Our current charter, Chapter 7 Section 29.7 **Prohibition of income tax** page 27. Meaning: Josephine County **Shall not establish** either a business or personal income tax. This **Proposed charter** omitted this section, Why? Note: Multnomah County has a personal income tax.

Vote-No

Lastly: **Proposed charter** (chapter 7 section 1 and 2 on page 13) references our

"County PROPOSITIONS" as used in California

Vote-No

Please keep our current County Charter and **Vote-No** on 17-116

Vote-No

Paid for by: We're For A Constitutional Government (w4acg.com)

(This information furnished by James Rafferty, We're for A Constitutional Government.)

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Argument in Opposition

MEASURE 17-116 IS A DEMOCRAT PARTY DECEPTION

What a "coincidence" - Both Josephine and Jackson County voters face sweeping charter changes that attack and upend county government under the false claims of promoting accountability and "better government". This scheme to destroy and replace the current charter is promoted largely by Democrats and failed county commission candidates who can't get elected without "Stacking the Court" and changing the charter. It's a naked power grab for getting more Democrats on the commission because they've been unable to win under the current rules due to weak, failed, and unpopular Democrat policies.

The MOST dangerous part of this Democrat Party "destroy and replace the charter" measure is the move to have you vote in DISTRICTS. Currently all 3 commissioners are elected through a full county vote. They represent the ENTIRE county and its residents. 17-116 would change Jo County from an accountable 3-person commission caring about the whole county to a weak, divided-by-districts county. Only 1 out of the 5 commissioners will "give a rip" about your concerns. Don't like your "district" commissioner? Too bad, you're stuck with only him/her.

Measure 17-116 is NOT about more democracy or more transparency or saving money. Going from 3 to 5 commissioners and adding a county administrator will cost you way more in overall salaries, PERS, and other expensive benefits, while massively growing the size and cost of Josephine County government. This could also slow down the decision-making process when important issues come before the board. It would be foolish to fall for this scheme. Keep Josephine County government transparent, responsive, and accountable to ALL residents. Vote NO on Measure 17-116.

(This information furnished by Bill Meyer.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

I am in opposition to the proposed replacement of our County Charter because this new proposal gives more power and decisions to bureaucrats and less accountability to elected County officials.

1. The voter only gets to vote for two County Commissioners. Currently the voter gets to vote for all three Commissioners.
2. A new county manager will be hired at an additional cost to the taxpayer. This county manager is not accountable to the voters. Currently the three County Commissioners manage the County and are all accountable to the voters.
3. County Attorney will be appointed and not accountable to the voters. Currently the County Attorney is elected by the voters and is accountable to the voters.
4. County Surveyor will be appointed and not accountable to the voters. Currently the County Surveyor is elected by the voters and is accountable to the voters.
5. **The proposed Charter removes the following from the current charter:**
 - **SEC. 14.5, LIBRARY SUPPORT**
 - **SEC.14.6, ANIMAL CONTROL SUPPORT**
 - **SEC.14.7, COUNTY DEBT LIMITATION**
 - **SEC.26.5, INVESTIGATION OF ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT**
 - **SEC. 29.1 RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS**
 - **SEC. 29.2.1, DUE PROCESS IN THE TAKING OF ASSETS**
 - **SEC 29.3 PROHIBITS ADVOCACY OF THE FORFEITURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**
 - **SEC 29.4 SEARCH AND SEIZURE**
 - **SEC 29.8 PROTECTION OF SPEECH AND RELIGION**
 - **SEC 29.9 RESTRICT NUDITY**
 - **SEC 29.10 PROTECTION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**

All the above bullet points that are included in our current Charter are left out of the proposed charter.

The proposed charter 17-116 gives more power and authority to the bureaucrats and less to the voters.

It removes many sections pertaining to the rights and protection of the citizens of Josephine County.

Please join me and preserve our current County Charter with a **NO VOTE** on 17-116

Herman Baertschiger Jr

(This information furnished by Herman Baertschiger Jr.)

Argument in Opposition

CHARTER MEASURE 17-116 WOULD BE DISASTEROUS FOR JOSEPHINE COUNTY

*Increases the size and cost of county government. *Proposes five part-time commissioners rather than the three full-time commissioners we now have. *Pretends to significantly reduce wages, which violates ORS 204.112, likely resulting in costly lawsuits. *Part-time Commissioners would need additional jobs, making them less available to constituents. *Commissioners now meet with community every week. Proposed charter suggests two times per month. *Citizens would only vote for 2, so would have no influence over the other three, who could easily outvote any proposal. *Requires the appointment of a costly County Manager, a non-elected bureaucrat, for whom there is no path to correct or replace. *Each of four districts would contain ¼ of Grants Pass, a more liberal population that would dominate. *Is a complete rewrite of a charter that has served us well; with many protections removed including the prohibition of income tax. *Gives Salem control rather than enhancing county self-determination about health matters, migration, drugs and other critical issues. *Poses as non-partisan; however, is highly partisan, with a left-leaning agenda that will weaken county government. *Was not written by the original bi-partisan group set up to amend the charter. *Is a complete, unnecessary rewrite. *Liberal members, including the former chair of the Democrat Party, broke off to write this version. They then labeled themselves as bi-partisan, convincing citizens to sign the petition to put this liberal agenda on the ballot.

If passed, this charter would be extremely difficult and costly to change.

VOTE NO to Charter Proposal 17-116. It would create countless problems for Josephine County.

(This information furnished by James V. Siano Sr.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

CHARTER MEASURE 17-116 IS A POORLY CONCEIVED CONSTITUTION FOR JOSEPHINE COUNTY!

And, if passed, it would be extremely difficult and costly to change.

With this charter proposal, five part-time commissioners (rather than the three full-time) would hire a costly County Manager, with no public vote) who would then be very hard to correct or fire. Part time Commissioners would be less committed. To survive financially, they would need jobs, which would make them less available to their constituents. Citizens would only get to vote for 2, so would have no influence over the rest.

Commissioners would only be required to meet two times per month. Currently our full-time commissioners meet weekly and are readily available throughout the week. Our charter should make our county more independent, making our own decisions about health matters and other issues. This charter gives Salem the control.

This charter is a complete rewrite of the one that has served us well and many protections have been removed including the prohibition of income tax. It was not written by the original bipartisan group. A few of the more liberal members, including the former chair of the Democrat Party, broke off from the original truly bipartisan committee, to write this version. They then labeled themselves as bi-partisan, convincing citizens to sign the petition to put this liberal agenda on the ballot. NO NO NO to Charter Proposal 17-116. It would ruin Josephine County.

(This information furnished by Richard M Asaro.)

Argument in Opposition

VOTE NO on Charter Measure 17-116, which pretends to increase citizen input and save tax dollars, but fails to deliver. It minimizes the accountability of each commissioner, thereby weakening county government. The proposed County Manager would be an expensive, unelected bureaucrat, chosen by five part-time commissioners. Each citizen would vote on and therefore have influence over two - easily outvoted by the other three. The county would be divided into four districts, each containing one quarter of Grants Pass. The controlling population in each district would be from the city (generally more liberal) even though a significant part of our county is rural (generally more conservative).

This Charter Amendment claims the compensation plan will save county funds. According to ORS 204.112, it violates State policy, likely resulting in additional cost to taxpayers or potential lawsuits.

Similar charter models are being proposed in several counties that are predominantly conservative, including Jackson County. The stated primary goal of the Democrat Party is to turn Southern Oregon blue. Weakening county government is key. Billed as nonpartisan, 17-116 is HIGHLY partisan and agenda-driven.

Most egregious of all: once passed, it would be very difficult and expensive to change. EVERY CHANGE would require 4000+ signatures (gathered by whom?) plus an election, resulting in significant cost to taxpayers.

Our existing charter has protected and served us well. The proposed charter removes important protections and fails to deliver the independence from State mandates that citizens require. With rank choice voting being on the ballot soon, Democrats hope to sign, seal and deliver their liberal agenda to southern Oregon one step at a time.

Charter Measure 17-116 is a hard NO.
Holli Morton, Chairwoman, Josephine County Republican Party

(This information furnished by Holli Morton, Josephine County Republican Central Committee.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Vote NO on Measure 17-116 because it destroys your right to representation and limits your ability to vote.

- Instead of three commissioners accountable to the entire county, you'll have only one representing your interests. Removing a commissioner requires them to be in your district. You can NEVER recall the county manager.

Vote NO on Measure 17-116 because it eliminates vital County-level rights protections.

- Arguing that our rights are sufficiently safeguarded by federal law overlooks the necessity of state and local reinforcement. Preserving our status as a 2nd Amendment "safe zone" is critical amidst broader political shifts. This measure undermines such protections.

Vote NO on Measure 17-116 because it takes away current Charter's provided protections that give us the ability to litigate when the government mandates what you do with your body. Our current Charter also offers protection for a parent's ability to say what is best for their child's health and education. 17-116 offers no protection.

Vote NO on Measure 17-116 because it expands government bureaucracy. We need less, not more.

Vote NO on Measure 17-116 as it poses a significant financial burden on taxpayers - more commissioners, a new county manager, and a whole new staff and facilities, not to mention potentially costly severance packages.

Vote NO on Measure 17-116 because it is a back-door attempt to hijack county government by progressives through the measure's commissioner districting. Four of the five districts include portions of Grants Pass, even Cave Junction's district!!!

Vote NO on Measure 17-116 and preserve our rights, fiscal responsibility, and democratic process from this bad charter change.

(This information furnished by Ron Lee.)

Argument in Opposition

Marxist, communist, socialist, progressive, leftist, nonpartisan, same wolf different sheep's clothing.

Currently you can vote for all 3 Commissioners, but with 5 you can only vote for 2, does that make sense? Save the County money, when have 5 people ever cost less than 3, plus Pers , office space , staff, healthcare! Amend the County Charter, let's vote on any amendments not scrap the whole charter. I think I see the nonpartisan nose under the tent! Why does the new Charter not contain the 2nd Amendment? Bad things happen when good people do nothing!

I urge good people to Vote No on 17-116! Republicans it's turnout, turnout, turnout! Keep Josephine County the way it is, that's why we all live here. Please vote NO on 17-116. Citizen of Josephine County.

(This information furnished by TW Navarro.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Elections are the way to replace politicians who no longer serve us well. Elections are the simplest most common way to replace bad leadership. There are two commissioners that will not be seeking re-election this year. If you are unhappy with the current commissioners use the election system to elect better people.

Measure 17-116 does not solve the problem of electing better qualified commissioners. There is nothing in measure 17-116 that requires better qualifications nor will it prevent another set of commissioners that some people may disagree with.

Our community will be divided up into districts that have little to no common ground within a district. Grants Pass will have an equal slice in each district. It also means that all the commissioners could come from Grants Pass City. Your right to vote for all commissioners will be taken away and only allowed to vote for your district commissioner and one at large.

The number of commissioners will increase to five. The commissioners will only serve in their own district rather than the community. Measure 17-116 will pit each district against each other to ensure their district is best served rather than working together as community. It will serve to further divide our own county. Two districts could easily be outvoted by the other three, it doesn't offer better representation.

A non-elected county manger will be hired by the commissioners. Voters will have no voice nor will be able to recall the county manager. The increase in commissioners, county manager and additional staff will end up costing taxpayers a fortune. Further, measure 17-116 could possibly be taken to court for not following proper state statutes which could result in all five commissioners making a comparable salary of \$100K each.

Our current charter has served us very well for over 40 years. We can do much better for our community, vote NO on measure 17-116.

(This information furnished by Bill Kronert.)

Argument in Opposition

There have been many attempts to diminish freedom for Josephine County citizens.

In 2014, an attempt was made to appoint an un-elected bureaucrat who would have had the ability to search the property of Josephine county residents, levy large fines, and eventually seize their property if they did not approve of how they were living.

I worked with many other volunteers to defeat this measure. We won overwhelmingly 79% to 21%.

Two years ago, a similar measure giving bureaucrats more control over private property was proposed. My father, Senator Art Robinson, family, and many other residents of Josephine county helped organize the petitions, collect the signatures, and again defeat the effort by a large margin.

Measure 17-116 is another similar attempt.

Our county charter has many protections in it. It includes elements from the US Constitution's Bill of Rights. It requires our county to be run by 3 commissioners who are directly answerable to the voters.

Throwing out our entire charter would be a disaster for Josephine County residents. We would lose our current protections. Our 3-member commissioner board would be replaced by a 5-member board with only 1 at-large member. Each resident could only vote for 2 of the 5 members. Our county is small enough that anyone can communicate with any commissioner. We do not need smaller districts.

The new board would appoint an all-powerful county manager who would be very difficult to terminate. When a single un-elected bureaucrat is given that much power, residents have to be careful not to cross him.

Ask any businessman what keeps him awake at night. Often it is bureaucrats who could harass him and put him out of business for one reason or another. He often won't say this too publicly because he fears them.

Josephine county residents should not have to worry about an all-powerful un-elected bureaucrat.

Please join with me and vote NO on Measure 17-116.

Republican Senate Candidate Noah Robinson

(This information furnished by Dr. Noah Robinson.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

Please vote NO on Measure 17-116.

As your senator from District 2, I vote NO on most of the legislation introduced into the Oregon Senate. Most of the Democrat-controlled bills are not worth supporting and are harmful to Oregonians.

Measure 17-116 is another obvious overwhelming NO!!!!

Our charter has been refined over many decades to include special protections for Josephine County residents.

I have lived in Josephine County for 44 years. Over that time, I have known and worked with many of the individuals who organized the efforts to include things like 2nd amendment rights, public decency laws, and other protections in our charter.

Our county is currently managed by 3 commissioners who are directly elected by Josephine county residents. Every voter in the county can vote in the election for each commissioner and has a right to attend and speak to those commissioners at the county meetings.

Measure 17-116 would eliminate our current charter. It would replace our 3-member commissioner board with a 5-member board, who would then appoint a county manager to run the county instead. Only 1 member would be elected at large. The other 4 would be split into districts. Each Josephine county resident would only be able to vote for 2 of the 5 commissioners.

The unelected manager would be very difficult to replace. He would have absolute control over the county and residents would have to be very careful not to offend him.

Similar attempts like this have been tried and are still being tried in many different Oregon counties. I have worked with other counties over the last decade to defeat similar attempts. We have always won and we must win this time too.

Please join with me in another NO vote. Vote NO on measure 17-116.

Senator Art Robinson

(This information furnished by Art Robinson, Senator.)

Argument in Opposition

Please join me in voting no on Measure 17-116. Many provisions that protect our community are eliminated, such as a prohibition on income taxation.

The way to replace politicians you no longer agree with is through elections, not by repealing, trashing, and rewriting the charter, which will grow local government by replacing three full-time commissioners with five.

You will no longer vote for all commissioners but only the one in your district and one at large. How does voting for two out of five give you more representation? Weekly meetings with commissioners will now be held twice a month. How does that give you more access? Most county business will be handled by a non-elected bureaucrat county manager, whom you cannot vote for or recall if they are doing a poor job.

17-116 takes the power from you and puts it in the hands of a county manager and commissioners in districts that do not represent you. District maps are based on population, not geography. Cave Junction and Williams are in the same district, but their needs differ.

Your county will be divided into four districts, one commissioner per district and one at large. The city of Grants Pass will have an equal say in the four districts. The premise of 17-116 was to give representation to rural citizens, but all commissioners could live in the city.

17-116 requires commissioners to receive a small allowance, which is illegal per state statutes. We were led to believe that the supposed savings would cover the county manager and administrative costs.

17-116 could be taken to court, and we, the taxpayers, will pay the cost. Currently, three commissioners cost \$375K, but five, a county manager and staff, could cost \$800K **or more**. How does that benefit you?

There goes funding for the sheriff!

Vote NO on measure 17-116-**WE CAN DO BETTER**

(This information furnished by Candice Kaiser.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

I AM OPPOSED TO CHARTER REDO 17-116

We should be asking ourselves why southern Oregon counties, including Jackson County, are simultaneously having similar charter changes - in our case a complete redo -- being put on the ballot. A charter, akin to a county constitution, lays out the terms of how we will govern and agree to be governed. This complete charter redo does not go far enough to protect us from government overreach and takes away many protections that our existing charter guarantees. WE county members should decide how we will manage the huge increase in migrant population, who should be the influencers of our kids and what can be mandated for OUR bodies to name a few.

The world is spinning out of control and government seems to be at the helm, allowing one crazy thing after another. Rather than increase the size of government, we need to increase the number of citizens who keep our government in check. We don't need five commissioners for our small county. And we certainly don't need part-timers who's focus would be on their primary jobs. We need full time commissioners who respond promptly to citizen needs. The redo proposes a County Manager that citizens couldn't elect, influence or fire.

The map divides the county into four districts and each of them includes a big chunk of the city where most of the population resides. County people have different needs than city people, but the population of the city people, by this plan, could outweigh the vote of the county in every district.

This charter redo takes power away from We the People and gives it mostly to state government, including taxation without a vote. It is a complete contradiction of what a charter should accomplish. We need to vote this down! SAY NO TO CHARTER REDO 17-116.

(This information furnished by Loren Guss.)

Argument in Opposition

The County Charter provides a foundation for local government and is essentially a local constitution.

To minimize state and federal influence over local affairs, we must strive for self-determination.

It proposes an unelected county manager, taking Josephine County from a representative to an administrative form of government, like socialist countries. Unelected managers are impossible to get rid of and literally become dictators.

PROPOSED CHARTER MEASURE 17-116 REDUCES POWER TO OUR CITIZENS.

Removes prohibition of income tax, removes your right to vote for all 5 commissioners, limits access to commissioners from four meetings to two meetings a month. Increases the cost of local government going from three to five commissioners and county manager.

Currently our commissioners cost the county around 375K a year. Under the proposed charter those costs could go over \$800K a year. We simply cannot afford this proposed Charter.

Please join us and Vote NO on Measure 17-116

Cabrera, Susan
Dominguez, Kelly
Dominguez, Mark
Garrison, Dean H
Girard, Jane
Kasdorf, Marla
Kasdorf, Tim
Lamb, Lucille S.
Lamb, Ronald L.
Lockrem, Susan E.
MacDonald, Bonnie
Millard, Cathy
Minshull, Tim
Pelfrey, Edgar M.
Sisson, Brenda
West, John
Winnie
Woods, Mark

(This information furnished by Kelly Dominguez.)

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Measure 17-116 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

CHARTER AMENDMENT 17-116 WOULD HURT JOSEPHINE COUNTY.

Those who drafted this re-write of our existing charter are trying to shift the power from citizens to a bigger government and we should be asking ourselves why. Why would four districts help? It would divide and conquer us. We would only get to vote in our district and the other three districts could vote us down. We would have one commissioner per district and no direct influence over the others. If our commissioner isn't getting the job done, what could we do about it - get a thousand signatures and force a vote? Ridiculous. And why do we need an unelected bureaucrat called City Manager to further take our voice away? SAY NO.

Our charter should determine how security matters are handled. In this increasingly unsafe world, citizens should be able to weigh in on what needs to be done, by whom and how - not count on Salem to call the shots. If citizens want change, we need to stand up and make our voices heard - not give more authority to government to fix everything. (Look how they are doing so far.). We need to have a strong charter that protects us and allows us to decide our own fate. 17-116 is a thinly veiled attempt to weaken our local government and therefore our choices for our own county. Now we are hearing about rank choice voting coming to a ballot near you. That is another mechanism to take away our voices by skewing the vote.

It's time we wake up! Stand up! And speak up! Start by saying NO to 17-116, which is a complete rewrite of our charter and leaves us with fewer protections and minimizes citizen voices. We can determine our own fate if we don't allow government to silence us.

(This information furnished by Dennis MacDonald and Carolyn Pearson.)

Argument in Opposition

Dear Fellow Josephine County Voters,

As one of your dedicated Commissioners, I am deeply committed to serving our community's best interests. Today, I implore you to weigh the consequences of Measure 17-116, a proposed charter change that imperils our collective voice and endangers the future of our county.

Measure 17-116 fails to deliver the representation it pledges. Rather than empowering you, it curtails your voting rights. By limiting your vote to just two out of five commissioners and restricting your recall ability to your district's sole representative, this measure undermines your democratic influence.

Additionally, the district boundaries prescribed by Measure 17-116 defy logic, resulting in skewed representations that do not accurately reflect our county's diversity. With four out of five districts heavily centered around Grants Pass, significant portions of our community risk being marginalized, particularly in the Illinois Valley.

Furthermore, Measure 17-116 grants seemingly unchecked administrative authority to an unelected county manager, further eroding your ability to shape decisions. **This measure leaves us vulnerable to unbridled power and potential mismanagement.**

Despite its claims, Measure 17-116 offers no real cost savings and may actually burden taxpayers. In the first two years alone, **it will cost the county nearly A MILLION DOLLARS MORE than the current commissioner setup**, draining resources from vital services like law enforcement.

I personally want more deputies out there protecting us, not more government bureaucrats!

This measure's profound alterations to our current charter jeopardize the bipartisan efforts made to safeguard our citizens' rights. Moreover, its flaws open the door to costly legal disputes, placing further strain on the taxpayers.

Reject Measure 17-116 and uphold our community's integrity and values.

Join me In preserving our county's well-being and Vote NO on Measure 17-116.

(This information furnished by John West, Josephine County Commissioner.)

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Measure 17-117 Josephine County

Referred to the People by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners

17-117

Animal Shelter and Animal Control Five Year Local Option Tax

QUESTION: Shall County levy \$0.47 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years for animal services and a capital project beginning 2024-2025? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

SUMMARY: This levy replaces the current local option tax of \$0.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value that expires in June, 2027, with a new five year tax of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value that expires in June, 2029. Revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. Josephine County could use this revenue only to:

- Fund Animal Shelter and Animal Control operations;
- Fund a capital project to repair, renovate and expand the Animal Shelter facility;
- Pay related administrative expenses.

The Animal Shelter provides services for dogs, cats, and other impounded animals. Animal Control investigates animal abuse, neglect, hoarding, and abandonment, and refers such cases for prosecution. Animal Control also enforces laws that regulate dogs that attack livestock, and animals that are dangerous or a public nuisance.

During the course of this levy the Animal Shelter will be repaired, renovated and expanded. After the shelter project has been paid off, the levy rate would drop from \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The proposed maximum rate of \$0.47 per \$1,000 would raise approximately \$4,647,500 in fiscal year 2024-2025, \$4,787,000 in 2025-2026, \$4,930,500 in 2026-2027, \$5,078,500 in 2027-2028, and \$5,231,000 in 2028-2029, for a total of \$24,674,500.

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.

equivalent county employees, the Animal Shelter receives support from about 100 unpaid volunteers. The facility was last renovated in 1978. The Shelter is 5,850 square feet in size. The kennel capacity of 32 units has remained unchanged since 1978. If this levy passes, the Shelter size and capacity would expand to meet the increased demand. Other funding sources such as donations and grants could reduce the cost of the capital project.

Animal Control investigates animal abuse, neglect, hoarding, and abandonment. Animal Control also enforces laws that regulate dogs that attack livestock and animals that are dangerous to humans or are a public nuisance. Animal Control Officers respond to calls for service seven days per week. In 2020, Animal Control received approximately 1,750 calls for service. In 2023, Animal Control received approximately 3,400 calls for service. The county employs up to 4 Animal Control Officers. Funding from this levy would increase the number of Animal Control Officers to address the increased demand.

Revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. The fund could be used only for Animal Shelter and Animal Control operations, a capital project at the Animal Shelter, and related administrative expenses. In accordance with law, expenditures from this fund would be subject to annual independent audits.

The Animal Shelter Advisory Committee receives regular reports regarding expenditure of levy funds and advises the Board of County Commissioners on animal-related issues. The advisory committee would continue its role under the new levy.

At \$0.47 per \$1,000, for every \$100,000 of assessed value, the tax would cost \$3.92 per month or \$47 per year. The approximate tax increase for a home valued at the County average residential assessed value of \$220,240 would be approximately \$103.51 per year.

(This information furnished by Josephine County Board of County Commissioners.)

Explanatory Statement

In November, 2021, voters passed a five-year local option tax of \$0.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value to fund Animal Shelter and Animal Control operations countywide. That measure will remain in effect until June, 2027, unless voters approve this measure to replace the existing tax with this tax of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This proposed five-year local option tax of up to \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed property value would fund Animal Shelter and Animal Control operations through June, 2029. This levy would also fund a capital project to repair, renovate and expand the Animal Shelter facility. When the construction loan for the capital project has been paid off, the levy rate would drop to \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value until the levy expires in June, 2029.

The Animal Shelter is located near the Grants Pass Airport. In 2020, the Shelter served at least 2,000 animals. In 2023, the Shelter served at least 2,600 animals by reducing some of the services offered. The Shelter has a live release rate of over 90%, which meets national No-Kill standards. In addition to 7.3 fulltime

Measure 17-117 Arguments

Argument in Favor

I write this with fervor and a sense of urgency in support of Measure 17-117.

We are a community of self-identified "animal lovers". We have done so since time immemorial. There has always been an effort to promote effective animal advocacy. This is what identifies us as human,- that innate desire to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Animal altruism. It is a thing!

Our animal shelter does not and should not put an expiration date on the animals under their charge. But the animals in our community are in peril. The current state of the shelter cannot be sustained with the current funding and infrastructure. It isn't just an increasing animal count or animal control fielding calls. The animals are housed in, and the staff work in a building that is broken, gloomy, and falling apart. It is like living and working in an old single-wide trailer. Our shelter operates with Dollar Store bandaids. We need a new shelter to replace this facility built in the mid 50's. A shelter serving a population reaching almost 90,000 with probably 70% having at least one companion animal serving almost 1650 square miles.

The increased intake of animals at our shelter is presumed by many to be irresponsible owners who do not spay and neuter. But I suggest the increase is multifold. Covid-19, a growing population, and exploding veterinary costs. Covid brought both selflessness and selfishness. People were lonely and sought the companionship of man's best friend and kitty, simultaneously, the cost and access to veterinary care became prohibitive.

The current conditions don't just affect the care of animals. It is intimately connected to hiring and retaining a well-trained staff who imparts compassionate care to the animals. Animal Altruism. It is a thing. Your "Yes" vote will bring the shelter up to par for the health and safety of the animals, staff, and visiting public.

(This information furnished by Raleigh Smith.)

Argument in Favor

A Yes vote could cost taxpayers and Renters

A no vote keeps the current measure 17-103 in place, as passed in November 2021 by over 6,000 votes and expires in June of 2027, at \$.11 per \$1000 of Assessed property Value. Instead of the proposed replacement levy of \$.47 per \$1,000.

Please note of the wording used in this replacement measure 17-117. ("Revenue from this measure would go into a dedicated fund. Josephine County could use this revenue only to.")

This measure should have been using the terms **Shall**, if the intent was to be legally binding, as defined by Blacks Law Dictionary. **Shall** is the word used in legal and binding Statutes and Contracts when it is to be Mandatory. As in the 17-117 ballot Question "**Shall** County levy \$.47 per \$1,000 assessed value"

Measure is defined: (In Part) by ORS 250.005 Definition (d). Local, special or municipal legislation "Measure" submitted to the people for their approval or rejection at an election.

Their use of the word **would** is a legal term as defined by Blacks Law Dictionary; As a word expressing **what**; **Might** Be, or **Expected** to be, or **Preferred** to be, or **Desired** to be and

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also the **Willingness** to do something. **None** of which are **binding** legal terms.

Their word **could**: IS not a legal term defined in the Blacks Law Dictionary, however, it is listed in the dictionary as; **Pos-sibility** or **Willing** or **Able** to due something.

Lets keep the **guaranteed** \$.11 cents through 2027, and Keep the **protection** of our current Charter Section 14.6 County Animal Control Support (1,2,3,4.) By voting no on both 17-116 and 17-117.

Renters, be aware, if passed, property owners could pass this tax increase onto the your rent.

Paid for by w4acg.com

(This information furnished by James Rafferty, We're for A Constitutional Government.)

Argument in Favor

A point of pride in Josephine County is the support people give the Animal Shelter. Ten years ago the county shelter euthanized 400 to 500 animals a year. Increased animal deaths were anticipated because county budget cuts at the time included shelter services. In 2014 Josephine County citizens led an effort to pass a levy that would not only keep the shelter open but turn it into the no-kill facility it is today. That five-year levy of eight cents per thousand dollars of assessed property value was approved by nearly 65 percent of the voters. The levy was renewed with a slight increase five years later as animal intakes grew along with costs.

However a crisis point has been reached earlier than anticipated. Animal control calls have gone up more than 90 percent since the last levy passed and the 32-kennel facility can see peaks of nearly 90 animals doubled up in pens and sitting in crates in the halls while volunteers and staff try to manage sanitation. That isn't easy with a failing septic system, crumbling concrete and rusting kennel gates. It isn't easy working in the cold of winter and heat of summer with no air conditioning.

Shelter staff and volunteers' endurance is keeping the shelter's no-kill status intact but they need help. The county's Financial Officer determined a minimum levy of 27.6 cents would be needed to keep the shelter going while a short-term add-on of 19.4 cents was needed for basic renovations. The renovation levy will make it possible to secure a business loan that could end the need for it as soon as three years. Both are packaged in Measure 17-117 because without renovation the shelter would be inadequate and without enough operational funds a renovated shelter would lack adequate staff.

Vote YES on Measure 17-117 for the animals, the shelter and that point of Josephine County pride in the way animals are cared for here.

(This information furnished by Stephanie Zaborowski.)

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Measure 17-117 Arguments

Argument in Favor

When I started volunteering at the Animal Shelter nine years ago, one out of three animals housed there was euthanized - for lack of space, or for minor or treatable issues, like upper respiratory infections or ringworm. Heartworm in dogs or FIV in cats was a death sentence. It was grim.

The first Shelter levy allowed a shelter manager and additional staff to be hired. With incredible hard work and creativity by staff, volunteers, and partners, the live release rate has increased to above the 90% threshold that qualifies our Shelter as a No-Kill facility. (In 2023, it was 95%.)

Failing to pass this proposed levy will mean, with the large increase in the number of animals to be housed and cared for and demand for Shelter and Animal Control services, increasing cost for veterinary services, and the need for major repairs to the Shelter's buildings, maintaining that No-Kill status will be virtually impossible.

Losing No-Kill status will result in the loss of staff, volunteers, adopters, donations, grant money (not often available to 'Kill' shelters), transfer partners, and community support — the very things that have allowed the Shelter to remain barely afloat for so long. A bad situation will become much worse. Support for "Kill" shelters is a hard sell.

We do not want to go back to the bad old days of euthanizing animals for lack of space, pets that are healthy or treatable. This is a crisis, and the bill has finally come due; this is not something that happened overnight. The proposal for Shelter renovations and expansion is barebones, but will allow the Shelter to avoid overcrowding and maintain safe and healthy conditions. The increased funding for operating the Shelter and for Animal Control will provide for the animals' care and better meet the demand for services that the community expects.

Save lives. Save the Shelter. Please vote YES on 17-117.

(This information furnished by Debbie Dean.)

Argument in Opposition

Failure to Plan is a Plan to Fail

In 2023 the Animal Shelter had eight employees and sheltered 2600 animals ... for 7 cents.*

The new 2024 Animal Shelter levy is 20 cents.** That 20 cents can fund 23 employees and shelter 7,400 animals per year ... a funding increase of 185% overnight.

For the last 4 years the average yearly Animal Shelter intake grew by 6%; a total of 150 additional animals per year. In 2024 they will intake about 2750 animals.

Do they need 23 employees to handle 2750 animals? Where will they put 15 additional staff?

Why are they budgeting for an increase of 37% more animals each year; that's an additional 962 animals yearly. So, what is actually going on?

The problem is that this levy was not written for **pro-rated growth**. When you don't factor in yearly growth, monies you will need in your fifth year you actually begin receiving in your first year- providing you more funds than you can use efficiently. Failure to pro-rate just the Shelter portion has increased it by over 4.6 million dollars.

As a taxpayer you have a right to know how your money is being spent. When bloated figures don't add up and details are scant, it indicates a planning failure. The public expects more and our animals deserve better.

Send the commissioners back to the drawing board. They still have 3 years left on their current levy contract, but "suddenly" it's not enough money, showing that that levy was also a failure to plan properly.

It is time for our leaders to be held accountable.

VOTE "NO" on 17-117 the Animal Levy.

*The current animal levy: (7 cents for Animal Shelter and 4 cents for Animal Control).

**Proposed 2024 Animal levy: (20 cents for Animal Shelter; 8 cents Animal Control & 19 Cents Capital expenditures).

(This information furnished by James Rafferty, We're for A Constitutional Government.)

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Measure 17-117 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

This Levy has Issues.

There is no transparency. No plans, no statistics, no projections or priority needs list. No drawings, no illustrations, no land development or growth assessments and no comps detailing similar facilities.

They don't even state what is needed specifically; just that they need more money.

For instance, they mention they have only 32 kennels. How many more do they need and how fast? They talk about the crowded cat facilities, so how many more cages are needed? We see no current breakdown of dogs versus cats or other animals. They seem to believe that money is the sole answer, get more money. Thieves think the same way.

Some back-of-the-envelope figures:

The rate of growth for animal intakes at the shelter is currently at 6% annually.

But the county population has been growing at a steady 1% for 29 years. Where is all this animal growth coming from and when will it even out? It has to even out; it can't keep growing 5 times faster than the population.

Is the plan to initially remodel the old facility to handle immediate needs or will it be closer to 5 years before the facility as a whole is operational?

Most don't know that a generous donor has given 200 thousand dollars to the shelter for future development. It is sitting in a fund the commissioner's control. Why isn't part of that being used for research to detail the coming needs of the shelter so that the public can see a cohesive, transparent plan?

There are 3 years left on the 11-cent-levy; enough time to make thorough transparent plans that can easily be explained and justified to the public.

I love animals, but I sure dislike seeing animals used as fund-raising pawns.

VOTE No on 17-117

Note: Always be very skeptical when a **levy** bullet point states:

"Pay related administrative expenses"

Paid By Bill Hunker

(This information furnished by Bill Hunker.)

Argument in Opposition

I cannot support any more property tax increases.

Many people in our county already struggle to pay property taxes. Most county residents outside of Grants Pass will already see a substantial property tax increase this year due to the law enforcement levy passed this past November.

Property taxes can affect animals as well. Many times, people have told me they could not afford veterinary care for their animals because it was the time of year when property taxes were due or they were behind on their property taxes. On more than one occasion, these animals ended up being put down.

Every year, when property tax statements go out, some of my clients choose to forgo heartworm prevention and/or flea and tick treatment for their animals because they need every dollar they can come up with to pay taxes.

If you would like to support the work of the animal shelter and are financially able, I would highly encourage you to volunteer there or make a voluntary financial donation.

Please do not add to the burden that many are already struggling to carry. Vote no on 17-117.

Zachary W Robinson DVM

(This information furnished by Zachary W Robinson DVM.)

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Measure 17-118 Three Rivers/Josephine County Unit Joint School District

Referred to the People by Three Rivers/ Josephine County Unit School District

17-118

Authorizes Bonds to Improve Safety, Security, and Reroof Aged Buildings

QUESTION: Shall Three Rivers School District issue \$39 million in bonds for school capital costs and receive a \$6,000,000 matching grant? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

SUMMARY: School Districts in Oregon depend on local support to fund capital improvements. The District has been awarded a \$6,000,000 grant which will be available only if the bonds are approved. If approved, this measure would finance capital costs within the District, including:

- Safety and security measures with a focus on access control at all locations
 - Additional fencing
 - Manned Gates
 - Buzz-In entry systems
 - Cameras
 - Key card entry
 - Security lighting
 - Security Doors and hardware
- Re-roof 18 buildings throughout the District to maintain structural integrity and protect the community's investment in school district facilities

Bonds would mature in 16 years or less from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to be \$0.55 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value. Actual rates may vary based upon interest rates incurred and changes in assessed value.

Explanatory Statement

This bond measure is a critical step in ensuring the safety, security, and integrity of our school buildings within Three Rivers School District. With a focus on re-roofing aging structures and enhancing security measures, this initiative will benefit over 4,000 students and 600 staff members across our 14 schools.

Enhancing School Security

In response to evolving safety concerns, our Safety Team and local law enforcement have assessed our school buildings and campuses. The proposed strategy aims to strengthen school perimeters by managing entry and exit points, deterring and delaying potential threats. \$11 million has been allocated for security enhancements, including fencing, gates, and advanced entry systems, we are prioritizing the safety of our school community.

Addressing Urgent Roofing Needs

Many of our district's buildings are over 60 years old and in critical condition, as identified in a recent long-range facility plan. Re-roofing these structures is essential to maintaining their structural integrity and preventing future costs. With \$35 million dedicated to re-roofing 18 buildings across the district, the safety and functionality of our aging facilities will be enhanced.

Overcoming Funding Challenges

Despite the vast area we serve and significant transportation costs, our district receives the same funding per student from the State as smaller districts. Over the years, we have diligently pursued various funding opportunities, but capital improvements heavily rely on local support. With your approval of the \$39,000,000 bond measure, we have secured a matching state grant of \$6,000,000, maximizing the impact of every dollar invested in our schools.

Your vote for this bond measure is not just a vote for our schools; it's an investment in the future of our community. The projected tax rate associated with this bond is \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For example, a property assessed at \$300,000 would contribute \$165 per year for the 15-year bond term.

Together, we can provide safe, secure learning environments for our students to help them thrive and succeed.

(This information furnished by Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent, Three Rivers / Josephine County Unit Joint School District.)

Measure 17-118 Arguments

Argument in Opposition

It's Time To Vote No

The Three Rivers School District was officially formed in 1994, when the Josephine County School District merged with the Applegate School District located in Jackson county.

Since then there has been numerous tax measures, some have passed and some failed. But it seems that it's always an urgent matter needing to be voted on, right now, or else the students will suffer. 17-118 is the same strategy.

So what! That many of the district's buildings are over 60 years old, and now in critical condition. What happened over the last 30 years? The 18 school buildings must have had maintenance done, and the condition of the roofs had to be noticed to be in shoddy condition, right?

Okay. It does not matter why the roof repair was not budgeted or repaired in the previous years. Even though the urgency of their condition accelerated over the years. It does matter, we call it poor management!

So, now the "TRSD board" is Addressing the Urgent Roofing Needs; By asking the 3-River School District voters to pass this projected tax rate associated with the bond of \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value, per year for the full fifteen (15) year term. That's in addition to the \$3.7262 that is already being collected by the TRSD.

Vote No!

Then if you like, fill out their Donation Form and bring to any school office, or mail to: Three Rivers School District (TRSD)
Attn: Business Office P.O. Box 160 Murphy, OR 97533

Or personally contact, Dave Valenzuela Superintendent at 541-862-3111 ext: 5222; if you have any concerns about this measure, which, is to benefit more than 4,000 students and 600 staff members attending the 14 schools.

view <https://www.3riverssd.org>

It's Time To Vote No

paid by w4acg.com

(This information furnished by Jim Rafferty, We're For A Constitutional Government.)

Argument in Opposition

Most of the new tax money allocated by 17-118 is for reroofing 18 school buildings. The roofing cost of \$35 million dollars seems unbelievably high. We are not getting new buildings, it's all just maintenance.

The materials required are not expensive. Some roofs are covered with thin rubber membranes, some use shingles or could be sheet metal. In all cases the costs should be around \$1 per square foot for the basic materials. Installation is not difficult.

The schools already have large maintenance budgets. There are many ways to get these repairs done. Government projects usually involve vast amounts of waste and that is undoubtedly what will happen.

We should vote NO to increasing every property owner's tax by several hundred dollars a year, until we are provided with more details on what is being done, how much roof is being fixed, and who is getting the contracts.

In Oregon, taxpayers spend about \$500,000 each year for a 30-student class. The cost is high and the academic quality needs major improvement. The teachers' unions are getting too much money and the focus is not on quality.

My 5 brothers and sisters and I were all homeschooled. We each earned doctorates in scientific, medical, and engineering subjects and have provided educational materials to over 100,000 students in public, private, and home schools. Educating children should not be difficult.

We should focus on improving academic quality, not spend more money on government boondoggles.

Also, notice the title. "Authorizes Bonds to Improve Safety, Security, and Reroof Aged Buildings." They emphasize security concerns and list reroofing last. It takes some searching to find out that most of the money is going to roof repair.

Right now, the Oregon capitol in Salem is being renovated at a cost of \$500 million dollars and only 10% of the money is going to renovation work. This project will likely have similar problems.

Please vote NO on 17-118.

(This information furnished by Dr. Matthew Robinson.)

"Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument."

"Measure arguments are printed as submitted. The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Josephine County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument."

Josephine County Commissioner, Position 2



**Chris
Barnett**

Occupation: Multiple Small Business Owner. Real Estate Principal Broker; Broadcaster KLDR/KAJO Radio; Command Chief Pacific Region USAF/CAP

Occupational Background: U.S. Air Force Chief; Realtor; Entrepreneur; FAA SUAS Pilot

Educational Background: Graduated: Hidden Valley High School; Community College of the Air Force; RCC; First Sergeant Academy USAF; Senior NCO Academy USAF; Criminal Justice AA; Human Resource Management AA; University of Maryland; National Broadcasting; and Joint Forces Staff College. FEMA Certifications.

Prior Governmental Experience: U.S. Air Force; Oregon Air Guard; USAF Reserve; USAF Civil Air Patrol; Command Chief Oregon; Command Chief Pacific Region Civil Air Patrol; FAA and FCC operator.

EXPERIENCE THAT MATTERS:

Chris Barnett is a 43-year Josephine County resident. He is a conservative family man who has been successful in his life, businesses, and career. Chris gives back, volunteering often. Chris will bring his management skills in business, human resources, military service, and law enforcement to work for the citizens of this great county, solving issues important to YOU!

Strengths Chris Barnett brings to SERVE THE PEOPLE:

- Service Before Self - putting YOU, the people, first and always.
- Integrity - doing what's best for the county.
- Teamwork - working with departments to better help the taxpayers.
- Out of the Box revenue generating ideas.
- Running the County like a Business - striving for success.
- Positive & Transparent leadership.
- Results oriented.

CHRIS BARNETT will strive to:

- ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS and work with all agencies to help.
- Expand Public Safety by building up reserve programs.
- REDUCE THE HOUSING SHORTAGE by allowing expansion in the county.
- Welcome Businesses to invest in Josephine County to CREATE MORE JOBS.
- Utilize COMMON SENSE BUDGETING.
- Work towards Unity in Our Community.
- Ensure government protects the CONSTITUTION, people's best interest, PERSONAL FREEDOMS & LIBERTIES.
- Work to SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES.
- Be a Voice for ALL at the table.

"As County Commissioner, I will work tirelessly to represent ALL citizens of Josephine County." --Chris Barnett

www.VoteChrisBarnett.com

Paid for by Chris Barnett for Commissioner (23138)

(This information furnished by Chris Barnett.)

Candidate statements are printed as submitted. The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

Josephine County Commissioner, Position 2



**Mark F
Jones**

Occupation: Retired Firefighter

Occupational Background: City of Scottsdale Fire Department; Josephine County Assessor's Office; Rural Metro Fire

Educational Background: Hidden Valley High School;

Diploma; Maricopa Community Colleges; Associate Degree

Prior Governmental Experience: Vice Chair - Rural Planning Commission; Vice Chair - Josephine Housing and Community Development Council

About Me:

I grew up in the Murphy area and graduated from Hidden Valley High School in 1988. My career in the fire service took me to Arizona for almost 20 years, however after retiring in 2018, moving home to Josephine County was the first thing on my mind. I spent more than 1/2 my life as a Firefighter, dedicated to responding to emergencies and helping others in their time of need. My unwavering desire to help others has led me to run for County Commissioner, we need elected officials that are here to serve you, not themselves. Helping this county has been my focus for the last 3 years. I have attended most Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday Commissioner meetings and workshops, as well as City Council meetings. I have spent many hours learning the position of County Commissioner and the inner workings of our County. This will help me serve you the best, with Knowledge, dedication, and integrity.

Current County Involvement:

- Vice Chair - Rural Planning Commission
- Vice Chair - Josephine Housing and Community Development Council
- Foundation Director- Rotary International
- Member - Merlin Community Park Board
- Member - Grants Pass and Josephine County Chamber of Commerce
- Member - Citizen group for Fire Safety

My Values: Authenticity, Community, Compassion, Honesty, Integrity, Resilience

My Commitment: I will work for you and for your benefit, not my own. We have dealt with self-serving leaders for far too long, make sure you vote for the one who will truly serve you.

Local Issues I want to address:

- Homelessness
- Affordable housing
- Economy
- Law Enforcement
- Fire District
- Drug use/abuse
- County Budget/Grant Reliance
- Trash/vehicle dumping in our forests
- Learn about my positions on these at ElectMarkJones.com

Proudly endorsed by Jim Brumbach

(This information furnished by Mark F Jones.)

Candidate statements are printed as submitted. The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

Josephine County Commissioner, Position 2



Colene Martin

Occupation: Real Estate

Occupational Background: COO at Oregon State Chamber; CEO at Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber; Owner of Photo Electronics Business.

Educational Background: AAS Business Management/Technology Rogue Community College; U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Institute for Organization Management.

Prior Governmental Experience: Collaborative Economic Development Committee Josephine County & City of Grants Pass; Grants Pass Tourism Committee.

Ensuring Our Community's Safety

My unwavering commitment to the safety of our community drives my vision as your next County Commissioner. I'll tirelessly work to fortify law enforcement resources, providing steadfast support to our local police departments and the county sheriff. Together, we'll proactively tackle crime, preserving our rural way of life.

Solutions for Homelessness:

I will work to implement programs that offer support and resources to those in need, while respecting the rights of property owners. We need common-sense solutions that benefit our community and get people off our streets.

Protecting Your Wallet

I stand against burdening our hardworking citizens with new taxes. My focus is on fiscal responsibility, seeking efficiencies in existing budgets, and fostering economic growth. I am dedicated to keeping Josephine County financially sound and affordable for all residents.

Expanding Mental Health Services

As your County Commissioner, I pledge to collaborate with existing programs, nonprofits, and healthcare providers, ensuring expanded access to crucial mental health resources throughout our county. We need a comprehensive approach, and I will tirelessly champion initiatives that address the mental health challenges our community faces.

Economic Development

Imperatives are workforce development, infrastructure, and housing.

"I am a Native Oregonian, Josephine County is my home, and I am committed to being a catalyst for positive change in the county. I look forward to working to foster an environment where businesses can flourish, and residents can enjoy the benefits of a robust, vibrant, and safe community."

Endorsements

Gary Jantzer - Northridge Homes
Dave Thomason - Thomason Hospitality Group
Kurt Heater - Real Estate
Lowell Gibson - Nicebadge
Julie Thomas - Security & Safety

Electcolenemartin.com

(This information furnished by Colene Martin.)

Candidate statements are printed as submitted. The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

Josephine County Commissioner, Position 2



Dan Mancuso

Occupation: Newspaper publisher

Occupational Background: Newspapers: publisher, general manager, advertising director and print advertising sales representative.

Educational Background: N/A

Prior Governmental Experience: Current member of the Josephine County Budget Committee (3 years), current member of the Illinois Valley Airport Advisory Board (3 years), current member and Vice Chair of the Collaborative Economic Development Committee (3 years) and prior City of Shelton Wash. Parks Advisory Board.

Why Mancuso?

Working for ALL of Josephine County residents will be a priority to me. Our current board and candidates seem to be more interested in politics and not policy. While they play the identity politics game. They seem to have lost sight of why there are there, to enrich the citizens they represent, not themselves and their friends. The board seems to work for the few with little consideration for the many; this tendency will change under my leadership.

During the course of my 14 years of covering the Josephine County Board of Commissioners for the Illinois Valley News, I have dealt with 13 individual commissioners. I have seen what has been done wrong as well as their successes.

Not only do I fully understand the job and its duties, having been on the budget committee for three budgets, giving me a solid understanding of where the county gets money and how its spent. I already have working relationships with most of the department heads and staff. In addition to county contacts, I have relationships with personnel from the Oregon Department of [Transportation](#), [Oregon Liquor Control Commission](#), [Oregon Medical Marijuana](#) Program and the Department of Forestry. As a result, I will be ready on DAY ONE to be able to work for all of Josephine County residents.

In years past I have had good relationships with our representatives at the state level and have been able to bring money to the Illinois Valley.

Outside of my day-to-day duties, my main area of focus will be to work on ways to ease our current housing shortage, continue to address the unhoused, public safety and economic development.

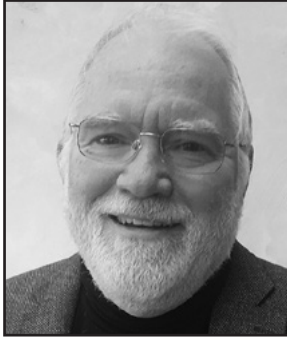
One of my strengths is that I have a strong awareness of today's issues. As a news professional I have to look at all sides of an issue, which is what a good commissioner should do. It's also important to understand that it's not about political stances; public service is about people and not partisanship.

In the past, the county has lived in the moment and not planned for the future. I will make one promise: My decisions will not be based on the next election, not on party politics, but rather the needs of the people in Josephine County, and always with an eye for the next generation.

(This information furnished by Dan Mancuso.)

Candidate statements are printed as submitted. The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

Josephine County Commissioner, Position 3



**Pat
Fahey**

Occupation: Retired

Occupational Background: Farquhar & Newberry CPA 1979-1981; Southern Oregon Sanitation 1981-2015; Sutherlin Sanitary Service 2016-2023

Educational Background:

Grants Pass District 7, Graduate; Southern Oregon University Bachelor of Science (Accounting Major); Oregon Public Accountant License

Prior Governmental Experience: Josephine Community Library Board, Current; Rogue Community College Current; Josephine County Budget Committee, Chairman (2013-2016)

I have lived in Josephine County my entire life, I've raised a family, built a business and have had the opportunity to be involved in the life of this community.

My Civic Involvement

Coached T Ball

Scout Master for 10 years

Helped to build the Three Rivers Community Hospital as the Foundation Chair

Grants Pass Rotary member or 38 Years

Served on the Josephine County Budget Committee for 3 years as Chairmen.

Served on the Josephine Community Libraries, Inc. and Josephine Community Library Foundation boards

Served on the Rogue Community College Board for 6 years.

Serve on the Oregon Community College Association Board

My Professional Achievements

Served as the General Manager of Southern Oregon Sanitation for 20 Years

Served as President of the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association

Helped establish and then served on the board of Our Community Bank (1995-2005)

Founded and directed a software firm for 30 years (Pacifica Systems)

Testified before the US House of Representatives on behalf of the City of Grants Pass (1997)

Personal Philosophy

I believe the best approach to solving a problem is to first acknowledge the problem.

I believe one of Josephine County's biggest problems is a lack of faith in the Commissioners and in County Government in general. Small issues become big problems without adequate transparency the citizens are left wondering.

As with most big problems, there are no easy solutions. I can see a great deal of work ahead and I ask you my neighbor, the citizen, to join in me finding and implementing the right solutions.

If you have questions, suggestions or comments feel free to call or text me at 541-218-6607

(This information furnished by Pat Fahey.)

Candidate statements are printed as submitted. The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

Josephine County Commissioner, Position 3



**Nathan
Gonzales**

Occupation: Managing Partner of the Grounds Guys of the Rogue Valley. AO

Occupational Background: Banking experience, personal and small business; service technician. plumbing and drain cleaning.

Educational Background: High School Graduate, Roosevelt High School; Multiple Certifications and some college.

Prior Governmental Experience: I am one of the people, in a government of, for and by the people.

Nathan Gonzales is a Josephine County native deeply rooted in family and entrepreneurship. He is a proud father and the managing partner of The Grounds Guys, a thriving landscaping business. His ties to this community run deep. Driven by Nathan's role as a concerned citizen, he firmly believes in the potential for individuals to make positive impacts on their neighbors. It is with this conviction that Nathan Gonzales is running for Josephine County Commissioner.

"My love for this county is profound. There's a unique beauty here, and I believe it's our individual responsibility to safeguard and preserve it." –Nathan Gonzales

Nathan Gonzales brings honesty to the table, along with practical budgetary experience that emphasizes fiscal responsibility. He believes in a conservative approach to governance - small government with little intervention in citizen's lives.

"My vision is one of a resilient and flourishing Josephine County, where every voice matters, and every need is met. Join me on this journey not just to protect our home but to improve it, leaving a legacy of strength and practicality for the future. Let's shape a Josephine County that stands as a symbol of beauty, resilience, and opportunity. Moving Forward Together, this is a goal we can achieve." -Nathan Gonzales

Relevant Experience:

- Crafts and implements corporate strategy to grow business.
- Works within limited budgets.
- Manages many employees and projects simultaneously.

** As a bonus, he is NOT a long-time candidate, a seasoned politician or school board member. He has no political baggage.*

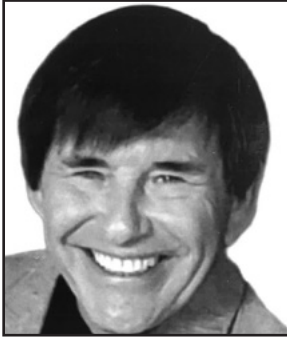
If you want to be represented for the individual you are, not the label of your political ideology, then Nathan Gonzales is perfect for the job.

"I am Nathan Gonzales, and I would be honored to be your choice for Josephine County Commissioner." -Nathan Gonzales

(This information furnished by Nathan Gonzales.)

Candidate statements are printed as submitted. The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

Josephine County Commissioner, Position 3



**Ron
Smith**

Occupation: Electrical Sign Industry

Occupational Background: Former Small Business Owner, Business Management, Leadership Christians Ministry, Grass-roots Organizer, Property Rights Advocate.

Educational Background: Highline High School, Highline Community College, Christian Leadership Training.

Prior Governmental Experience: I have worked on the people's side of government for over twenty five years. Defending our property rights, our liberty and our freedom from government overreach and intrusion.

* Nominated "Citizen of the Year 2001" by Cave Junction Chamber of Commerce for my community activism.

Electing Ron You'll get "The People's Commissioner"
Born in Josephine county, I shall represent all the people, I'm a real team player not a politician. I will never forget I works for The People.

I'll will serve Josephine county with integrity, honesty and with complete transparency.

My Focus

*Law Enforcement

I shall diligently seek out long term funding solutions. I strongly support the Sheriff's efforts to reduce crime and the drug epidemic in our communities.

*Housing

I'll tirelessly work to alleviate the serious housing shortage in our county. Doing everything possible to simplify the permitting process, reduce regulation and lower costs associated with building reasonably priced housing.

*The Homeless

I believe the three pronged approach of affordable housing, drug and alcohol treatment and law enforcement will greatly reduce the tragedy of our county's homeless population. I positively support our community organizations that help people end their substance addictions.

*Jobs

A strong supporter of business, small and large, I'll do all possible to reduce regulations and streamline developments that create jobs.

* Plus: I have years of experience working with state and federal agencies on land use issues. I'm resolved to use this knowledge in helping to reduce forest wildfires and smoky summers.

Curent member Josephine County Farm Bureau, former member Josphine County Granges, Lions Club and Kiwanis.

* Conservative

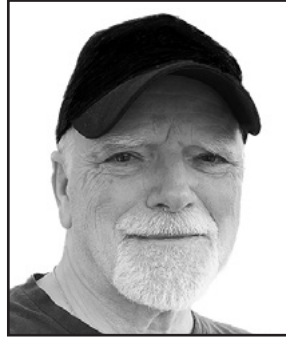
I'm done letting politicians waste our tax dollars on nonsense-while we're robbed by drifters, choked by smoke and gouged by outrageous housing costs.

VoteRonSmith.com

(This information furnished by Ron Smith.)

Candidate statements are printed as submitted. The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

Josephine County Commissioner, Position 3



**Russell
McAlmond**

Occupation: Executive Director and Founder - Center for Human Equality - Grants Pass, Oregon; Southern Oregon Chapter Leader - FAIR (Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism)

Occupational Background:

President and CEO - Evergreen Capital Management - Investments; Bank of America - Vice President and Financial Planner; US Bank - Vice President and Financial Planner; Merrill Lynch - Investments - Financial Advisor

Educational Background: MSFS Master of Science Financial Services - The American College; MBA Master of Business Administration - California Coast University; BAMOL Bachelor of Management and Organizational Leadership - George Fox University; BSBA Bachelor of Business Administration - California Coast University

Prior Governmental Experience: US Marine Corps - Active Duty Service - Three Years - Honorable Discharge; 15 month overseas deployment; weapons instructor; expert with rifle and pistol

It is an honor to have the opportunity to run to be your new county commissioner. According to a recent poll in Josephine County, 55% of respondents believed that the county was going in the wrong direction (Daily Courier - 3/13/24). These dissatisfied voters are why I am running.

To create a positive, qualified and unique change for the county.

My appeal to all voters in Josephine County is to please read each candidate's application for this job and compare qualifications. Voting for a county commissioner is hiring someone to make decisions regarding millions of dollars in county assets and income. Our applications reveal our true qualifications for this position and our educational background.

Please don't hire a partisan who will keep the county divided. We are better together.

Please don't hire someone who is not qualified. Read each candidate's qualifications.

Please don't hire someone who keeps running without success. Not a good sign.

I am the only veteran (Marine Corps) running for this position, a conservative, and educated with an MBA & MSFS. My experience includes over thirty years in successful management, finance and leadership.

If you truly desire change, I humbly ask for your vote.

(This information furnished by Russell McAlmond.)

Candidate statements are printed as submitted. The above information has not been verified for accuracy by the county.

BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY ELECTION DAY MAY 21, 2024

Josephine County Official Ballot Dropsite Locations

Open from May 1, 2024 until 8 p.m., May 21, 2024

Josephine County Courthouse:

The County Clerk's Office (7:50 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.)

Open 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on election day

Justice Building side, ground floor next to the elevator (24 hours / 7 days)

Next to the "C" Street Entrance (Tax Office Entrance) (24 hours / 7 days)

South Grants Pass:

Washington Federal, 290 Union Avenue, front parking lot (24 hours / 7 days)

Library Drive-up - Grants Pass Branch:

Parking lot behind library. Enter from "C" Street (24 hours / 7 days)

Merlin:

Ray's Food Place, 3500 Merlin Rd., parking lot; next to the USPS Blue Mail Box (24 hours / 7 days)

Murphy:

Hidden Valley Market, in front, on the left side of the building (24 hours / 7 days)

Cave Junction:

Cave Junction City Hall, near front entrance (24 hours / 7 days)

ORS 254.445 Assistance in Marking Ballot; Allowances and Limitations

Any voter who, due to a disability or inability to read or write, is unable to mark their ballot may receive assistance. The assistance is provided either by two persons of different political parties provided by the county clerk or by some other person chosen by the voter. Any person assisting a voter must follow the direction of the voter as to how to vote the ballot. Also, the person assisting the voter must not afterwards give out any information about how the voter voted. Additionally, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an employer of the voter or an agent of the employer. Also, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an officer or agent of a union of which the voter is a member.

Notice: If a ballot is delivered to your address for someone who has moved or for someone who has passed away, please write "RETURN" on the envelope and place it back in your mailbox or in an official ballot dropsite so our office may make the necessary changes to the voter rolls.