

Join Vernonia Public Library for a Conversation About Environmental Engagement and Sustainability

WHAT: VERNONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY wants to hear from you! Join the library for a discussion on ENVIRONMENTAL ENGAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY. We need community input and discussion to:

- Identify what environmental and sustainability concerns the community has
- Receive community input regarding the specific types of programs, events, resources and materials

the library should consider to support environmental awareness and sustainability projects

• Gather community direction on how the library can promote environmental engagement and collaborate with local organizations

WHEN: 6:00 PM THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

WHERE: To be held at the VERNONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY, 701 Weed Ave., Vernonia, Oregon 97064.

WHO: Vernonia Public Library. This event is offered

as part of Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL).

CONTACT: For more information, please call (503) 429-1818.

Local Campaign Finance Reform *continued from front page*

would be limited to the \$500 maximum entity donation.

- Place aggregate limitations to all candidates in an election not to exceed \$5,000. Qualified Small Donor Committees could make unlimited contributions.
- Require entities contributing more than \$750 in the aggregate to register with the State as a Political Committee.

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners declined to place the issue on the ballot themselves when asked, and instead said citizens need to collect signatures, even though county voters approved campaign finance reform with the passage of Measure 107. At their July 28, 2021 Board of Commissioner weekly meeting, after hearing a 20 minute report from Public Health Director Mike Paul about the spike in COVID numbers, all three Commissioners said they thought petitioners needed to get out in the community and collect signatures in order to place an initiative on the ballot. Commissioner Casey Garrett told the audience he thought campaign finance reform would make it harder for newcomers to take part in elections. "It was basically a second job for me to get my name out there and the bottom line is it cost money," said Garrett about running a campaign. He said it should go through the petition process and Commissioners Henry Heimuller and Board Chair Margaret Magruder agreed. At both their July 28 and August 4 meetings, Heimuller told the audience that campaign contributions and expenditures are already monitored and are open for public inspection.

"What happens now is the people with the disposable income and the means to make contributions are given a larger voice in local elections," says Miranda.

The petitioners believe the current cost to run a campaign, even for a local county or municipal election, hinders more candidates from participating in the process.

"While we would like to think people are voting on a candidate's platform or their ideas and beliefs, when it comes down to it, having flashy mailers in order to get your ideas out to people, depends on how much money you have," says Reese.

"The idea that every candidate would only be able to spend effectively the same amount of money, would really level the playing field," says Mickelson. "The whole point is that a candidate's ability to get their name and message out there would no longer be reliant on how much money they were spending, but would instead depend on how willing they were to pound the pavement, attend public events, and talk to people face-to-face."

The Petitioners have a multi-

pronged approach to gather the needed signatures, and are affiliated with the group Moving Forward Columbia County, so people can go to their Facebook page to sign the petition. They will be outside local grocery stores and post offices, and attending large public events, like the Vernonia Salmon Festival, to talk with people and collect signatures. Local business owners around

Columbia County have also agreed to host signature pages where voters can sign the petition when they shop.

"Overall, this would be the best way to let voters make the choices in our elections," says Mikelson.

"It makes it one-person, one-vote, not \$10,000 buys 10,000 mailers," adds Miranda.

Volunteer with the City, We Have Open Committee and Planning Commission Positions!

Volunteers are needed to serve on various City Committees. Participating on a City Committee is a rewarding experience, providing an opportunity to learn and share your skills. It also enables volunteers to become involved in their local government.

VERNONIA PLANNING COMMISSION

The Vernonia Planning Commission recommends to the City Council changes to Vernonia's Land Use and Development Code regulating the future growth and development of the City; and hears a wide range of land use applications including property partitions, variances, new residential, commercial and industrial construction, subdivisions, and zone changes.

Meeting Day and Time: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 1 vacant seat for a citizen within 5 miles of the city

AIRPORT COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 4th Tuesday of the month, As Available

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 2 vacant seats for in-town residents

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 3 vacant seats for in-town residents

PARKS COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 4th Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 1 vacant seat. Seat may be filled by someone who does not live in Vernonia City Limits

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 4 vacant seats for in-town residents

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS

General duties and responsibilities of committees include:

- Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council.
- Promote the general welfare and economic benefit of the City and its citizens.
- Participate in studies, and prepare reports and recommendations on their own or at the request of the City Council.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete a City Committee Application (www.vernonia-or.gov/) and return to City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064, Fax to (503) 429-4232 or email to sborst@vernonia-or.gov. Any questions please call the City Recorder at (503) 429-5291 ext. 105.

FOR TOWING EMERGENCIES IN AND AROUND THE VERNONIA AREA

Make sure you request service from a local provider!

Police and County personnel are required to use a rotation of available providers, **UNLESS YOU SPECIFICALLY ASK** for a service by name.

REQUEST TOWING SERVICE FROM



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