

Civics Lessons

This election year feels toxic. The current rhetoric and anger of the presidential race seems to be permeating everything. How did we wind up with a reality TV star, who admits to grabbing at the vaginas of women he finds attractive, running for our highest office? Where did all the starry-eyed Berners go? Where are we going, and how did we get in this handbasket?

As former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil once said, "all politics is local," and if we want better politicians at the top, we need to start getting involved in politics at the local level. But jumping into politics can be intimidating — just understanding how our Eugene City Council operates can be confusing.

So we present you with this brief guide to local politics, how to get involved and how to watchdog your government.

Don't let this election get you down. Instead, let it be the spark to make positive change. — *Camilla Mortensen*