2026 GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE

LAST RECOMMENDED DAY TO RETURN BALLOTS BY MAIL: OCTOBER 27 · ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

The New Era sent questionnaires to candidates in each competitive in which more than one candidate has filed to run. All the candidates in all but two of the races we're addressing here responded. The ones who did not are noted in the sections in which their responses would have appeared. Efforts were made at least twice to contact each candidate, by email or phone.

Two Lebanon City Council seats are not contested races – Jason Adamson is running unopposed for the Ward 2 seat and Michelle Steinhebel is running unopposed for the Ward 3 seat. Due to space constraints, we opted not to include them in this guide. For the same reason, we have not included the candidates for our local U.S. House of Representatives District 5 seat, Democratic incumbent Janelle Bynum, Republican Patti Adair and Andrea Townsend of the Green Party.

These are the candidates' direct responses (with spelling/punctuation tweaks as needed). Candidates were asked to limit their answers to 150 words or less, but in some cases went longer. If we have edited a response for length, readers will be directed to our websites for the extended version.

Sweet Home Mayor

Susan Coleman, 54



Years as Sweet Home Resident: 17
Education: MA Intercultural Communications - Alliance Theological Seminary; BA Christian Education - Simpson College
Occupation/Professional Background: Director of Operations at Children's Literacy Project
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): City of Sweet Home mayor; Linn County Public Safety Committee; Legislative assistant to State Representative; Sweet Home city councilor; Sweet Home Traffic and Public Safety Committee; Sweet Home Library Board; Sweet Home Admin and Finance Committee; Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Sweet HELP Volunteer; Hillside Fellowship member; Sweet Home Rotary Club member; FAC Board of Directors
Family: Husband Matt Coleman; children at home: Nathaniel and Madalyn; parents Jim and Lynetta Corley
Contact/More Info: susan@childrensliteracyproject.org

Levi Gideon, 34

Years as Sweet Home Resident: 6
Education: High School
Occupation/Professional Background: Software Engineer (Self-Employed) / former Engineering Technician II, City of Sweet Home
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): No political experience.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Did not respond
Family: Husband and father with "one more kid on the way."
Contact/More Info: Did not respond

Angelita Sanchez, 46



Years as Sweet Home Resident: Parents moved back to Sweet Home when I was 13. I bought my grandparents' house in 2017.
Education: Sweet Home High School, Linn-Benton Community College
Occupation/Professional Background: President, trucking business owner, 10 years; commercial truck driver; legislative assistant, Oregon State Senate; wildland firefighter.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Sweet Home City Councilor, 2020–present; Legislative assistant to state Sen. Cedric Hayden
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): FAC Homeless Shelter Advisory Board; Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation; Sweet Home Transportation System Plan Advisory Committee; Sweet Home Housing Production Strategy Roundtable; food bank volunteer and gleaner, 12 years; rural community and natural resource advocate.
Family: Mother to three adult children
Contact/More Info: (541) 979-8208

1. Why do you want to be Sweet Home Mayor?

Susan Coleman: I didn't originally seek the position of mayor.

When my fellow councilors unanimously elected me in 2023, I accepted that responsibility with gratitude and a determination to serve the entire community. I've always believed that public office is a responsibility, not a prize.

My experience as mayor has reinforced my belief that much can be accomplished when people are willing to work together, even when they disagree. I am seeking another term because I love Sweet Home, believe deeply in its people, and want to continue helping our community move forward with integrity.

Levi Gideon: As a father raising a family in Sweet Home, I care deeply about this community's future. I want to help build a town where families can put down roots, local businesses can thrive, and future generations have the same opportunity to call Sweet Home home.

Angelita Sanchez: I've served on the City Council for six years. I've learned a lot, and I haven't always liked what I've seen.

I've watched decisions made that I didn't believe were in the public's best interest. I've questioned spending, challenged decisions, and spoken up when I thought something was wrong. Sometimes I've been the only one doing it.

I'm a fourth-generation Sweet Home resident. I raised my children here, run a business here, and care deeply about what happens to this community.

I'm not interested in simply occupying the mayor's chair. I want to do something with it.

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Lebanon Mayor

Forest Bosley, 44



Years Living in Lebanon: "Roughly" 24 years
Education: Associate's degree from Linn-Benton Community College, primarily focusing on business management and operation.
Occupation/Professional Background: I've been working since I was 13 and my career path has spanned across lots of different industries. This has created a sizable skill base for me as a generalist, everything from customer service to construction, from health care to retail.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): I've attempted to align with parties or groups in the past but I keep finding these organizations and institutions to be exclusionary if your own policy ideas don't align, or if you push back on thought processes. I can find common ground with just about any group or organization, but being entrenched in their specific ideology has never been something that I felt comfortable with. I've always felt that If I have to support something I don't believe in — just to be part of the group — then it's not the right group for me.
Contact/More Info: Leadership@ForestBosleyForLebanon.com

Michael Wallace Martin, 75



Years Living in Lebanon: 48 years
Education: BA from Pacific Lutheran University, Graduate School at U of O and OSU.
Occupation/Professional Background: Educator 33 Years, small business owner 15 years.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Grassroots campaign, moderate Republican – let's talk and come to the best solution.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Lebanon Community School Board trustee and Budget Committee member, 2009-present.
Family: Father of three, grandfather of five
Contact/More Info: miketom1951@gmail.com

Dave Workman, 64



Years Living in Lebanon: Born in the Lebanon hospital in 1962. While I spent some of my younger life in Albany and Portland, I moved back here in 1987 and haven't wanted to be anywhere else.
Education: Certified Lending Expert and Certified Financial Planner.
Occupation/Professional Background: Recently retired from executive team of 44 North Credit Union, where served for almost 15 years.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Lebanon Planning Commission, current city councilor for Ward 2. While on council, served as the council liaison to Parks, Trees and Trails Committee, and served as both secretary and chair of Budget Committee.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Past volunteer with Build Lebanon Trails and Boys & Girls Club in Lebanon. Led movement to let the people decide on issues like fluoride in Lebanon's water, reopening the Lebanon city jail.
Family: Wife Renee of 38+ years, daughters Christa and Alexandra, two sons-in-law and grandson Ezekiel. All living in Lebanon.
Contact/More Info: putworkmantowork@gmail.com

1. Why do you want to be Lebanon's mayor?

Forest Bosley: Throughout my life, people close to me (friends, family, co-workers) have always pushed for me to get into higher leadership positions. I believe in the responsibility of people with power and how it ought to be used and that shows in how I treat people near me.

I want to see people succeed, and I don't feel that from my town. It feels as if the city is just going through the motions, and with the uncertainty that people feel we can't have a government that feels passive.

Mike Martin: Lebanon needs strong sensible leadership giving value to every tax dollar spent. I represent common sense solutions to complex problems. I am a fiscal conservative and make decisions based on value vs actual cost to taxpayers.

Dave Workman: I'm running for mayor because I love Lebanon and want to help build a safe, strong and prosperous future for our community. My family has been part of Lebanon since the 1940s.

I believe we should respect our

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Lebanon City Council Ward 1

Note: **Dave Cockrell** is also a candidate for this seat. He was sent a questionnaire, but did not respond, despite multiple efforts to connect with him.

Marcellus Angellford, 47

Years as Lebanon Resident: 1998-2002, 2016-present
Education: Oregon State University, master of engineering, engineering management (end of fall term 2026); Oregon Institute of Technology, BS mechanical engineering technology (2006); Linn-Benton Community College, AS degrees in welding technology, general studies technology and machine tool technology certification. AS Welding Technology LBCC.
Occupation/Professional Background: Welding engineering and quality engineering/ management in steel fabrication and construction.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Unregistered/ unaffiliated with any political party. Currently serving on the Lebanon City Council after having been appointed to fill a vacancy, following service on city Planning Commission.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Active in The River Center church. Over the years, involved in Scouting, Child Evangelism Fellowship, School Theater Club, home-school co-op activities, Lebanon Dash Run, Build Lebanon Trails, Oregon Veteran's Home, etc.
Family: Wife Naomi Angellford (on staff at East Linn Christian Academy); son, 14; daughter, 12.
Contact/More Info: (541) 258-4986



1. Why do you want to be a Lebanon City Council member?

Marcellus Angellford: I chose to apply for the open city council position out of a sense of duty. The other councilors appointed me to serve alongside them in my current position and I'm grateful for their trust. Since then, I've had different people tell me they're glad I'm on the council which means a lot to me. I want to continue to serve and represent those people.

2. What, in your opinion, is the state of the City of Lebanon?

Marcellus Angellford: I think the city is in a time of transition. It's growing and will continue to grow yet Lebanon remains a distinct community. You can look around Oregon at other communities that have been gobbled up and integrated into the blob of metro cities like Portland, Bend, Salem, etc. but I don't see that happening to our town. Lebanon has an independent spirit and is conscious of its identity. It's hard to know what the town culture and vibe will be in 5 years but whatever it is, I am sure it will be recognizable as being uniquely Lebanon.

I am concerned that poorly planned development, strain on infrastructure, and lack of city funding may cause problems. Often with government decisions the effect of bad choices isn't felt until it's way too late to fix things.

I believe the jail tax is the most critical decision voters have in determining Lebanon's future.

I think the city police have done a truly exceptional job and thanks to their hard work crime is low and our town is in good shape. This is big change from 4 years ago and at that time the city police were not adequately funded, and officers were being paid substantially lower than they could earn elsewhere so we could not keep a stable police force.

Even though our officers are doing an outstanding job, misdemeanor crimes are unpunished and the people who commit them are flagrantly taunting our police, our court and our citizens who have to put up with them. I've heard people say that if the jail tax were passed the jail would still sit empty. I don't believe that. I know our police and court will be locking these people up if they're given the tools to do so.

If the jail tax does not get passed I believe petty crime will increase, more homeless people will come in, things will degrade.

When I first joined the City Council and we started talking about this tax, gas was less than $3. For all the people who just don't think they can afford it, I get it.

For myself though, I believe the tax would be a very important investment in our city's future. I don't like paying taxes either, but I also don't like having stuff stolen out of my yard. This has happened to me (two different times) and the value of the items stolen was easily more than what I'd pay for a year of jail tax.

My children like to walk from our house to the Block on 2nd Street afternoons after school so they can hang out with friends. Right now, I feel it is safe for them to do that. If this jail tax does not get passed I am concerned that in a year or two it wouldn't be OK.

The way I think about this issue is I would rather pay higher tax than literally have it stolen from me by thieves who face no consequence for their crimes. I'd rather pay the tax than have my children have to worry about the crazy people they might meet on the sidewalk. I'd rather pay the tax than have our city smell of human feces and urine. I really do believe passing this jail tax will be instrumental in addressing these kinds of issues.

3. If elected, what is one specific change you would like to see the city make during your term?

Marcellus Angellford: I very much would like to see the voters pass the tax so the city can reopen the jail.

Another thing I'd like to see is increased traffic enforcement. (By the way, the jail being open would be a big help with that, although not directly)

4. If elected, what strategies would you propose or support to address the problem of revenue shortfalls that Lebanon has experienced recently?

Marcellus Angellford: We appear to be financially stable for the moment, which is a good thing. There has been a lot of work to get us to this point. Going forward, if the money runs short I'd advocate cutting expenses. If the good people of Lebanon pass the jail tax it would be an absolute slap in the face if the city were to then raise water rates or demand more money elsewhere.

5. What is your position on data center development around Lebanon? What factors should the city consider when deciding whether to support, limit or regulate such development.

Marcellus Angellford: I'd need more information on the specific circumstances in order to form an opinion.

In general, I view data centers in the same light as football stadiums – neither good or bad, but we should think hard and do our homework before we put one up in the city limits.

I also view data centers as being an inevitable technology development. Just like the development of the railroad, the automobile, the electric grid, cellphones etc.; data centers are not going to just go away. All we can do is try our best to guide things towards good and mitigate the bad.

6. If the city were to face legitimate, but competing, priorities – for example, maintaining infrastructure while holding the line on taxes and fees – how would you decide which gets priority?

Marcellus Angellford: It will depend on the circumstances. In general, I will seek to guide things towards the greatest good for the community as a whole. Pragmatically though, it's more likely to be trying to minimize the damage to cause the least harm.

One thing about fees: It's better to raise development fees because the result is if they don't like paying the fees, and don't decide to go through with the development, then things remain unchanged. We don't get a new restaurant or store; the empty field stays a field instead of becoming affordable housing... I'm not saying it's OK to go nuts with development fees but they're probably one of the "safer" fees to raise comparatively.

7. In addition to the issues already touched on here, what do you consider the biggest challenge(s) facing Lebanon. Briefly, how would you address those?

Marcellus Angellford: I've already touched on reopening the jail... One thing I've been disappointed by is how this issue has become emotionally charged with some people. Regardless of the outcome, I hope our city leaders and citizens don't allow their differences to divide them.

If Lebanon is going to continue to be a vibrant city we have to be willing to work together. If our city loses its sense of community, we'll just become another soulless suburb.

As I've already said, I don't think that will happen, but we still need to guard against it. The college is going to expand; more people have recognized what a great town we have and are choosing to move here but work elsewhere. Lebanon is going to grow and change. It's up to us to decide how we're going to shape that growth.

I guess what I'm saying is the biggest challenge I see our city facing in the coming 10 years is losing touch with our community identity and values.

I think the most important thing that we can do to combat that is to just be intentional in how you treat your neighbors. It's the old golden rule but it still works.

If you find yourself stressed, grumpy, and tending to bark instead of wag, take a moment and recognize it and do what you can to shake it off. (I'm talking to myself here.)

8. What would you consider a successful four-year term on the City Council?

Marcellus Angellford: The feedback I get from other people in the community matters a lot to me. It honestly feels weird and humbling when someone says: "Hey, I saw you on the video talking about XYZ; thanks for what you said."

I would judge my success by whether or not I keep getting feedback like that.

9. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidates in this race in your ability to serve Lebanon residents?

Marcellus Angellford: Since I'm already serving in this position, I think the question for the voter is whether they think I'm doing a good job and agree with my views on things.

I think I'm serving the people well, and I've gotten feedback from others telling me the same thing; but there might be voters that would rather have someone else.

All I can do is be myself and try my best.

It has been a privilege to be a member of the City Council, and I hope the voters allow me to continue to serve. I'm thankful to all those who have encouraged me in this adventure; I don't take lightly the faith you've entrusted me to carry.

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Sweet Home City Council

Matthew Bechtel, 50



Years as Sweet Home Resident: 6
Education: Associate's degree from Clackamas Community College
Occupation/Professional Background: Military, restaurant management, oil rig and commercial diving
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): I am running as a nonpartisan candidate committed to serving all Sweet Home residents.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Raising good kids to be wonderful community members.
Contact/More Info: matthew_bechtel@yahoo.com

David Lowman, 63



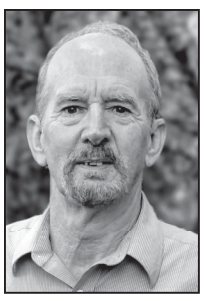
Years as Sweet Home Resident: 8-plus
Education: Hudson Senior High School graduate with diploma; Pasco-Hernando Community College two-year degree.
Occupation/Professional Background: City letter carrier for U.S. Postal Service in Sweet Home.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Appointed and served three years on Sweet Home Budget Committee; appointed and served one year on Sweet Home Charter Review Committee, appointed and served one year as a planning commissioner.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Volunteer one year to help with setting up the Sweet Home Harvest Festival.
Family: Single
Contact/More Info: (727) 465-8299

Jeff Parker, 53



Years as Sweet Home Resident: 20-plus
Education: North Salem High School, Chemeketa Community College
Occupation/Professional Background: General contractor, maintenance, manufacturing, landscaping, architectural design
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Sweet Home Planning Commission, Committee to Update City Charter for Sweet Home.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Volunteering at Community Chapel with youth and AWANA program; coaching Soccer; Boys & Girls Club through high school.

Les Poole, 72



Years as Sweet Home Resident: 1 (after 32 in Clackamas County)
Education: Graduated David Douglas High School
Occupation/Professional Background: Worked on family properties starting at 11. Has worked in construction and mechanics, and operated auto restoration business prior to becoming a material handling specialist for lift trucks, warehouse utilization and trucking, receiving extensive training from Clark, Linde and other manufacturers. Also has worked as heating and cooling (HVAC) designer and estimator. Qualified as a certified contractor for NW Natural, converting homes to natural gas. Also was a certified contractor for Home Depot.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Registered Republican. Public involvement has included participation in hundreds of meetings and hearings. Served on a Planning Commission for over seven years. In 1995, joined a group of neighbors who rose up and prevented construction of a light rail line. Since that time I have continuously been an advocate for investing in roads and holding the government accountable for transportation waste. I have volunteered and sponsored grassroots statewide petitions, and fought ODOT's tolling scheme. Involved in battle against HB-2025 and HB-3991, and donated "many hours" to signature collection for referendum that defeated Gas Tax.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Volunteering for church and local events, participation in City Council meetings and "frequent" contributions to The New Era.; member of the Friends of Gap Road; currently working with volunteers to end the reservoir drawdowns.
Family: "Wonderful" son
Contact/More Info: elpee5440@gmail.com

1. Why do you want to be a Sweet Home City Council member?

Matthew Bechtel: As an Army veteran, I've always felt called to serve. Volunteering with organizations throughout Sweet Home has allowed me to listen to residents and understand their needs. Serving on City Council would allow me to turn that experience into action and serve our community in a more impactful way.

David Lowman: First of all, I love this great city of Sweet Home. I bought a house here in Sweet Home. I also work here in Sweet Home at the Post Office as a city letter carrier. I love volunteering and serving, and giving back to my community of Sweet Home to make it a better place to live for future generations.

I want to serve on the Sweet Home City Council because I care about the community and want to help it thrive. I'd listen to residents, work collaboratively, and focus on practical priorities-maintaining essential services, using public funds responsibly, supporting local businesses, and improving quality of life.

I'd aim to make decisions transparently and ensure every neighborhood has a voice. The people of Sweet Home deserve leaders with common-sense solutions. I will demand accountability with our tax dollars.

Jeff Parker: I would like to help in setting Sweet Home up on a path to attracting commerce and industry, keeping our town thriving, while working to maintain our small town charm and community.

Les Poole: I bring experience, common sense and a promise to be a strong voice for businesses and residents. We face several major issues that require creative thinking and fiscal accountability. I bring those traits. I am not a member of a select group or special interests. I am assertive but not difficult to work with. I have some simple ideas that would improve our city without requiring big grants or pie-in-the-sky ideas.

2. What, in your opinion, is the state of the City of Sweet Home?

David Lowman: In my view, Sweet Home is a community with strong local pride, natural beauty and real potential, but also practical challenges that need steady attention. The city's own priorities point to key areas essential services, infrastructure, economic strength, efficient government, and investment in parks and the library. Housing and opportunities for local businesses also matter to the city's future.

I'd describe Sweet Home as a city at an important point: we should build on what residents value while making careful, realistic progress on the basics. That means listening to residents, setting priorities openly, and being honest about what the budget can support.

Jeff Parker: Currently, we are on the tipping point of expanding beyond our city resources. A good plan needs to be made, and made public.

Les Poole: We are in the same boat as many small cities with a population around 10,000. We face delayed costs for infrastructure improvements that are required by the State and Federal government. There has been a lack of incentives for investment, and good jobs are limited.

We need to look at how we are spending taxes, and take actions to improve the economy.

Matthew Bechtel: Sweet Home has a strong community spirit, dedicated volunteers, and outstanding natural surroundings. However, the community survey reflects concerns about vacant buildings, limited economic opportunities, infrastructure, and public safety. We have considerable potential, but realizing it requires clear priorities, responsible spending and consistent follow-through.

3. If elected, what is one specific change you would like to see the city make during your term?

Jeff Parker: I would love to see the city increase Public Works staffing to allow them to bring back clean streets and parks, while not taxing the current staffing workload.

Les Poole: We need to dramatically increase public involvement and awareness. There is a lack of connection with City Hall and many are frustrated by it. I will work to improve awareness and efficiency that is often lacking. Without some basic changes we'll be unlikely to deliver any projects and improvements in an efficient and timely manner.

Matthew Bechtel: I would like the city to establish a downtown revitalization plan developed with building owners, business owners, and residents. The survey identifies downtown as a significant concern. That plan should address vacant buildings, identify barriers to occupancy, and establish achievable steps toward a more inviting and active business district.

David Lowman: One specific change I'd like to see is a clear, publicly accessible maintenance plan for streets and sidewalks, with priorities, timelines and regular progress updates. Residents should be able to see what needs attention, why projects are ranked as they are, and what the city can realistically compete within its budget. That would help direct limited funds fairly and make progress easier to track.

4. Sweet Home faces significant costs for maintaining and upgrading water, sewer and other infrastructure. How should the city balance those needs with the impact of utility rates, taxes and fees on residents?

Les Poole: We may be able to slightly reduce the property tax rate. The city needs a short-term grant writer to assist in funding. Performing three years of required audits is a must. We can't even get a Moody's bond rating because the audits weren't completed.

Matthew Bechtel: Reliable water, sewer and other infrastructure are essential, but residents' ability to pay must remain central to every decision. I would prioritize necessary repairs, pursue grants and favorable financing, and examine operating costs before supporting increases. Any increase should have a clear justification, transparent accounting and a plan to limit the burden on households.

David Lowman: The city should balance infrastructure needs with affordability through clear priorities, careful planning and honest communication. I'd support maintaining a long-term asset and capital plan that identifies urgent health, safety and reliability projects first, explores grants and low-cost financing, and phases work where possible to avoid sudden rate increases.

Jeff Parker: Some hard number-crunching needs to happen, making sure the right funds for projects are not diverted away from where the taxpayers think they are going. Then we need to evaluate cost-to-service ratios.

5. What can/should the City Council do to promote economic growth in Sweet Home?

Matthew Bechtel: The council should work direct-

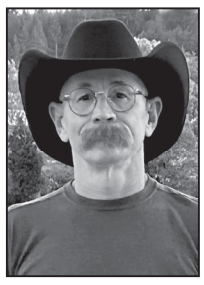
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County Commission Seat 1

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner, 49



Years as Linn County resident: 47 of 49 years
Education: Fire science degree
Occupation/Professional Background: Wildland Firefighter. Fire science instructor. Burn boss. Company owner, Big Bark, Northwest Wildland Fire Training Academy.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Democrat
Other Community Involvement/ Affiliation(s): Former vice president, Sugar City Gleaners. Board of Directors, non-profit Organization Of Fire Contractors and Associates (OFCA).
Family: Jacqueline Lange, four children ranging from 27 to 16.
Contact/More Info: Hineralbany1@comcast.net

Will Tucker, 74



Years as Linn County resident: Since 1978
Education: Some college – LBCC, Cal Poly, Rochester Institute of Technology, Arizona State.
Occupation/Professional Background: 29 years with Hewlett-Packard in sales and management. Six years a Realtor, Linn County Commissioner 2009 to present. Previously a Lacomb School Board member, Linn County Park, Planning and Budget Committee member.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Republican, including precinct committee member.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Have served on Oregon State Parks Grant Committee and on Rules Committee. Board member for CASA, United Way, Red Cross and Furniture Share. Have helped raise money for schools and charities. Served on the Oregon Department of Forestry Adaptive Management Program Committee. Elected by the commissioners of Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Polk and Marion to represent them on the Forest Trust Land Counties Advisory Committee. Serve on the Board and Legislative Committee of the Association of Oregon Counties.
Family: Wife of 53 years, Lynne Tucker. Children: Will Jr. (Texas), Stephanie Sanders (Ohio), Becky Lang (Lebanon).
Contact/More Info: (541) 401-2323

1. Why do you want to be a Linn County commissioner?

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: The County Commission seems to be hyper-focused on the urban areas, while many of us who live within the rural areas are forgotten. As taxes rise, we are seeing services become even harder to get. The current commission is made up of lifetime politicians, and it is time for a change.

Commissioner meetings should be live-streamed and available for the public, as the amount of impact that commissioners have on our county is tremendous.

Will Tucker: I have a heart to serve and the desire to help. I have been a County Commissioner for close to 18 years, and am proud of the time I have served.

2. What skills and background do you bring to the table that would help advance the interests of Linn County residents if you are elected?

Will Tucker: Passion, a bias towards action, a relationship builder across diverse issues and a broad area of knowledge and experience.

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: Running a business with over 200 people has brought skills to the table that I believe would be completely advantageous for a county commissioner position. Fiscal responsibility. Accountability to stakeholders. Tenacity and the ability to stand my ground when it concerns things that I truly believe in.

3. How would you describe the current state of Linn County? Where are we strong? Where are we weak?

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: Linn County is a beautiful place to live in, but we are seeing our taxes increase exponentially with services getting less and less.

We are also sitting in a tinder box of potential wildland fire-urban interface activity. The wildfires that push to the valleys through the north and the south of us in 2020 will inevitably hit our community like it did theirs and there is practically no plan implemented for when this situation does happen.

For the rural members of this county, the response time from law enforcement is well beyond an acceptable period.

Our communities are lacking support services. Mental health, drug addiction, homelessness, i all have become daily reminders of just how much we need. New leadership.

Our strength lies within the actual members of the community, the people residing within this county love the land that they live on, And see beauty in the surrounding environment worth putting in the effort.

Will Tucker: A. Fiscally the county government is strong.

B. Great county-elected officials and department heads.

C. We have a very involved community, especially post-2020 wildfires.

4. What is/are the biggest challenge(s) facing the county and, if elected, how would you respond to it/ them? What, if anything, needs fixing and how do you intend to fix it?

Will Tucker: A. Regional garbage service will be an issue in five to 10 years and needs planning and organizing now. Working to build knowledge, investigating what is being done in other rural areas. Will build a team to respond with concepts.

B. Dealing with forest management issues and resulting wildfires. Working with the Board of Forestry, BLM and the Forest Service. Preparing for the next big fire.

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: We have several challenges with complicated decisions that need to be made. First is a obvious problem with homelessness. Second would be mental health. Third would be the tinderbox that we live in within the urban interface wildland fire area. And a lack of fiscal responsibility, causing an ever-increase in taxes.

The mental health crisis and homelessness problem need to be worked directly together with community partners. The reality is that the government cannot handle this situation on their own. But with the reaching out towards community members, the already gluttonous amount of money that is being put into these issues could be redirected to services that are suited to people who actually understand the problem.

Our wildland fire situation is not going to be fixed with the current platform that we have, which is essentially staff, iron, fire departments and cross our fingers that we have enough staff when the fires happen. This is where my expertise would shine through. With a combination of local outreach and government grants, i would propose, putting together a team that would actively work to fire harden our county. This team could be fully supported off of federal grants.

Advising the community to how to become fire-safe is very different than having teams out actually fire-hardening neighborhoods.

Fiscal accountability happens when the community is able to see where their finances are going. This goes back to my statement of live streaming and video documenting all county commissioner meetings. These meetings set our fiscal and financial responsibilities, and with public attention comes more public orientated decisions. Right now we get the cliff, note versions of the meetings. This is very concerning.

5. Wildfires have become a big concern for many residents after what we've seen since 2020. What do you think of the steps taken by various agencies in the last several years to address this and what role do you think the county should play in continuing or changing those strategies?

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: The county sets the tone for our wildland fire response. Right now, we are relying on local fire departments that are already overstressed and underfunded to respond to wildfires, not just in our county, but across the state, when the governor calls a conflagration. We have seen fire departments go from fully staffed to operating on bare bones during peak fire season, leaving communities very much at the hands of nature.

Our local fire departments should be committed for the work that they do, we should also be recognized that their ability to fight wildfires becomes, at the very least, much harder, borderlining impossible, with the governor using the Conflagration Act so regularly.

We, as the county, need to get out in front of fires and start doing fire, safe community work. We have multiple inmate programs that could be directly helping fire-safe community. We have volunteer programs that could be helping fire-safe the community. And with more federal funding, we would ask a county, have the ability to create a fire abatement crew whose sole focus could be preparing the edges of rural communities for the inevitable fires that will happen that will be similar to those in 2020.

The truth is that we were very fortunate in 2020, when the fires ran through the valleys to the north and the south of us. A quick look at the Detroit area shows what our future will be if we don't get out in front of this situation.

Will Tucker: We are finally seeing some increase in forest management of public lands. We need to hold state and federal partners accountable. We need to continue to push on first response and commitment to putting them out quickly.

6. Mental health is often highlighted as a challenge affecting residents throughout Linn County. What are your thoughts about the county government's responsibility and ability to address this issue? What steps would you like to see taken in this area, if any?

Will Tucker: Linn County is the largest provider of mental health services. We don't have enough staffing to serve the need, and there are not enough candidates for us to fill the openings we have. We have a lot of additional factors, like the use of drugs, which complicates service delivery. We also don't have residential or hospital space.

I am working with Western University of Health Sciences for them to help us build capacity for both masters and doctorate training programs. This is a couple of years away.

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: See Question 4.

7. State government officials often pay lip service to rural populations, but a common complaint among legislators from rural dis-

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tricts is that no one listens to them, that Salem's attention is largely focused on urban issues. As a county commissioner, what role(s) would you play to bring attention in Salem to rural needs?

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: Because of my involvement in the nonprofits that I am involved in, I have built up a solid relationship working with representatives in Salem. I have seen how hard it is to get things moving and see tangible changes.

I have no problems, making connections and being very tenacious when it comes to issues that are important not only to myself, but to the community I represent.

Will Tucker: It is a challenge. Working with the Association of Oregon Counties and personally lobbying in Salem helps. Until we walk in each other's shoes, this is an issue, and the large metro areas have the majority of voters and connections. Still working on the issue.

8. What would you consider a successful four-year term on the Linn County Commission?

Will Tucker: Balanced budget with positive projects for the next five years. Significant improvement in the number of mental health providers. Salem knows my name and the Linn County story.

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: I would like to make tangible impacts. Being able to see a community that is fire-safe. Being able to see a community that has practical mental health programs not just on paper but actively helping. Community involvement within the decisions that are being made by the county commissioners, including live streaming of meetings. And tangible positive effects on the homeless population.

9. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidate in this race?

Theodore 'TJ' Hiner: I am a blue-collar Democrat. I've spent my whole adult life working in the forest and understand what it is to be a rural member of this community. I understand what it is to be an employer, an employee, and most of all a citizen. I cannot be bought and will fight hard for the members of this county with a tenacity not seen by career politicians like those currently sitting on the commission.

Will Tucker: I live my personal motto of "I can. I do and I will."

State House District 11 Seat

Ken Jackola, 58, Lebanon



Years as District Resident: 55
Education: BS –Agricultural Sciences, Oregon State University, U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy, Lebanon Union High School
Occupation/Professional Background: Small Business Owner-J.A. Jackola Trucking, Command Sergeant Major-U.S. Army & Oregon Army National Guard, V.P.-Rick Franklin Corporation & Albany Eastern Railroad Company, Director of Special Projects-Albany Eastern Railroad Company, Mayor-City of Lebanon.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Republican
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Lebanon High School Hall of Fame Board
Family: Spouse Shellie Jackola, five adult children
Contact/More Info: Ken@votekenjackola.com, (541) 224-6940

Ivan Maluski, 55, Scio



Years as District Resident: 13
Education: Bachelor's degree, Lewis and Clark College
Occupation/ Professional Background: Self-employed farmer and rancher with over a decade of work experience for a leading Oregon farm organization advocating for family farmers and ranchers, local food, and rural economic development at the State Capitol in Salem.
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Served four years as an elected board member on the Colton Rural Fire Protection District in rural Clackamas County from 2010-14. Cross-nominated on the ballot by the Independent Party of Oregon, the Democratic Party and the Oregon Working Families Party.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Memberships and Affiliations: Oregon Forage and Grasslands Council, Oregon Pasture Network, Willamette Valley Grazing and Nutrition Group, Friends of Family Farmers
Family: Married 18 years, with one adult son
Contact/More Info: ivan@ruralindependent.com; (541) 791-6796; www.ruralindependent.com

1. Why do you want to be our local state representative?

Ken Jackola: As mayor, I realize that state lawmakers often pass regulations without understanding their negative impact on smaller cities. I am running to bring local control back to our constituents, oppose new taxes, defend the Second Amendment, and promote living-wage jobs in Linn and Marion counties.

Ivan Maluski: I believe in strong rural communities, strong small towns, and a government that is accountable to the people. I believe that rural Linn County needs a state legislator who listens to the people that live here, learns from their experiences and input, and then leads effectively in Salem to cut through the politics and get things done.

I believe I am best-positioned to do that and will bring an independent voice to the state capitol that is long overdue. I strongly believe that government service should be about helping people and serving the community, and that's what I intend to do as your next state representative.

2. What skills and background do you bring to the table that would help advance the interests of this rural district in Salem?

Ivan Maluski: I have over a decade of experience working to pass legislation in Salem to support independent farmers and ranchers and boost rural economic development. I know how Salem works and how to get things done.

I am comfortable working with people from all political perspectives, and know from experience that working across party lines is the only way to pass legislation that benefits rural communities. I also know how to hold state agencies accountable, which is sorely needed in Oregon. My four years of service as a Rural Fire Protection District Board member also gives me a strong background in responsible open government, fiscal responsibility, and ethical decision-making. I will bring these skills to Salem for the benefit of rural Linn County.

Ken Jackola: With 50 years of residency in the district and a diverse background in local government, agriculture, transportation, and public safety, I stand ready to advance rural interests in Salem.

As the mayor of Lebanon, I have direct experience navigating state mandates and managing municipal budgets pairing that with my practical economic insights gained from holding a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences and operating a small business, J.A. Trucking, I stand ready for the challenge. Furthermore, my 25 years of military service as a command sergeant major in the Oregon Army National Guard and background in law enforcement provides me with the leadership, strategic problem-solving skills, and public safety expertise needed to effectively advocate for local control and economic growth in House District 11.

3. How would you describe the current "state of the state" in Oregon? Where are we strong? Where are we weak?

Ken Jackola: I would submit that the current "state" of Oregon is weak. The centralized control in Salem creates a disconnect that directly impacts our rural district as it pertains to education, economic and transportation development. I would argue that weighted enrollment formula stifle local school districts like Lebanon and Sweet Home by forcing them to use resources to navigate state administrative mandates instead of resourcing ways to counter declining enrollment or expanding vocational programs.

Second, rigid state zoning laws and stringent wetland migration policies within our urban growth boundaries (UGB) undermine economic development by preventing smaller communities in Linn and Marion counties from moving forward on local enterprise projects that create stable, living-wage jobs.

Finally, because transportation infrastructure funding is heavily prioritized by state agencies toward relieving metropolitan gridlock, critical rural shipping routes, local highways, and timber haul roads across communities like Scio, Brownsville, and Jefferson are often left underfunded and deteriorating.

Ivan Maluski: The state of the state is currently not good. We have a lot of positive attributes like working farmland, abundant forests, clean water and good people, but we've also hamstrung ourselves through a broken taxation system, fiscal irresponsibility, and a failure to plan how to grow the state's economy and bring down costs. There are many federal decisions that are partly responsible for this, but the state legislature and governor also share blame.

The Legislature is at its worst when it breaks into partisan divides where people stop trying to find common ground. An example of this was the misguided gas tax hike that voters rejected in May. But the Legislature is at its best when people partner across party lines to get things done, like passing legislation to support rural health care and bring down costs as they did through HB 4040 and HB 4075 in 2026.

4. What do you believe are the biggest issues facing Oregon and, if elected, what do you intend to do about them? What needs fixing and how do you intend to fix it?

Ivan Maluski: Health care affordability and rural health care access are two of the biggest issues I intend to address. Oregonians are seeing skyrocketing increases in health care premiums and many of the over ⅓ of Linn County residents who qualify for the Oregon Health Plan are facing the prospect of losing health care coverage altogether.

At a minimum, we need to make sure that families don't lose their health care next year. But we also need to act now to head off continued cost increases. That's why I support a universal health care plan for all Oregonians, to ensure 100% coverage at a significantly lower cost. I will make sure this is on the Legislature's agenda in 2027.

More locally, I intend to bring state funding to Sweet Home and Lebanon to fix and upgrade water treatment facilities damaged by the Army Corps' harmful deep drawdown of the Green Peter Reservoir.

Ken Jackola: The biggest issues facing Oregon are inflationary state spending, the erosion of local control, and a severe public safety crisis. The top-down mandates from Salem have fueled an elevated 5.2% unemployment rate, a struggling public education system, and escalating community crime.

To fix these issues, I intend to aggressively use my municipal executive background

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State Senate District 6 Seat

Note: Caleb Ticer, of Dexter, is also a candidate for this seat. He was sent a questionnaire, but did not respond, despite multiple efforts to connect with him. See www.ticerfororegonsenate.com.



Jack Tibbetts, 36, Cottage Grove

Years as District Resident: 7
Occupation/Professional Background: Welder, Lifeguard, Executive Director, Housing Developer, Farmer, Fisherman
Education: University of California Berkeley
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): I have served on multiple Boards, Councils, and Commissions, including the Lane County Planning Commission, which is where I currently serve.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): I currently support my wife's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter at Al Kennedy High School, and I serve on the Board of Directors of Great Days Early Childhood Education Center.
Family: Wife Ali Tibbetts, sons Casey and Luke
Contact/More Info: (541) 649-2369



Sierrah Williams, 29, Sweet Home

Years as District Resident: Lifelong, except during college
Occupation/Professional Background: Registered Dietitian Nutritionist. Currently a dietitian with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Previous experience working as a janitor and in food service. First job was working as a lifeguard at the Sweet Home Community Pool.
Education: Master of Science, Nutritional Science and Dietetics, Brigham Young University; Bachelor of Science, Dietetics, Brigham Young University, Magna Cum Laude; Sweet Home High School, Valedictorian
Political Experience/Affiliation(s): Cross-nominated by the Democratic Party and Working Families Party.
Other Community Involvement/Affiliation(s): Volunteer service with my local church: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
Family: Husband Patrick Williams, two "amazing" children. Also: a box turtle named Ned and a snail named Turbo.
Contact/More Info: info@sierrahwilliams.com

1. Why do you want to be our local state senator?

Jack Tibbetts: I am upset about the direction our state is going. We are ranked among the worst states in the nation when it comes to education, jobs and economy, and affordability. This worries me. I am worried for my kids and what their future here will look like.

I am worried for families and their kids throughout the state, too. We can do better, and the voters should demand that their representatives in Salem to do better. **Sierrah Williams:** I am running for Oregon State Senate as a mother and a local to my district. Every day, I speak with families who are struggling with access to healthcare, childcare, and housing. Many of these families do not feel listened to or supported by their government.

Our democracy is built by people willing to do the work — to step up when they see a problem and work together to find a solution – so, I decided to step up to help these families. I did not expect to jump right into running for state senator, but I know I could do a lot of good for my community in this position. My goal is to give rural families a voice in Salem.

2. What skills and background do you bring to the table that would help advance the interests of this rural district in Salem?

Sierrah Williams: The Oregon State Legislature will be looking at a plan presented by the Universal Health Plan Governance Board next year. We will be looking to implement universal health care in Oregon.

As a lifelong member of this district, and with my experience as a dietitian in the health care system, I know I have the unique perspective and ability to make sure that this universal health care plan works for rural Oregonians.

Jack Tibbetts: Well, I am a farmer. I grow winegrapes, and I raise sheep and cattle, so I bring that lived experience and, as we know, agriculture is among the largest industry sectors in Senate District 6.

So, I think this perspective is very important. I also own a couple other small businesses too (a small retail shop in Cottage Grove, and a restaurant business).

Additionally, I have a professional background in housing construction, so I understand affordable housing, building, permitting, fees, and regulatory impediments. As a planning commissioner on the Lane County Planning Advisory Commission, I have a strong understanding of land use law as well.

3. How would you describe the current "state of the state" in Oregon? Where are we strong? Where are we weak?

Sierrah Williams: If I felt things were going well, I wouldn't be running. I can see where the gaps in our system are hurting our families.

Where we are strong: As a longtime Oregon resident, I feel we are strong in our care for our neighbors and our shared stewardship of the environment.

Where we are weak: I have seen the data that shows Oregon is underperforming compared to other states in public education, cost of living, and access to housing - and this is backed up by what I hear from the people in our district.

Jack Tibbetts: Let me be clear: we are weak.

We are ranked last in almost every national metric there is. Our leadership in Salem is totally and completely failing the people of Oregon. We should be ashamed of our poor performance and what impacts these public policies have on our kids.

That said, our human capital — the citizens — are strong, very strong. One thing that inspires me every day is how hard people in Senate District 6 work. We are the grass seed capital of the world. We are home to dozens of mills that provide the timber that houses the nation. I would also argue we are the breadbasket of the state, providing food for millions of people. We make things happen, despite incredible government and regulatory headwinds.

That is something we should be very proud of and celebrate. But for this human capital to truly flourish, I believe government needs to just get out of their way and let their ideas and strong work ethic take flight. We need to remove regulations and reduce taxes. If we want a better education for our kids, we need to get politics out of the classroom and just focus on providing our kids with a good education, rooted in meeting reasonable educational standards.

4. What do you believe are the biggest issues facing Oregon and, if elected, what do you intend to do about them? What needs fixing and how do you intend to fix it?

Jack Tibbetts: Here are some of the issues I hope to address in the 2027 Legislative Session:

Hand taxation and fee authority to the voters. Currently, the Legislature can pass tax and fee increases without voter approval. We saw this with the recent Gas Tax that was literally rammed through the Legislature by Gov. Kotek, despite massive oppositional testimony from the public.

I want to introduce a constitutional amendment stripping the Legislature of its ability to pass taxes unilaterally, and shift its responsibility to researching a funding need, then presenting it to the voters directly for approval or denial by way of the ballot.

2. Housing affordability. In the last biennium budget the Legislature spent $1.2 billion on affordable housing — almost entirely rental housing that does little to help people build equity and generational wealth.

Moreover, the state is spending an average of $540,000 per unit to construct. I don't think this is very much bang for the buck. I'd like to see more of this money be shifted into a silent second downpayment assistance revolving loan fund program that helps people actually buy a home.

Most importantly to me as a conservative, this money would eventually be returned to the taxpayers when the home eventually gets sold or refinanced.

3. Homelessness - Small cities are hamstrung in their ability to meet legal requirements, brought into effect by House Bill 3115, which made it nearly impossible to move homeless people camping in parks, and in front of businesses, creating a public nuisance and negatively impacting businesses. I want to introduce legislation to remove HB 3115 completely, or make exemptions for small cities under 100,000 people, which don't have the resources to meet the legal standards.

Note: See more on this from Jack Tibbetts online under the above headline at sweethome-news.com and lebanonlocal-news.com.

Sierrah Williams: I frequently hear that my community members are struggling to keep up with increased cost of living. To address these costs, I would focus on efficient spending that proves to have a positive impact on our rural Oregon families. I would reduce health care costs for our neighbors by supporting universal health care. I would prioritize progressive tax structuring that would allow us to share the tax burden according to our ability to pay.

I support access to proven effective food programs such as WIC and SNAP that have been shown to not only decrease food costs for families, but lead to overall health care cost savings. I also understand there are areas where programs need to be reassessed or audited to make sure taxpayer dollars are spent well, and I would support finding cost savings in this way.

5. Data centers are on the rise and have generated a lot of controversy, as is evident simply from campaign commercials on TV right now. What do you think should be the state government's role in the development of these facilities?

Sierrah Williams: The state government's role should be to represent and empower the voice of the people in their district. Right now, the construction of data centers is very unpopular, with particular concerns of data center deals being made in secret without public input. Our towns and communities should have a say on whether or not data centers are constructed in their area with full transparency.

I would also continue to support a moratorium on the construction of new data centers on state land until the environmental concerns of data centers are more fully addressed.

Jack Tibbetts: I am committed to protecting Oregon farmlands and one of the key issues I raised in my primary earlier this year was opposing solar farms on agricultural land. I believe this issue is very similar to the solar farm issue and should be governed by local control.

I believe that local communities are better equipped to represent the needs of their individual communities, especially on an issue as contentious as this one. That being said, there needs to be some strong guard rails. Data centers must create their own power, and we must ensure that Oregon waters are protected. Oregonians should not have to foot the bill for data centers. I am always in favor of local voices making local planning and land use decisions.

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STATE SENATE

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6. Multiple state agencies have come under scrutiny and criticism (ODOT, BOLI, DHS, the Department of Education) have come under criticism or scrutiny for alleged mismanagement and failure to follow through on their responsibilities. What concerns, if any, do you have in that area and, if elected, what role do you see for yourself in working to address/fix problems that you believe need to be addressed?

Sierrah Williams: I am concerned about how are taxpayer dollars are spent, and I would support careful reviews of these agencies to make sure they are being run effectively.

My personal experience is in health care and food service systems, so I know the importance of cost-benefit analyses. We can do more good for our communities and provide better services when we take time for quality improvement measures. My role would be to ensure these departments are bringing value to my district, my neighbors.

Jack Tibbetts: To be honest, to fairly and accurately address this question would require pages of your newspaper. But, in short, it is safe to say these issues need addressing, but to understand how to best address them, we need to look at our rankings 20 years ago versus now, and look at the history of recent decisions that have moved our rankings from among the best, to near-last.

When it comes to education, we moved away from a merit-based system, rooted in the concept that our kids must meet basic educational standards, such as reading proficiently by a certain age.

Now, we have social emotional learning, and no standards to graduate. We are literally graduating kids into the world who cannot read or write proficiently.

When it comes to ODOT, the Republican Caucus presented a back-to-basics budget of $385 million to address ODOT's road maintenance and snow plowing responsibilities, but it was voted down, with the Democrats opting instead for the $1 billion plus funding package that eventually became the gas tax.

My solution is to re-introduce the Republican proposal and do away with the $250 million electric vehicle tax subsidy the state currently funds.

When it comes to BOLI, we need to ensure we have open and fair contracting. It's not a stretch to say that BOLI is controlled by labor unions. Labor unions do play an important role in our society and ensure workers have a voice.

I don't dispute that. But when labor unions become the majority in government, public project prices go up, and available funds for core government services goes down. Period.

Balance is very important when it comes to the power of the purse and spending taxpayer funds, and it is important that non-union contractors can compete with union contractors when it comes to government-funded projects.

Note: See more on this from Jack Tibbetts online under the above headline at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.

7. Oregon's public education system generally ranks near the bottom nationally, placing between 39th and 48th, depending on the specific study and metrics. What role do you see for yourself, if you are elected, in addressing this?

Jack Tibbetts: When it comes to education, we moved away from a merit-based system, rooted in the concept that our kids must meet basic educational standards, such as reading proficiently by the third grade. Now, we have social emotional learning, and no standards to graduate. We are literally graduating kids into the world who cannot read or write proficiently.

My wife is a teacher and we talk about this every day. If we want to see changes in this area, we need to reintroduce standards, and not be afraid to hold kids back who aren't meeting them. If a kid is held back, we don't forget them. Rather, they get provided with intensive educational supports to meet the standard, then advance.

We've seen social political agendas creep into the classroom over the last 10 years and, as a result, we are seeing tens of thousands of conservative and biblical families pull their kids from the public education system, opting instead for homeschooling and private school. One very real, visible example of this is how we now have tampons in boys' bathrooms as young as kindergarten.

I bring this up not to attack or alienate children but, rather, to point out that introducing social politics in K-12 education has a very real funding issue for school districts that are losing federal reimbursement dollars as a result of declining enrollment.

Note: See more on this from Jack Tibbetts online under the above headline at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.

Sierrah Williams: I love our public schools; these are the schools I attended as a child and that my children attend. When evaluating our current system, I think it is also important to learn from the example of those who are doing well. Massachusetts, for example, is currently the U.S. state frontrunner for childhood literacy, with a focus on evidence-based reading instruction. I am also impressed with Utah who scored in the top 10 US states for childhood literacy while spending about $7,000 less per student than the average U.S. school.

For me, this issue is more complex than a bandaid policy fix or increased funding, it would be working together with public education experts to offer schools proven resources for success.

8. How well do you think the state has done in addressing homelessness and the need for affordable housing (two separate issues, we know)? If elected, what plans would you have for tackling those problems?

Sierrah Williams: Looking at the data, it is clear Oregon is struggling with both homelessness and a lack of affordable housing. But the data only confirms what I see with my own eyes and what I experienced when trying to find a place to live for my family.

At the state level, I would support grants for housing development and programs that prevent homelessness such as emergency rent/utility assistance. Note: this is not blind support, these programs are only effective when run in a cost-effective and transparent way.

Jack Tibbetts: We are failing on both fronts. We build affordable – rental – houses for $540,000 per unit in a state where the median home price is $523,000. The rents aren't even that affordable to begin with. In the last biennium budget, the Legislature spent $1.2 billion on affordable housing — almost entirely rental housing that does little to help people build equity and generational wealth.

I'd like to see more of this money be shifted into a silent second downpayment assistance revolving loan fund that helps people actually buy a home. And it would cost about $80,000 to $100,000 per home instead of $540,000.

Most importantly to me as a conservative, this money would eventually be returned to the taxpayers when the home eventually gets sold or refinanced, thus making it available to another family. Over time, this revolving loan fund would grow, and Oregon could stop spending billions in flash-in-the-pan money, saving the taxpayers a lot of money over time.

9. If you are elected, what would you consider a successful term for yourself in the Oregon state legislature?

Sierrah Williams: This is an elected position, so I would feel most successful if at the end of my term the majority of my constituents could say they feel their lives were improved during my term. My goal is that they would say of my service: "I felt heard by my senator. I know she was working hard to help my family, and I can see the positive impact on my life."

Jack Tibbetts: Obviously, I should say I hope to have a legislative impact. Namely, to pass bills that make better use of the tax dollars we have, which result in a better quality of life for Oregon families, and avoid (or successfully vote down) any new tax or regulatory proposals that seeks to grow government and its inherent inefficiencies.

But, really, my primary goal for the term is to meet as many people in the district as possible so I can best represent them. At the end of the day, this is representative government, and to be a good representative, you need to know people at the local level to understand their wants and needs. That's always going to be my leading focus over the course of the term. Be there, be present, be responsive, and represent as accurately as I can.

10. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidates in this race in your ability to serve this district?

Jack Tibbetts: I have met my opponents, and I would go so far as to say they are good people. I have enjoyed debating them at town halls and forums. However, I think the choice this election comes down to one simple kitchen table question: Do you believe government should tax you more to expand government services, or do you believe government should focus on core services and live within its means?

If you are someone who believes government should focus on core services and live within its means, then I hope you will place your trust in me with your vote.

Sierrah Williams: I was raised to value service. I have dedicated my education and career to helping families. This campaign is an extension of that dedication and desire to serve. Win or lose, I will keep working hard to support Oregon families. I hope you will trust me to be your servant in Salem.

SH MAYOR

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2. What do you believe the mayor's most important responsibility is and how would you approach that responsibility if elected?

Levi Gideon: The mayor isn't the city's chief executive; the role is to lead the council and help it work effectively. That means keeping discussions productive, ensuring decisions are informed, and holding the council accountable to the goals it sets. I would emphasize practical plans, realistic budgets, and following through on commitments.

Angelita Sanchez: Listening to the people you represent and making sure they know what's going on. Equally as important to spending taxpayer resources carefully.

I think we have far too many executive sessions behind closed doors and not nearly enough public participation at council meetings. I understand some matters legally require confidentiality, but the public's business should be conducted in public whenever possible.

Susan Coleman: The mayor's most important responsibility is to represent the whole community and help the council make sound decisions for Sweet Home. It means staying levelheaded and running fair, orderly meetings where every councilor and resident has an opportunity to be heard, doing the homework before votes, and supporting city staff while ensuring accountability and keeping our focus on the long term.

Council members won't always agree, and they shouldn't have to. My responsibility is to help us work through our differences respectfully and turn them into thoughtful decisions that serve the community.

3. What, in your opinion, is the state of the City of Sweet Home?

Angelita Sanchez: I love this town, but I'm concerned about the direction of our city government.

Our required annual audits have been late eight years in a row. The wastewater treatment project has increased in cost by approximately $27 million. $800,000 was diverted from a water fund for a new City Hall.

Meanwhile, residents are dealing with higher utility bills, property taxes, and the everyday cost of living.

These are serious financial issues, and I don't think we're asking enough questions about how we got here.

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SH MAYOR

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I run my own business. When something costs more than I planned, I have to figure out why and where the money is coming from. I can't just pass the problem along to someone else.

I expect City Hall to operate with that same responsibility.

Susan Coleman: I believe Sweet Home has much to be encouraged about, even as we face significant challenges.

We have continued investing in our community by pursuing grants to help fund improvements at Sankey Park and the new exercise park next to City Hall. The Nandina overlay is another good example of approaching street improvements strategically, using a more cost-effective alternative to more extensive road reconstruction and securing grant funding to help make the work possible.

At the same time, maintaining our aging infrastructure remains a significant challenge. We must continue finding creative, responsible ways to fund street repairs and essential services while planning for the long term. Sweet Home has important work ahead, but we also have dedicated city staff, engaged residents and a strong foundation on which to build.

Levi Gideon: Sweet Home is a fantastic place to live, but our local economy has room to grow. A low cost of living means less when residents have to leave town to find good jobs or spend their money. I've heard directly from business owners and developers who are hesitant to invest here because they don't see enough investment in the community itself. We need to demonstrate that Sweet Home is serious about its future.

4. If elected, what is one specific change you would like to see the city make during your term?

Susan Coleman: I would like to see meaningful, visible progress toward making Long Street a more inviting and welcoming part of our downtown. When I surveyed our community, downtown was one of the most frequently mentioned concerns among the approximately 300 people who responded.

While Main Street presents challenges that require coordination with ODOT, Long Street offers an opportunity to make improvements within the city's control. I want to see us move our streetscape plan forward thoughtfully and in phases, balancing the desire for a more vibrant downtown with our responsibility to maintain and repair our streets.

My goal is a downtown that reflects the pride we have in Sweet Home and creates a more welcoming experience for residents, visitors and local businesses.

Levi Gideon: I would push to explore a local improvement district as a way to help fund revitalization of our core business district. The city has invested significant staff time in downtown planning, but plans need a realistic funding strategy to become reality. We should identify a practical path forward before costs continue to rise.

Angelita Sanchez: I want more of the community involved in city business. As mayor I will allow more public comment opportunities and less closed door meetings.

I want residents to ask questions and get answers when they present their comments at the dais. Not every answer will be one they agree with, but at least they'll know why a decision is being considered and have a conversation.

5. Sweet Home faces significant costs for maintaining and upgrading water, sewer and other infrastructure. How should the city balance those needs with the impact of utility rates, taxes and fees on residents?

Levi Gideon: We need to make sure development pays its fair share of the infrastructure costs it creates, using system development charges as intended to fund growth-related needs. At the same time, we need to understand the long-term costs of maintaining what we build.

Residents and the city alike have to live within their means. Before raising taxes or fees, we should examine existing spending, funding options, and opportunities to do things more efficiently. Any proposed increase should be transparent, justified, and subject to a public vote where required.

Angelita Sanchez: We have to maintain our water, sewer, and streets. There's no getting around that. But we also have to recognize that the people paying for these projects have limits.

Our wastewater project is a perfect example of why costs need to be watched closely from the beginning. When a project increases by millions of dollars, we need to understand why and what could have been done differently.

Susan Coleman: Providing safe drinking water and reliable sewer service is one of the most basic responsibilities of local government, and our aging wastewater plant can no longer be maintained through patchwork repairs alone. At the same time, I understand what a utility bill means to a family on a fixed income.

Sweet Home has held utility rates steady for approximately four years, even as the cost of operating the city and maintaining infrastructure has increased significantly. While that has helped residents in the short term, it also puts increasing pressure on our ability to make necessary repairs and plan for the future.

We have a responsibility to be good stewards of residents' money. The city secured $9 million in state grants and pursued low-interest federal financing to help address major infrastructure needs while reducing the burden of borrowing costs.

I will continue pursuing outside funding, carefully evaluating expenditures and making decisions based on long-term needs. When rate adjustments are necessary, we must balance affordability for residents with the long-term sustainability of essential services.

6. What can/should you, if elected mayor, do to promote economic growth in Sweet Home?

Angelita Sanchez: I've proposed for years that Sweet Home develop a marketing plan to attract new businesses. It keeps getting rejected, and I still believe we're missing an opportunity.

What I'm talking about is a real business recruitment strategy.

We need to identify the businesses and industries we want here, find out what they need, and go after them. I want us contacting companies, meeting with investors, and negotiating opportunities to bring jobs and investment into Sweet Home.

We should know what commercial and industrial properties are available, what obstacles exist to developing them, and what we can do to make those properties attractive.

I also want to explore financial incentives, including reduced or deferred System Development Charges and temporary utility breaks, for businesses that bring jobs and investment to our community, and for housing development. Those incentives need to make financial sense for the city, too.

I've operated my own trucking and construction business for 10 years. I know how competitive business is. You have to pursue opportunities. They rarely come looking for you.

I'd like to see that same effort put into bringing businesses to Sweet Home. And we need housing for the people who will work in those businesses.

We have a lot to offer. We need to get serious about selling it.

Susan Coleman: The mayor's role in economic development is to help create an environment where businesses want to invest, grow and stay in Sweet Home. That means building relationships with existing and prospective businesses, listening to their concerns, and helping connect them with the appropriate city staff and community resources when challenges arise. It also means supporting responsible development and ensuring our infrastructure and city processes can support growth.

Economic development involves more than City Hall. Events like the Harvest Festival and our expanded event calendar bring visitors to Sweet Home and create opportunities for local businesses. Lasting growth requires partnership among the city, business and property owners, the Chamber, community organizations and residents. As mayor, I will continue working to strengthen those relationships and help create opportunities for Sweet Home.

Levi Gideon: I would prioritize maintaining and improving infrastructure in areas with the greatest potential to attract businesses and support job growth. We need to make strategic investments that give businesses confidence in Sweet Home.

7. If the city were to face legitimate, but competing, priorities – for example, maintaining infrastructure while holding the line on taxes and fees – how would you decide which gets priority?

Susan Coleman: I would weigh each option based on necessity, risk, affordability, available funding and the cost of waiting, because delay can make a problem more expensive to fix. I would seek public input, consider the facts and work with the Council to make decisions transparently. Good decisions come from sound information and hearing the whole community, including people who don't usually come to meetings.

Levi Gideon: This is already a challenge, not a hypothetical one. I would prioritize projects that protect existing investments, address critical maintenance needs, and support economic growth. We can't afford to start projects without a clear plan to finish them or maintain them. We need to invest where the benefits to residents and the local economy are greatest.

Angelita Sanchez: The same way I make decisions in my own business. What's necessary, what can wait, and what can we afford?

Public safety and essential services have to come first. But that doesn't mean every project needs to be done immediately or at any cost.

I'd want to know what happens if we delay something, whether there are less expensive alternatives, and whether we've exhausted outside funding opportunities.

I don't believe we should keep kicking the can down the road on necessary repairs, but I also don't believe we should spend money simply because it's in the budget.

We need to be able to explain to residents why something is necessary and what it's going to cost them. And if we need more funding; instead of passing an expensive fee, we should ask the voters if they agree or not.

8. In addition to the issues already touched on here, what do you consider the biggest challenge(s) facing Sweet Home. Briefly, how would you address those?

Levi Gideon: One challenge is taking on new projects without adequately planning for their long-term maintenance costs. Before committing public money to new amenities, we need to understand the full cost of ownership and how ongoing expenses will be funded. We should set priorities, make realistic plans, and follow through instead of chasing every new idea.

Angelita Sanchez: One of my biggest concerns is how decisions made outside Sweet Home affect the people who live here.

Look at what happened with Green Peter Reservoir. Decisions made by federal agencies had enormous consequences for our community, our recreation, and our local economy.

I fought against the drawdown, requested a town hall, and pushed for answers from the Army Corps of Engineers.

I've also worked with legislators, county commissioners, and regional transportation officials on issues affecting Sweet Home.

Those relationships matter. We can't wait until a decision has already been made to find out how it's going to affect us.

I want Sweet Home to have a voice at the table, whether the issue is our natural resources, transportation, jobs, or state and federal regulations.

We may be a small community, but that doesn't mean we should be ignored.

Susan Coleman: One of Sweet Home's biggest challenges is sustaining our progress while managing the

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rising costs and limited resources that come with being a small city. We need to plan ahead, make the most of the resources we have, and pursue partnerships and outside funding that allow us to accomplish more. I want to see Sweet Home continue moving forward thoughtfully, meeting essential needs while creating opportunities for our community to grow and thrive.

9. What would you consider a successful two-year term as Sweet Home Mayor?

Angelita Sanchez: I'd like to see our required audits finally caught up and staying current. I want the wastewater project brought under control, with a clear understanding of the final costs and what residents will be paying.

I'd like to have a business recruitment strategy underway, with the city actively working to bring employers and jobs here. I want progress on property tax relief and continued success securing outside funding for infrastructure.

I also want more public meetings, regular town halls, and an annual State of the City address. People should know what's happening without having to dig for the information.

I understand the mayor is one member of a seven-member council. I can't promise that every proposal I make will pass. But I can promise to keep bringing these issues forward and working to get something done.

Being mayor is more than cutting ribbons and taking pictures. There's work to do, and some of it involves making difficult decisions.

I've always viewed public service as a performance review. Two years from now, I expect residents to look at what I've accomplished and judge me by the results.

Susan Coleman: A successful two-year term would mean construction underway on the wastewater treatment plant and backup generators installed for our water distribution system. It would also mean continued responsible economic development, meaningful progress on bringing the Long Street Feed Store into productive use, and expanded recreation opportunities at Quarry Park that bring more visitors to Sweet Home.

Just as important, success would mean continuing to strengthen trust between the city and the people it serves through open communication, thoughtful decision making and visible progress on community priorities. I want residents to be able to look back after two years and see that we have moved important projects forward and laid a strong foundation for Sweet Home's future.

Levi Gideon: Success would mean making measurable progress toward a stronger local economy, better-maintained infrastructure, and more disciplined long-term budgeting, without increasing taxes or fees for existing residents.

10. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidates in this race in your ability to serve Sweet Home residents?

Susan Coleman: Serving as Sweet Home's mayor has been a profound honor, and I am deeply grateful for the trust that has been placed in me. Now, I have the privilege of asking you to entrust me with this responsibility through our first directly elected mayoral term.

I bring experience, a steady head in difficult situations, and a commitment to bringing people together. I have worked alongside our council, city staff, community partners, and state and federal leaders to navigate challenges and turn good ideas into action. I believe leadership means listening carefully, building relationships, and always remembering that I serve the people of Sweet Home.

I am not running because I need to be mayor. I am running because I love Sweet Home, believe in its people, and believe there is important work ahead we can accomplish together. If you entrust me with this responsibility, I will work every day to be worthy of that trust.

Levi Gideon: I've worked behind the counter at City Hall. I've heard residents' frustrations firsthand, including from people in difficult situations, and I've worked to find practical solutions. I understand both the challenges residents face and the realities of making city government work. I'll listen with empathy, ask tough questions when necessary, and push for realistic plans that the city can actually deliver.

Angelita Sanchez: I'm a homeowner, property taxpayer, landlord, renter, small business owner, truck driver, ratepayer, consumer, mother, gleaner, public servant, and a local.

I've experienced government from just about every angle. My vision for Sweet Home is a community where working people can afford to live, where businesses have opportunities to grow, where our children can find good jobs and build a future, and where residents have a real voice in their government.

I've lived here, worked here, raised my children here, and spent six years on council fighting for this community. I have a record people can look at, and I have more work I want to do.

Additionally, I am the only candidate who actively worked to give you the right to vote for your mayor: My opponent voted no. There is nothing more important than giving power back to the people.

Thank you for your vote.

Note: See more on this from Angelita Sanchez online under the above headline at sweethomenews.com and lebanonlocalnews.com.

LEBANON MAYOR

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history and never forget our roots... but that we also have a responsibility to prepare for our children and grandchildren. I'm not running for a title or personal agenda. I'm running to serve, listen, bring people together, and focus on public safety, responsible and transparent budgeting, and a business-friendly economy.

2. What do you believe is the mayor's most important responsibility and how would you approach that responsibility if elected?

Mike Martin: The mayor of Lebanon must be influential. Not having a vote unless a tie in the counsel, the mayor must provide information and guidance to counselors, helping them to consider all aspects of the issue at hand, which will aid them in their decision making progress.

Dave Workman: The mayor's most important responsibility is to provide leadership and set the tone for our city's success. That begins with listening to citizens, fellow councilors and city staff, understanding different perspectives, and working together toward solutions that are best for Lebanon.

Leadership isn't about dictating results or having all the answers. It's about asking the right questions, building consensus, and making sure the decisions we make reflect what's best for our community.

Forest Bosley: In Lebanon the mayor's "job" is mostly administrator, on paper. There is a leadership role that comes along as a community liaison. The strongest echo of the community's voice, after their council ward member, is the mayor. Just because the public doesn't show up to the meetings, doesn't mean their voice shouldn't be there. It's important to take on the weight of the community's concerns. To be able to listen and put your own opinions aside.

It's about engagement, active and thoughtful engagement.

3. What, in your opinion, is the state of the City of Lebanon?

Dave Workman: Lebanon is blessed with a strong sense of community built on our small-town roots. But we've reached a point where we're too big to be small and too small to be big. That creates challenges with regulations, infrastructure and finances, but we have a long history of overcoming challenges.

We've made solid progress in public safety, infrastructure and establishing a stronger voice in Salem. Like many cities our size, we face financial challenges, and we'll never have enough money to address every need.

Our responsibility is to listen to citizens, understand their priorities, be transparent about our limitations, and make difficult decisions when necessary.

Forest Bosley: It's growing and that growth is chaotic, and it's making people uneasy. The general sense of the world is making people uneasy and that isn't being settled at home, in the community. People turn to friends, neighbors, and local institutions when they feel scared or anxious. They turn to their government for guidance and a sense that they are safe from whatever is happening "out there."

Mike Martin: Lebanon should review priorities, including budget and development. I think we are moving too fast. We have had five major apartment complexes built in the Russell/ Franklin Street areas in the last five years with hundreds of doors. This area that once had a tall stand of fir trees and open fields now is high density housing. A major part of budgetary problems come from the five urban renewal districts that the city established. This is unheard of for a town our size and with our smaller tax base. (Portland has 11, Salem has seven, and Lebanon is next with five.)

The short of it is that the URDs divert taxes from the general fund, leaving the general fund short and under financial pressure. Those diverted funds go directly to the five URDs, not to the general fund. This needs examination and review. The taxpayers of Lebanon are frustrated and tired of high taxes. Many have told me they really don't see accountability or results.

4. If elected, what is one specific change you would like to see the city make during your term?

Forest Bosley: I would want to see the "We put it on the website" to not be the extent of the community engagement on issues. It leaves many people feeling disconnected from one of the largest forces in their lives.

Mike Martin: Examine and reset priorities, review URDs, remove City Service Fee.

Dave Workman: If I could accomplish only one thing while serving as mayor, it would be to help more citizens understand how accessible their city government really is and encourage them to become more involved.

We have a tremendous amount of information available to citizens, from our budgets and financial decisions to City Council meetings, which can be watched online. I'd like more people to take advantage of those resources, ask questions and share their concerns. As mayor, I'd work to make sure we're not just providing information, but actively encouraging participation and welcoming that engagement.

Trust grows through understanding and open, two-way communication. The more involved our citizens become, the more invested they'll be in Lebanon's future.

I guess, to put it simply, I want the people of Lebanon to feel like the city belongs to them... because it does.

5. If elected, what strategies would you propose or support to address the problem of revenue shortfalls that Lebanon has experienced recently?

Mike Martin: Revenue shortfalls are due to poor budgeting. We all have to live with a budget. If we don't we live with debt. Debt will drain your bottom line. The urban renewal districts will have to close as soon as possible. This is difficult because municipal bonds are tied into the problem. It will take time, but we should not have more than one URD. Most cities our size have one URD or none.

Dave Workman: Lebanon's recent financial challenges have largely come from the cost of providing services increasing faster than our tax base can grow to support them.

When faced with revenue shortfalls, we need to prioritize core services, particularly public safety and infrastructure.

We should continually evaluate how efficiently and responsibly we operate. Lebanon's families make difficult decisions with their house-

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STATE HOUSE

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to vote down new taxes, audit and defund mismanaged state bureaucracies, and modify rigid land-use laws within urban growth boundaries (UGB) to spark rural economic growth. Furthermore, I will preserve the legal authority of local law enforcement to effectively manage public safety and trespassing violations within House District 11.

5. Data centers are on the rise and have generated a lot of controversy, as is evident simply from campaign commercials on TV right now. What do you think should be the state government's role in the development of these facilities?

Ken Jackola: State government's role should be to empower local communities to make their own decisions on data centers rather than enforcing blanket, top-down mandates from Salem. With the governor recently issuing a temporary moratorium on data center environmental permits, I would argue that statewide bans overstep and can choke economic development, stripping rural districts of potential industrial investments and jobs.

Of course, I believe proper and stringent due diligence is required to ensure water, electrical and sound issues are addressed before any development occurs.

Ivan Maluski: The rapid expansion of data centers in Oregon in recent years has been one of the biggest drivers of the rising electricity bills many of us are seeing. They are straining our aging electric grid, are leading to the permanent loss of valuable farmland to industrial development, and competing with rural towns and farmers for water. And they've been doing all this with generous tax credits from state and local governments.

So it's not just a local issue. That's why I support not only a permanent end to data center tax credits, but a statewide moratorium on new data center construction until the Legislature can enact new rules in 2027. These rules should be designed to protect against electricity price spikes, protect water supplies, and reform data center zoning to protect high value farmland and rural communities from the negative impacts of these facilities.

6. Multiple state agencies have come under scrutiny and criticism (ODOT, BOLI, DHS, the Department of Education) have come under criticism or scrutiny for alleged mismanagement and failure to follow through on their responsibilities. What concerns, if any, do you have in that area and, if elected, what role do you see for yourself in working to address/fix problems that you believe need to be addressed?

Ivan Maluski: I think it is a serious problem when state agencies squander or mismanage taxpayer dollars. Periodic audits by the Oregon Secretary of State sometimes uncover this, but independent audits are needed to ensure partisan politics don't get in the way of identifying and fixing real problems. The Legislature ultimately controls the purse strings for these agencies and that is our biggest leverage to secure accountability.

But all too often, when state agencies come before Legislative committees, they are not asked tough questions or held to account for management or budgetary failures. I will take a different approach, and will demand agency accountability to make sure they are meeting their responsibilities and using taxpayer dollars responsibly. And if they aren't, I will sponsor legislation to ensure they do, including requiring more frequent outside audits for problematic agencies.

Ken Jackola: I would submit that agencies like ODOT, BOLI, and the Department of Education frequently fail in their core responsibilities because they prioritize centralized, top-down agendas over the practical needs of rural communities.

If elected, I will use my executive and military background to implement strict legislative oversight, audit failing agencies, block funding for inefficient state programs, and aggressively push to dismantle bureaucratic red tape so that authority and resources are returned to local governments.

7. Oregon's public education system generally ranks near the bottom nationally, placing between 39th and 48th, depending on the specific study and metrics. What role do you see for yourself, if you are elected, in addressing this?

Ken Jackola: My legislative role is to be an aggressive advocate for returning operational control from Salem bureaucrats to local school boards to reverse Oregon's low academic rankings. Top-down state mandates and rigid funding formulas tie the hands of local administrators, leaving them unable to effectively manage budget deficits or combat declining enrollment.

If elected, I intend to roll back burdensome state administrative regulations and empower local communities across House District 11 to independently guide their own districts, enforce academic standards, and expand vocational and technical training programs.

Ivan Maluski: Oregon ranks near the bottom for school days and instruction time, which translates to poor outcomes in reading and other measures of academic success. This leads to learning loss from year to year, causing many students to fall behind. I believe we need to lengthen the school year and offer year-round instruction, particularly for younger kids.

But there also needs to be flexibility for school districts on how they choose to manage their budgets. What works in Portland may not work in a small town school district. I think in the near term the state should issue targeted grants to school districts willing to voluntarily adopt summer learning programs and other efforts to lengthen instruction time.

I also strongly support Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that begin as early as middle school to provide kids career tracks in good paying industries that don't require a four-year college degree.

8. How well do you think the state has done in addressing homelessness and the need for affordable housing (two separate issues, we know)? If elected, what plans would you have for tackling those problems?

Ivan Maluski: I don't think the state has done a good job in either. There are very real economic pressures that push people towards homelessness that need to be addressed. But I think Oregon should also replicate successful programs in other states. For example, Houston, Texas prioritizes getting people into housing and providing treatment while also enforcing the law. It has reduced homelessness by over 60% and is considered a national model. Denver is another model that has seen a significant decline in homelessness since 2025 by taking a similar approach.

On affordability, one of the biggest drivers of high housing costs is high interest rates. High interest rates can lead to high rent for renters, and insurmountable costs for first time home buyers. I support the creation of a state bank modeled on the Bank of North Dakota aimed at affordable lending for first time homebuyers and those looking to refinance.

Ken Jackola: I believe the state's centralized approach has failed because top-down mandates ignore the unique needs of rural towns while rigid land-use and wetland regulations artificially drive-up housing costs.

To address affordable housing, I plan to cut bureaucratic red tape and form state-city partnerships to fund vital water and wastewater infrastructure which is one of the main bottlenecks preventing rural cities from expanding their housing stock.

To tackle homelessness, I will advocate for protecting local authority so cities can enforce public safety and community policing rules while finding solutions to address the root behavioral health issues driving the crisis, drug and alcohol addiction & mental health issues.

9. If you are elected, what would you consider a successful term for yourself in the Oregon state legislature?

Ken Jackola: As your state representative, I would consider a successful term in Salem to be defined by restoring local authority and securing tangible economic relief for rural communities. Success would mean successfully scaling back rigid state land-use and wetland regulations within cities' urban growth boundaries (UGB) so that they can expand their commercial tax bases to adequately fund vital local fire and school districts.

Furthermore, I would measure a successful term by my ability to block state tax increases, return decision-making power from state agencies back to local school boards, and ensure that state transportation funding is directed toward maintaining and preserving the district's critical rural road and highway systems.

Ivan Maluski: I would consider it a success if the Legislature is able to pass a universal health care plan that significantly brings down health care costs for working, middle class and retired Oregonians, or refers such a plan to the voters to decide. I would also consider it a success if I was able to secure enough state funding to repair and upgrade municipal water systems in Sweet Home and Lebanon that were damaged by the Army Corps of Engineers' deep drawdown of the Green Peter Reservoir.

Both Sweet Home and Lebanon will continue to face significant water issues until this is addressed. Lawsuits filed against the Army Corps of Engineers are not likely to lead to a lasting solution, which means that unless the state steps in and helps, residents may have to pay more than $35 million to fix these water systems on their own.

10. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidates in this race in your ability to serve this district?

Ivan Maluski: I consider myself to be a political independent and am not beholden to any party's agenda. I will put my support behind good ideas that work for our communities and stop bad ideas that don't. I don't care which party is behind them.

I'm also not a professional politician. But I have significant experience passing legislation in Salem and have worked with members of both parties to do so. That means I will hit the ground running as soon as I'm elected. And my experience serving in local government taught me how to work in the public interest in a transparent and fiscally responsible way.

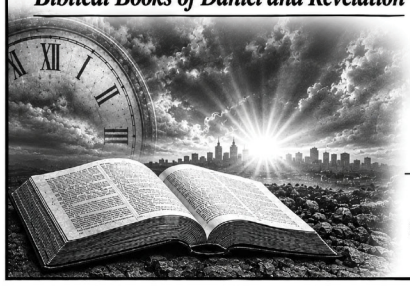
This election, we have a choice to try the same old thing or move in a different direction. I'm offering folks that choice and promise to listen to all members of the community and be an effective leader in Salem for our local area.

Ken Jackola: I am the only candidate in this race who brings proven municipal executive experience and a career of high-level leadership to Salem. As the current mayor of Lebanon, a former business owner, and a retired command sergeant major with 25 years of military service, I would submit that my deep background in managing budgets, navigating public policy, and defending public safety has prepared me to cut bureaucratic red tape.

I am backed by key local leaders across Linn and Marion counties and am positioned to be the seasoned outsider ready to push back against centralized state mandates and effectively restore local control to House District 11.

The End is Near

A Seminar Series on the Prophecies of the Biblical Books of Daniel and Revelation



Friday, October 23
7pm The End is Near

Saturday, October 24
9:30am The War That Ends all Wars
10:30am The Dark Ages All Over Again
7pm Refusing the Mark of the Beast

Sunday, October 25
7 pm How it All Ends

Pastor Andre Scalfani
Sweet Home Seventh-day Adventist Church
300 Holly Rd.

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SH COUNCIL

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ly with existing businesses and prospective employers to understand what helps them succeed here. Clear permitting, dependable infrastructure, and productive use of vacant properties can encourage investment. We should also build on our outdoor recreation opportunities to bring visitors into local shops and restaurants throughout the year.

David Lowman: The council should make it easier for local businesses to start, grow and stay in Sweet Home.

That means providing predictable permitting, maintaining reliable infrastructure, supporting a welcoming and vibrant downtown, and working with local businesses, schools, and workforce partners to connect residents with good jobs.

The city should also listen to employers about barriers they face and pursue grants or partnerships where they can help. I'd focus on practical steps the city can influence, while tracking whether they lead to new investment, stronger existing businesses, and more local job opportunities.

Jeff Parker: I would love to see a period of time where the city would discount building permits, allowing repair and growth, while not scaring people away by the cost of doing it correctly – working with property owners to get utilities up to date.

Les Poole: My answers to Questions 2 and 3 address the issue. We certainly need to have a clear vision of what's possible... and affordable.

6. If the city were to face legitimate, but competing, priorities — for example, maintaining infrastructure while holding the line on taxes and fees — how would you decide which gets priority?

David Lowman: I wouldn't treat either goal as automatic. I'd first prioritize legal obligations and projects that protect public health, safety and essential services. Then I'd compare the cost of acting now with the cost and risk of delaying, while considering the burden on residents – especially those with limited incomes.

I'd ask staff to present options, including phasing work, pursuing grants, and finding efficiencies –, and make the trade-offs public. If a rate or fee increase were truly necessary, I'd want it limited, well explained and tied to a specific need. The goal is to protect residents' ability to afford living here while avoiding a more expensive infrastructure crisis later.

Jeff Parker: It would almost always come down to health and safety first. Again taxes need to be evaluated and assured that they are going to the correct fund, and if not why. Tax increase should be a last resort.

Les Poole: We would legally be required to maintain infrastructure. I previously mentioned the possibility of a slightly lower tax rate.

Matthew Bechtel: I would weigh public safety, urgency, long-term costs, and the impact on residents. In the example given, essential infrastructure would take priority because delaying necessary maintenance can create larger costs later. Just as a house needs a sound foundation, a city needs a reliable infrastructure; but we must choose the most affordable, effective way to maintain it.

7. In addition to the issues already touched on here, what do you consider the biggest challenge(s) facing Sweet Home. Briefly, how would you address those?

Jeff Parker: While the state has mandated a lot of policies that aim to promote more housing development at the cost of local control, the truth is, the communities that need housing the worst are the ones that still drag their heels to issue permits to allow any housing to be built whatsoever. Combined with the environmental activists fighting against any community who actually constructs housing—making it take decades to expand UGBs and causing available land to be uneconomical to build on—and it's no surprise we're in a housing crisis! But most of our homeless aren't living on the streets because they lack affordable housing. They're here because we let drugs get rampant, and we spend more than most any state providing freebies and services. But it isn't compassion to just let them die of overdoses in our streets, and erode the safety of our communities.

Les Poole: Providing a better environment for our youth, dealing with inflation, drug use that leads to theft. We need to keep the police funded and work together as neighbors. Community involvement solves lots of problems.

Matthew Bechtel: Homelessness, substance abuse, and limited opportunities for young people deserve sustained attention. I would support coordination among public safety, service providers, schools, and community organizations to connect people with help, maintain safe public spaces, and expand youth activities and mentorship. The city should help those partnerships turn shared concerns into practical action.

David Lowman: Beyond infrastructure and economic growth, I see housing affordability, homelessness, and maintaining public safety as important challenges for Sweet Home. These issues are connected and don't have simple, overnight solutions. I'd work with residents, local service providers, schools, businesses, and county and state partners to identify practical steps-such as supporting a range of housing options, connecting people in crisis with appropriate services, and addressing safety concerns consistently. I'd also want to track results and communicate progress openly, so city efforts are focused, realistic, and accountable.

8. What would you consider a successful four-year term on the City Council?

Les Poole: Progress on major issues. Economic improvements. More unity and less waste!

Matthew Bechtel: A successful term would leave Sweet Home with measurable progress: more occupied downtown buildings, essential infrastructure projects completed or funded, stronger community partnerships, and clearer communication with residents. I would judge success by results people can see and a city budget that supports those improvements responsibly.

David Lowman: A successful four-year term would leave the city measurably better off-and residents feeling heard. A successful four-year term means residents can point to practical progress and know their concerns were taken seriously.

I'd set a few measurable priorities with the community, focus on reliable city services and responsible infrastructure investments, support local businesses and housing opportunities, and report regularly on what's working and what isn't. Success would also mean making difficult budget decisions transparently, working respectfully with others, and building public trust—even where not every goal can be completed.

Jeff Parker: New industry coming back into town; city population growth; a clean, full and bright Main Street.

9. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidates in this race in your ability to serve Sweet Home residents?

Matthew Bechtel: I bring an Army veteran's commitment to service, experience on the Budget Committee, and leadership as chair of the Park and Tree Committee. My work with local organizations has connected me with residents across our community. I will bring that same hands-on commitment to council: listening carefully, asking practical questions, and following through.

David Lowman: Voters should support me if they want a council member who listens carefully, weighs trade-offs honestly, and follows through. I would bring a practical, collaborative approach: focus on reliable services and infrastructure, protect taxpayers from avoidable costs, and explain clearly when difficult choices are necessary.

What sets me apart is the commitment to put residents' needs ahead of easy promises-to seek input from every part of Sweet Home, make decisions transparently, and measure progress by results.

The city of Sweet Home must listen to its people, and I will work every day to make sure your voices are heard. I remain committed to standing up and supporting our local businesses and responsible growth being accessible and responsive to all of Sweet Home citizens. Sweet Home deserves leadership that listens, shows up, and puts people first.

I am running for Sweet Home City Council, because I believe our city can be affordable, safe, connected, and responsive to the people who call it home. Most importantly, I believe public service starts with "listening", I want to understand and work with you to find solutions.

You, the people of Sweet Home, deserve a city councilor who will make time for one-on-one conversations, and treat your concerns with respect.

Jeff Parker: I'm a long-term resident of Sweet Home with no plans to go elsewhere. I'm looking out for your best interests as well as my own.

Les Poole: I am one you can count on when difficult situations arise. I have a deep understanding of how to get the most for our dollars. I don't play political games. I will show up and get the results we need.

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2026 GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

LEBANON MAYOR

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hold budgets, and they should expect the same discipline from city government.

We also need to avoid being penny wise and pound foolish. Our recent investment in a new citywide operating system is an example of spending money upfront to eliminate redundancies between departments, improve efficiency and control long-term costs.

Finally, we need responsible commercial and industrial development that strengthens our tax base and supports essential services. That begins with making sure our existing businesses have every opportunity to thrive, grow and prosper right here in Lebanon.

Forest Bosley: We need money – there is no way around that. We can't just cut the budget since we have made long-term debt obligations that were set in motion, in some cases, prior to 2020. Those economic promises need to be reevaluated, possibly find more ways for the state to help address those debts or let us get them off our books.

Unlike a business a governing body can't generate new sources of revenue and the sources we have, the people and businesses, don't have the expendable resources to share. When these promises were made the projections were good for these not to become a problem. Long-term debt plans are risky, and we will need to get creative to deal with those problems.

6. What is your position on data center development around Lebanon? What factors should the city consider when deciding whether to support, limit or regulate such development.

Dave Workman: There is still a lot of algebra to be considered in data centers. The variables are many, and the long-term results are unknown. For those reasons, I would be hesitant to seek that business, and very careful in examining any proposals received. Before approving any proposal, we'd need to take a deep dive into its impact on our electrical grid and have a serious conversation about whether that use of our industrial land would best serve the community.

My thought is that our development efforts would be better aimed at industries with more predictable long-term impacts, less stress on our resources, and more good jobs for our citizens.

Forest Bosley: My personal opinion is a pretty solid "'no" on data centers.

Currently, the design and implementation falls into a 'harm-by-design" principle. The resources needs and environmental impact CAN be mitigated, but the implementation and design we are seeing used through our country does not do that.

(Rough numbers): The City of Lebanon uses about eight gigawatts of power for the entire community. The smallest data centers use about one to two gigawatts of power, while the newer ones going in use about 10 gigawatts of power. (Sourced: www.electricchoice.com/datacenters, www.electricitylocal.com/states/oregon/lebanon; www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lebanoncityoregon/PST045225.)

Not to mention the infrastructure cost and toll. So, as long as these data centers are consuming resources like an entire town, it's not just a simple yes or no question. It isn't about money, it's about people. Every decision a local government must make is for the people of the community. The budget means nothing if you sacrificed the people to balance it.

Mike Martin: This would have to be a community decision due to the general impact on the entire area. I am willing to listen to the pros and cons and get information on the impact DC has had on other areas. I believe at this juncture it would be a hard sell.

7. If the city were to face legitimate, but competing, priorities – for example, maintaining infrastructure while holding the line on taxes and fees – how would you decide which gets priority?

Forest Bosley: I am the type to side with the greatest return for the people. Priorities of a local government are just that, what will benefit the people the most that we can do. Asking ourselves constantly "how do we ensure resources are managed in way that supports people's liberties and safety?" So my first step in prioritization is return on investment for the community.

Mike Martin: This can only be debated in real time case by case. We are facing an infrastructure update to the Wastewater Plant that will result in some difficult and possibly tense moments. We will be having those discussions, keeping in mind that the school district is having budgetary pressure also.

Dave Workman: Well first... I wouldn't choose... WE would.

My input would be to prioritize the core services that keep our city safe, secure and protect the overall well-being of our citizens, while doing everything possible to avoid raising taxes and fees on our friends and families.

Community input would be invaluable in making those decisions. We'd also need to consider the urgency of each need, the cost of delaying action, and the long-term consequences of whatever solution we choose.

As with household budgets, sometimes difficult choices simply have to be made. But we need to be careful that in trying to save our citizens money today, we don't end up costing them considerably more tomorrow.

8. In addition to the issues already touched on here, what do you consider the biggest challenge(s) facing Lebanon. Briefly, how would you address those?

Mike Martin: Urban renewal districts discussion – set priorities, be accountable. Rapid Growth and Development – slow down, set priorities and stick to them. Homelessness – set priorities, stick to them. Humanitarian problem – establish when, where and how. When they can camp, where they can camp and how long they can camp.

Dave Workman: Affordability may be the biggest challenge facing not only Lebanon, but Oregon and our country. Housing, utilities, groceries, fuel... just about everything costs more, and families are feeling it.

While there is no magic wand to fix the affordability issue, we need to be mindful of the financial burden our own decisions place on citizens. We also need to make Lebanon's voice heard in Salem... consistently... particularly when state decisions affect the costs passed along to local communities.

Just like it's important for our citizens to tell us what's affecting their lives, it's important for us to tell our state leaders what's affecting Lebanon.

Forest Bosley: We have an image problem. About 15 to 18 years back, if you said you were moving to or coming from Lebanon you would get a look from people that gave off concern. For a while that went away. Just earlier this year I read an article titled "The friendliest places in Oregon," a top-10 list, but we weren't on it. How can we say we are the "Town that Friendliness Built," when our public image doesn't support that? So we need to change that image, by being what we say we are.

9. What would you consider a successful two-year term as Mayor of Lebanon?

Dave Workman: A successful two-year term as mayor would end with a safer Lebanon, on stronger financial footing, with a local government that responds to the needs of the community and makes it easy for citizens to provide their input.

Like a parent wanting a better world for their kids... I want to leave Lebanon better than it was when I was elected.

I certainly can't accomplish that alone, but I look forward to the challenge of being part of a team that does.

Forest Bosley: Having more people able to speak to what is going on in town and feeling it's headed in the right direction, then having people concerned about the direction it's headed.

Mike Martin: Setting budgetary priorities, development priorities and financial priorities and sticking to those priorities, while displaying accountability at every turn. Live within our budget.

10. Why should voters check the box next to your name on the ballot? What sets you apart from other candidates in this race in your ability to serve Lebanon residents?

Forest Bosley: I don't see any of this to be about me. The type of person I am at my core is one that wants others to succeed. I'm authentic in that. I don't believe political theater serves any purpose beyond ego. So you won't get that from me.

Mike Martin: I want to talk. So, let's talk. I want the city to hear your voice and respect your opinion. You can speak for yourself and I will stand with you or I will speak for you.

Dave Workman: They should check the box next to my name because I am the best candidate. I believe I am, but that's a decision every citizen of Lebanon has to make for themselves.

I believe my commitment to Lebanon and my record of service on the Planning Commission, Budget Committee and City Council demonstrate my qualifications. We raised concerns about proposed ordinances in the Housing Production Strategy that would eliminate parking minimums or negatively affect neighborhood livability. We've also faced difficult decisions involving General Fund deficiencies.

I am deeply invested in Lebanon. I'm here not only to protect what we have today and honor our past, but to help ensure future generations are proud to call Lebanon home, including my own children and grandchildren.

In the end, I want what's best for Lebanon... even if it somehow isn't me... but I believe I offer the best combination of experience, commitment, devotion and a real love for Lebanon.

