Oregonians invited to 'Let's Talk' session to share what they want from an Oregon governor

News organizations and nonprofit groups in Oregon have teamed up to learn what voters want candidates for governor to be talking about as they compete for votes. They seek Oregonians to participate in a "Let's Talk," 90-minute virtual listening session to share their understanding of the race through the media. There is no cost to join in this nonpartisan event.

Voters would join others via the Zoom platform to discuss off the record what information they want to know about the candidates – and what they don't want to hear. The intent is for news organizations to provide reporting in the coming months that serves the interests and needs of Oregonians instead of candidates and their campaigns.

The governor's race promises to be one of the most important in recent Oregon history with several high-profile candidates and a state reeling from the pandemic and political divides.

The effort is led by the Oregon Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit digital news service focused on state government and politics; Rural Development Initiatives, a nonprofit focused on community vitality in rural Oregon; and the Agora Journalism Center, part of the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication in Portland.

"It is important to know what is on the minds of Oregon's voters as we enter the primary season for our state's next governor. It will help us direct our news resources in the direction of interest to citizens," said Lyndon Zaitz, publisher of

the Keizertimes.

"We look forward to hearing from diverse groups representing small communities throughout Oregon, to make sure we understand what's important to people as we consider who the next governor should be," said Jennifer Groth, director of Policy and Partnerships at Rural Development Initiatives.

"Understanding and fulfilling the public's information needs to inform their decision at the ballot box is a critical democratic role for the media. Listening is a key first step." said Andrew DeVigal, director of the Agora Journalism Center.

Sessions with voters grouped in their region will take place by the end of February.

To participate Oregonians can go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ 8JV25WF to submit their interest along with basic information. The deadline for expressing interest is Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Salem Keizer Public Schools partners with community for informative safety series

Salem-Keizer Public Schools will host a three-part virtual series together with district, school and community leaders on safety in local schools.

Each session will have a moderated panel discussion with an opportunity for questions including district and schoolbased safety, security and counseling staff, local law enforcement and community organization partners. Panelists will vary for each session.

Part One: School Safety and Emergency Procedures, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. During this session, attendees will

learn about safety protocols and emergency procedures implemented in all

brainfood

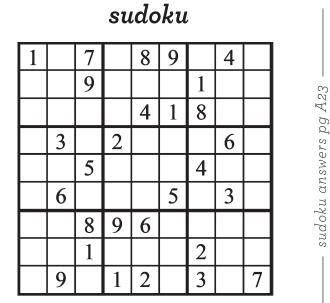
Salem-Keizer schools and how they can continue to partner with district and community leaders to support safe and welcoming schools. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions through a moderated Q&A with panelists and learn more about upcoming sessions. Language interpretation, including ASL, will be available.

Part Two: Social Media and Online Safety, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m.

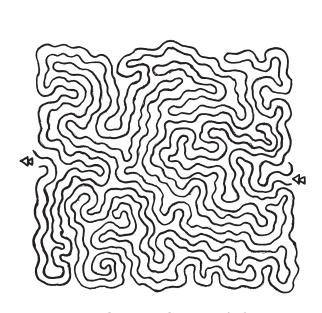
During this session, attendees will learn about strategies to improve awareness of what their student posts or shares online, help their student understand social responsibility and digital citizenship and prevent online threats and cyberbullying. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions through a moderated Q&A with panelists and learn more about the next session. Language interpretation, including ASL, will be available.

Part Three: Building a Caring School Community, March 30, 2022 at 6 p.m.

During this session, attendees will learn how schools can continue to partner with families and community members to create a culture of tolerance and inclusiveness in all SKPS schools to promote safe and welcoming learning environments. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions through a moderated Q&A with panelists and language and ASL interpreters will be available.



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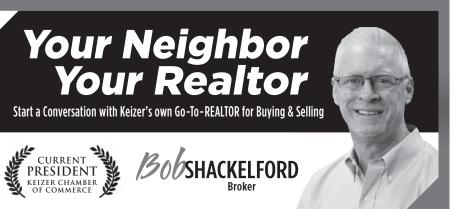


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If it's happening in Keizer, or to someone from Keizer – WE WANT TO KNOW.

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