

## VOTE!

The air is thick with the back and forth, almost always as a scream, of politics. The nation is in an uproar. While many are upset, and want change, either by supporting the current federal administration or opposing it, those of us in Springfield will have little direct impact on the major issues dividing much of the country.

That, however, misses the point, because each and every one of us has a voice that CAN be heard on the issues the most immediately affect our lives. As a former Speaker of the House said: "All politics is local." And it is those local politics where you and your vote have a real impact.

In just a few days, you will have an opportunity to express yourself on the state of politics and the issues facing Oregon. This is the timetable for the November election:

October 10-12 – Voter Pamphlets delivered  
October 16 -- LAST DAY TO REGISTER  
October 17-22 – Ballots mailed.

In this local area, there are many candidates, and a large number of issues where your vote will matter.  
The Candidates:

### GOVERNOR:

Aaron Auer	Constitution Party
Kate Brown	Democratic Party; Working Families Party
Knute Buehler	Republican Party
Nick Chen	Libertarian Party
Chris Henry	Progressive Party
Patrick Starnes	Independent Party

### STATE SENATE:

District 4

Frank L. Lengele, Jr.	Libertarian Party
Floyd Prozanski	Democratic Party; Independent Party; Working Families Party
Scott Rohter	Republican Party; Constitution Party

District 6:  
Lee Beyer Democratic Party

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### MEETING CALENDAR

October 11 – Measures 103 and 104 are Constitutional Amendments which restrict the ability of the Legislative Assembly to pass taxes or otherwise increase revenues.

October 18 – Springfield General Obligation bonds to fund street preservation and maintenance.

### PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change  
Where agenda information is available, it is included. Many agencies publish their agendas after the newsletter is released. Click on the link following the agency to be taken to their agenda page for most current information.

#### SPRINGFIELD CITY COUNCIL

October 8 Team Springfield Annual Meeting  
(6:00 p.m.)

October 15

Work Session 5:00 p.m.

Planning Work cycle

Regular Session 7:00 p.m.

PH Supplemental Budget

PH MWMC Amendments to SDC

Methodology

PH Enterprise Zone authorization

October 22

Work "Session 5:30 p.m.

Fees and Charges

Parking Program Input

October 29 – No Meeting

#### AGENDA

#### LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 2, 9:00 a.m.

October 9 9:00 a.m.

October 16 9:00 a.m.,

October 22 No Meeting

October 28 9:00 a.m.

#### AGENDA

#### LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

October 19 – Board meeting 5:30 p.m.

#### –AGENDA

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Robert Schwartz Republican Party

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

District 7

Cedric Hayden Republican Party; Independent Party  
Christy Inskip Democratic Party; Working Families Party

District 11

Mark F. Herbert Republican Party; Independent Party  
Marty Wilde Democratic Party; Working Families Party; Progressive Party

District 12

John Lively Democratic Party; Working Families Party; Republican Party; Independent Party

Lane County Commissioners (non-partisan)

East lane County:

Heather Buch  
Gary Williams

**STATE MEASURES**

Measure 102

Constitutional Amendment. Allows local bonds for financing affordable housing with nongovernmental entities. Requires voter approval, annual audits.

Measure 103

Constitutional Amendment. Prohibits taxes/fees based on transactions for "groceries" (defined) enacted or amended after September 2017.

Measure 104

Constitutional amendment. Expands (beyond taxes) application of requirement that three-fifths legislative majority approve bills raising revenue.

Measure 105

Repeals law limiting use of state/local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws.

Measure 106

Constitutional Amendment. Prohibits spending "public funds" (defined) directly/indirectly for "abortion" (defined); exceptions; reduces abortion access

**COUNTY MEASURES**

20-290 -- STAR voting initiative

20-296 -- Springfield General Obligation Bonds for street preservation and maintenance

**MEETINGS**

**SEPTEMBER 6 – STAR VOTING**

Our Political System is Seriously Broken. That is the premise that brought Mark Frohnmayer to Springfield City Club on September 6 to advocate for his STAR initiative which will appear on the November 6 ballot for Lane County voters. STAR, which stands for Score Then Automatic Recount, is a new approach to voting that, Frohnmayer said, eliminates most of the problems and concerns that affect our current voting system.



The current system, he said, is essentially a negative system, where voters in a primary select the “lesser of two evils” and then follow up in the general election by voting, likewise, for the lesser of two evils and, in many cases, trying to avoid having the

election determined by a spoiler candidate who has no chance of winning, but can siphon off a number of voters from one or the other of the main candidates.

STAR, he argues, by allowing voters to rank their choices from 5 to 1 (or even zero) means that even a candidate who would otherwise be a spoiler can still get votes from those who prefer, without skewing the final result.

Under STAR voters cast their ballot only once; there is no primary. In November the rank all the candidates from 5 (their favorite) down to 1 or zero for someone whom they vigorously oppose. These scores are totaled at the close of the polls, and the two candidates with the highest score (not the highest number of votes) are declared finalists. The ballots are the recounted and the one of these two finalist who gets the highest number of votes (not the highest score) is the winner.

Under the current system there are a number of failings, he said. First, voters tend to focus on avoiding the worst outcome, not the candidate they favor. Second the system gives a marked advantage to the candidates who have the greatest access to capital.

Third, candidates must run twice for the same job – in a primary and a general election. Since primary elections turnout tends to be poor, the candidates who advance to the general election are often selected by a small minority of voters.



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By contrast, Frohnmayer said, the STAR system offers several advantages. First, there is no incentive for a voter to vote against his or her true favorite. Second, every voter gets a mathematically equal vote (he said that in the current system each voters vote is equal only where there are two candidates.

STAR is more expressive, he said Every voter can rank their preferences where more than one candidate might be acceptable.

The system is more accurate. He said this has been confirmed by a number of election scientists who have run simulations.

Frohnmayer said the system has been used in other cities in the US, but has not been tested in partisan elections. He said it is also much simpler than the Ranked Choice Voting system used in some states, including Maine.

**SEPTEMBER 20: MEASURE 102**

Measure 102 is a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow local governments to offer general obligation bonds to support the development of affordable housing. The measure is needed, according to its supporters, because provisions of the Oregon Constitution prohibit units of government from “lending their credit.” That provision has been construed to prohibit the use of general obligation bond proceeds to support private activity. (General obligation bonds are full faith and credit bonds which are repaid by property taxes.

Under current law, if a government wants to support the development of affordable housing it must own the facilities and cannot mix its funds with any other funds. The measure requires that these bonds must be approved by a vote of the people, can be funded only from new levels of property taxes and are subject to an annual audit.



The program was presented by Steve Lochs, Real Estate Development Director of Homes for Good, the Lane County housing agency, Alison McIntosh, Deputy Director, Policy and Communications for the Neighborhood, Darcy Phillips, Executive Director of Cornerstone Housing, will focus on the impacts in Lane County. Kaarin Knudson, of Better Housing together

Ms. McPherson noted the extremely low vacancy rates throughout Oregon. She said that the cost of housing construction is not directly related to the level of rents. “Market rate rentals” where the cost of construction is supported by rental rates, are far above the level of affordable housing. Rates can be brought down only by using subsidies like available tax credits and blending the sources of revenue from a number of sources. In some cases,

there are as many as nine different funding sources on a single project. None of this can be done if public funds are in the mix, unless Measure 102 is approved.

In response to a question which pointed out the history of the constitutional provision, which was to prevent governments from making risky private investments, the panel pointed to the audit requirements, and the requirement that a separate vote of the people to authorize sale of bonds, both act to assure that the funds are used wisely.

Typically “affordable housing” is defined with respect to family income. The measure does not contain a definition but requires the jurisdiction who wishes to offer bonds for sale to determine what constitutes “affordable housing.”

Bonds sold for this purpose would not compress other property tax payments, since debt service on general obligation bonds is completely separate from the limits imposed by Measures 5 and 50.

**City Club Board of Directors**

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**Minutes**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Springfield City Club**  
**September 7, 2018 – LRAPA offices**

Present:

Merlyn Hough	Therese Lang	Bob Fondren	Len Goodwin
Terry Beyer	Nick Nelson	Mackenzie Karp	

Absent: Callie Barry Elliott; Kristin Denmark; Joe Leahy; Carolyn Miller  
Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m.

On a motion by Bob, seconded by Nick, the minutes of the August meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Bob presented the Financial Report. He said the current cash balance, in excess of \$4,000 is adequate, given that we expect only about \$1,200 in fixed expenses for the balance of the year. The Board discussed invoicing for the coming year and agreed that we would decide on the timing of invoices at the October meeting. It was mentioned that in past years we had offered new members an opportunity to join late in the year and have their dues payment cover the coming year, but no action was taken. On motion by Len, seconded by Terry, the Financial Report was accepted unanimously.

Len Reported that he had raised the question of giving additional people access to the online payment application with Amy Pedersen at Banner Bank. She will get back to him soon with an approach to make that possible. Bob agreed to serve as backup, in addition to Callie who had volunteered at the August meeting.

Merlyn reported on the meeting with the League of Women voters of Lane County. They are enthusiastic about partnering with City Club where appropriate. And the group discussed a possible schedule for September and October. He pointed out that the League would not want to cosponsor programs where they would be asked to advocate for a position, since that aspect of their effort is kept separate. They did offer to co-sponsor programs on September 20 and October 11 but could not on October 18 because of a scheduling conflict with their meeting.

The Board discussed whether to consider endorsing any of the measures on the November ballot. It was agreed on a motion by Bob, seconded by Mackenzie that the Board would ask the members present at the September 20 meeting if they wished to support, oppose or take no position on Measure 102. The Board will take the same steps with respect to the City of Springfield bond on October 18, but will not ask for a vote of the members on the two tax measures – 103 and 104. The motion passed unanimously. Len was asked to publicize this to all members. Bob pointed out that because of his employment he cannot take a position on any measure. The Board directed Len to communicate to the mayor and Springfield Councilors that they felt it was important that a member of the Council participate in the discussion of the Springfield bond measure.

Therese agreed to facilitate the November 29 program on communications in the event of an emergency, and it was suggested that the following program, on December 6, be devoted to the issue of the Cascadia subduction. Terry will contact Steve Robinson and Ken Vogeney. Terry will also try to arrange a legislative preview program for December 17, with Sen. Beyer, Rep. Lively and Rep. Barnhart's successor.

Len was asked to add LRAPA to the public meeting calendar list, and to include a link to each organization's agenda, since many of them do not have an agenda published in time to be printed in the newsletter.

The next Board meeting will be October 9, 2018

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Len Goodwin,

Secretary

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**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

October 8 – Team Springfield meeting  
October 22 – Business meeting 7:00 p.m.

**AGENDA**

**WILLAMALANE PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT**

October 12 – Board meeting 6:30 p.m.

**AGENDA**

**SPRINGFIELD UTILITY BOARD**

October 12 – Board meeting 6:00 p.m.

**AGENDA**

Lane Regional Air Protection Authority

October 12 – Board meeting 12:15 p.m.

**AGENDA**