

Opinion / Politics

Qualifications to file for County Commissioner

Submitted by Baker County Clerk Cindy Carpenter

This next year, 2018, is a busy election year. The Primary and General election will have several County office positions open. This information given is to encourage and inform the public to look into possibly running for an office or to help you to research the candidates that will be running. There are two commissioner positions that will be voted on in 2018.

Commissioner position #2 is currently held by Mark Bennett. This position is part-time.

Commissioner #3 is currently held by Bill Harvey. This is the only full-time position of the three Commissioners.

Each Commissioner is on Boards and involved with Special Interest Items. A flyer showing the involvement of each Commissioner for 2017 is attached. Part-time positions will attend the regular Wednesday Commission Sessions and any joint sessions or related boards or committee hearings.

Commissioner #3 – full time position- is also involved in all the above responsibilities but also works full time in the Court House. To get an idea of the scheduling go to Bakercounty.org and browse the County calendar that shows scheduled meetings. The public is always welcome to attend these scheduled meetings and this would definitely be an interesting time to learn of all that is going on in our County.

Filing Information: Baker County Commissioner Position #2 and #3 – File by fee (\$50.00) or signature petition pending approval for circulation from the County Clerk's Office (90 signatures). Must be at least 18 years old and be a resident of the county one year prior to election (ORS 204.016). The term is 4 years.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTION

This classification directs and coordinates as a member of the County Court the business of the County government as prescribed by Oregon Revised Statutes; does related work as required. The three Commissioners need to work together to communicate for effective rulings and decisions to be made.

EXAMPLES OF PRINCIPAL DUTIES (Duties assigned to this classification include, but are not limited to, the following examples. Any one position may not perform all listed duties.)

1. Participates in the development, enactment, interpreter, and monitoring of County policies, ordinances and procedures; assists in the coordination

of County Court responsibilities.

2. Acts as a member of the County Budget Committee; estimates and determines amount of revenue required; review rates necessary for appropriation of funds; supervises all County financing.

3. Holds public hearings on land use matters; adopts ordinances on zoning and planning; hears appeals of such matters and renders decisions.

4. Appoints and employs department heads; confers with department heads on matters of policy or on difficult or unusual problems; participates in filling vacancies in elective positions when required under ORS.

5. Authorizes purchase of land, land exchanges, land leases, and timber sales, directs purchase of equipment and contracts for buildings and/or repairs.

6. Authorizes all county purchases, payrolls, contracts, deeds, leases and acquisitions whether real or personal property with the exception of certain business transactions conducted by departments of county government pursuant to state law.

7. Authorizes the filling of vacant positions and approves or disapproves salary adjustments; approves collective bargaining agreements; adopts and revises the county personnel rules and the classification and pay plans.

8. Appoints members to county boards, committees and commissions.

9. Supervises all county property; provides for the construction, repair and usage of county buildings; awards all bids.

10. Establishes, vacates or alters county roads within the county.

11. Directs expenditure of funds for promotion of county resources including recreational and industrial development.

12. Meets with officials from cities within the county, adjoining counties, state and federal government officials in matters of coordination, cooperation and matters of policy at various levels of government and for the purpose of agreements relating to land and water uses, cooperative projects, and matters of mutual interest; meets with various boards and organizations in matters of local interest; meets with members of the public to explain county functions and answer questions.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ABILITY REQUIRED OF THIS POSITION

Thorough knowledge of county government organization, powers and functions and relationships with other governmental jurisdictions; thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of public administration, particularly as applied to the manage-

ment of diversified county governmental services; thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of public budgeting, finance, reporting and personnel management; considerable ability and skill in establishing and maintaining cooperative and harmonious working relationships with county administrative officials and employees, representatives of business and government organizations and the general public; ability to appraise the quality of varied municipal services through inspection and review of work reports and to develop and effectively initiate improvement in management methods; ability to speak effectively before varied groups.

QUALIFICATIONS

Elected position. Must possess the requirements of the position of County Commissioner as set forth in ORS 204.016.

SUPERVISORY CONTROLS OVER THIS POSITION

Works with the responsibility directly to the electorate.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

Work is primarily performed in an office environment with physical demands of bending, hearing and speaking conversations, kneeling, lifting up to 50 pounds, pulling, pushing, reaching, sitting, standing and walking. A considerable amount of driving is required.

Other Projects That Could Be Reviewed

The Boardman to Hemingway is a transmission line project proposed by Idaho Power to construct, operate and maintain a new electric transmission line. Research can be done online at www.boardmantohemingway.com. This project first comes up in County commissioner records in 2009. All records from Commissioner Meetings are recorded and available for public use to research.

The Governor's Sage Grouse Association of Oregon Counties is represented by Mark Bennett for Baker County. Do not hesitate to ask him your questions and his observation on the progress of the Sage Grouse Initiative. Research www.westgov.org/news/western-governors-species-conservation-and-endangered-species-act-initiative will give you some background.

BLM Resource Management Plan has been a discussion in Baker County for some time. The subject has been covered in the newspaper and in Commission Sessions. These are good resources to obtain information to research for possibly running for office or even to see if you agree with the position your commissioner is taking on the subject.

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Walden votes to enhance hydropower

Continuing his efforts to promote renewable hydropower production in Oregon and throughout the Northwest, Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) voted to pass the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act (H.R. 3043) through the House of Representatives on a strong bipartisan vote. The Hydropower Policy Modernization Act originated in the Energy and Commerce Committee—where Walden serves as Chairman—and would modernize and streamline the licensing process for hydropower projects.

“Hydropower plays an enormously important role in electricity generation across the country and especially in my home state of Oregon,” said Walden. “Hydropower generates 43% of electricity in my state. It is dependable; it is baseload; it is carbon free; it is renewable; and it is very important to our region. Nationally, hydropower is the largest source

of renewable electricity generation and a recent Department of Energy report found that U.S. hydropower could grow by almost 50 percent by the year 2050. However, as my colleagues from the Pacific Northwest and across the country know, we are not taking full advantage of this valuable resource.”

Walden said the legislation will enhance Oregon's ability to utilize hydropower. Specifically, the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act would modernize the permitting process for hydropower projects by:

Clarifying that hydropower is renewable under federal law,

Improving administrative efficiency, accountability, and transparency, Requiring timely decision making, and; Reducing duplicative oversight from the multiple federal agencies that review hydro applications by designating the Federal Energy Regulatory Com-

mission as the lead agency. The current licensing process of new hydropower facilities and relicensing of existing facilities is often costly and time consuming. Walden said that the Hydropower Policy Modernization Act will improve hydropower licensing, which will ultimately benefit ratepayers and consumers.

“As these entities go to relicense, sometimes it costs tens of millions of dollars just to get a renewal of a government permit to continue doing what you've been doing. And it can take seven-to-ten years to work through the process,” said Walden. “By the way, guess who pays for all of those costs? The ratepayers, the people paying their electricity bill end up paying for all of this out of control review and regulation.”

The Hydropower Policy Modernization Act passed the House on a bipartisan vote, and now awaits action in the Senate.

Wyden, Merkley want weed program funded

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley today urged federal officials to provide full funding for a successful 40-year program that conserves and restores healthy landscapes and waterways threatened by invasive weeds.

The Oregon senators' letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke notes that full funding in 2018 for the decades-old Strategic Integrated Noxious Weed

Management partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Agriculture would be \$290,000.

Yet the current agreement calls for just \$70,000—less than one-quarter full funding for assistance with weed control on federal lands, including education and outreach, prevention, physical and mechanical treatments, biological

agents, herbicides, cultural methods including targeted grazing, and replanting.

“Failure to continue a fully-funded agreement puts ranchers' grazing allotments in jeopardy, could affect critical invasive plant work on federal lands in Oregon and protects adjoining private lands and our agricultural economy,” the senators wrote.

Wyden focused on LGBTQ people in Azerbaijan

A bipartisan group of senators today called on Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to investigate news reports that authorities have conducted raids and detained people in Azerbaijan because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In a letter to Tillerson, the senators, led by Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and

Pat Toomey, R-Penn., called for the investigation following recent news reports of raids conducted in September in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, when authorities detained more than 50 gay and transgender people.

“We write to share our concerns about press reports that Azerbaijani authorities have detained

dozens of gay and transgender persons simply because they are gay or transgender,” the senators wrote. “We urge you to investigate these reports and, if they are credible, to publicly condemn these actions in the strongest terms and to push for perpetrators to be held accountable.”

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