



City of Cottage Grove ~ Local Voters' Pamphlet Oregon General Election ~ November 5, 2024

The City of Cottage Grove Electronic Voters' Pamphlet provides you with important candidate and ballot measure information. During the November 5 General Election, registered voters who reside in the City limits may vote for, the Mayor of Cottage Grove, one City Councilor from each Ward and one City Councilor for each At Large position.

*Ballots will be mailed out separately by the
Lane County Clerk's Office starting on October 16, 2024.
The State Voters' Pamphlet will be mailed on or before October 16, 2024*

You may also receive the Voters' Pamphlet:

In Person at City Hall:
400 East Main Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Request a Mailed Copy:
Mindy Roberts, City Recorder
541-942-5501
cityrecorder@cottagegrove.org

Candace Lamb Solesbee
Mayor
Term Expiring 2026



Occupation:

Small business owner

Occupational Background:

Entrepreneur

Educational Background:

Cottage Grove High School
Creative Institute of Design

Prior Governmental Experience:

Mayor 2022-Present, City Councilor 2018-2022, Chamber of Commerce board of directors 2014-2020, Chamber Vice President 2016, Chamber President 2017, Advisor/Board member Cottage Grove Community foundation, DCG, Budget

Reason for Running:

As Mayor, public safety is my primary focus. Ensuring our emergency services are well trained, staffed, and equipped is essential. In contrast to my opponent, I opposed 24/7, unregulated homeless camps in neighborhoods, which exacerbated the population, strained our emergency services, and cost thousands in taxpayer money for clean up. My priorities include responsible fiscal management, and innovative pathways to homeownership for Cottage Grove residents. I will strive to maintain drivable roads, attract businesses, and support established ones through grants and education. As a fourth-generation resident, with family roots in Cottage Grove's timber industry and public safety, business owner, wife and mother, I understand our community's needs. I pledge to listen to your concerns and represent your voice. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Endorsed By: Alex Johnson II - Mayor of Albany

Lane Professional Firefighters

Darin Harbick - State Representative, House District 12 Candidate

Dana Merryday
Mayor
Term Expiring 2026

Occupation:
Math/Science Teacher

Occupational Background:
Construction, Laboratory Technician, Food Service,
Educator

Educational Background:
B.A. High Point College

Prior Governmental Experience:
City Councilor, Ward 3

Reason for Running:

In a healthy democracy there should be a choice of candidates for each office on the ballot. After failing to convince others to run, I declare my candidacy for Mayor. Maintaining a democracy requires government to deliver its services fairly. Fulfilling this essential role necessitates constant assessments and adjustments. Changes in our Police Department are an example of a recent accomplishment. By locking the property tax increase at 3% each year through State Measure 50, our City is on a fixed income while costs rise dramatically, creating a gap between income and expenses. This will require dexterity in using a variety of funding mechanisms and partnerships to continue to deliver essential services. The evolving plan to deal with the unhoused population has shown the City Council's flexibility as laws and conditions change. Now as before, we have people covertly camping on the fringes of town, by the river, or in the woods. Our task currently is to figure out what to really do in addressing housing insecurity. To be successful those on the edge need to be at the table and be heard. Following a divisive recall this election promises to completely remake our City Council. Moving forward, our budget requires finding new sources of revenue. Our local housing shortage is shared nationally, but here in Oregon we have the precious commodity of land. My belief is that government can do more than provide roads and police services. As Mayor, I will provide fair, even-handed leadership to guide us through these challenges. I have a track record of getting things done by listening and working together with everyone and getting my hands dirty to accomplish what needs to be done. Mayor for all!



Endorsed By: Jim Settelmeyer, City Councilor At Large Candidate

Christine Hyink
City Councilor Ward 1
Term Expiring 2026



Occupation:

Central Region Manager, Field Services, ODOT

Occupational Background:

Project Manager, Coquille Economic Development Co.

Educational Background:

Business Administration, CSUMB

Prior Governmental Experience:

NONE

Reason for Running:

I am seeking election to the Cottage Grove City Council because I am deeply invested in the future of our community. Cottage Grove has a unique charm, and I believe that with thoughtful, strategic leadership, we can preserve what makes this town special while promoting sustainable growth. It's important to take a balanced approach, ensuring that development benefits the entire community and aligns with our values.

My experience in public service, leadership, and business management has prepared me to make a meaningful impact. At the Oregon Department of Transportation, I've managed diverse teams, collaborated with local and state officials, and worked on improving transportation services for Oregonians. Leading complex projects while maintaining fiscal accountability has been key, and I've learned the importance of strategic planning and transparent communication for long-term success.

As a board member at the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, I fostered meaningful relationships and supported local businesses with the goal of revitalizing and growing the local economy. My work with the Coquille Economic Development Corporation involved brainstorming with teams to identify opportunities that benefited both the Tribal community and the community at large, while managing complex projects that required collaboration and innovation.

Public safety is one of my top priorities, and I am dedicated to ensuring our local law enforcement has the resources and support necessary to keep Cottage Grove safe. I also believe in fostering economic development by helping small businesses thrive and filling empty storefronts on Main Street, creating local jobs.

Above all, I am committed to listening. I encourage open dialogue with residents because everyone's voice matters. Whether it's meeting for coffee or chatting while taking a walk, I'm here to hear your concerns and work alongside you to find real solutions that benefit our community.

Kevin Adamski
City Councilor Ward 1
Term Expiring 2026



Occupation:

Retired Forest Technician for the U.S Forest Service, Umpqua National Forest employee based at the Cottage Grove Ranger District from 1988 until my retirement in 2015.

Occupational Background:

Permanent Employee position with the Umpqua N.F at multiple Ranger Districts, Held job assignments as a forestry technician from wildland fire fighting to program manager of the Special Forest Products Program for the entire Forest.

Educational Background:

Roseburg High School - Graduate (1975)
Umpqua Community College - Forestry Technology (1985)

Prior Governmental Experience:

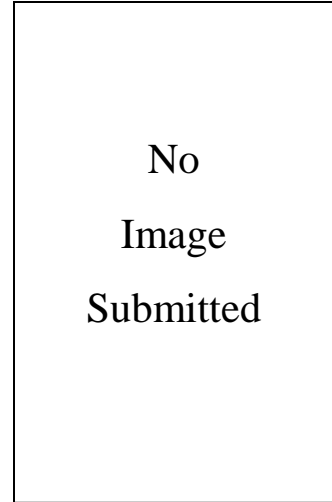
None

Reason for Running:

Resided in Ward 1 since purchasing my home in 1991, I have always followed the processes of the City of Cottage Grove. I truly love the community of Cottage Grove, keenly aware of the accomplishments of its citizenry, and the problems that need addressed, brought on by growing pains. Since the recall of the elected Ward 1 Councilor, I want to carry on my civil duty and take this opportunity to serve.

Randell Lammerman
City Councilor Ward 2
Term Expiring 2028

No Information Submitted



Greg Ervin
City Councilor Ward 4
Term Expiring 2028



Occupation:
Regulatory Compliance Consultant

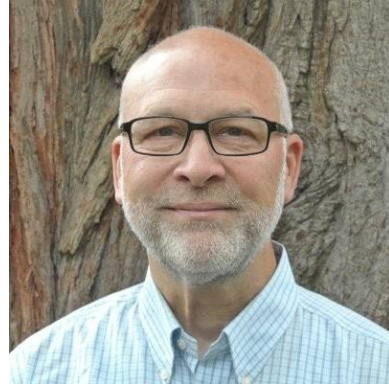
Occupational Background:
Restaurant Server, IT Director, Regulatory Compliance Consultant

Educational Background:
North Douglas High School, Lane Community College, University of Oregon

Prior Governmental Experience:
Budget Committee, City of Cottage Grove Council Member Ward 4

Reason for Running:
To serve the residents of Cottage Grove by ensuring a responsible, transparent, and effective use of tax dollars in delivering vital city services. I aim to enhance our community's quality of life by fostering a vibrant culture that reflects the values and needs of all our residents.

Chris Holloman
City Councilor At Large
Term Expiring 2026



Occupation:

Director of Business Development, Nebraska Irrigation.

Occupational Background:

Owner and operator of Holloman Ford, Cottage Grove.
Corporate turn around Contractor, Farm & Ranch work.

Educational Background:

University of Oregon School of Business
Lane Community College
Sheldon High School

Prior Governmental Experience:

City of Cottage Grove Budget Committee
Ad Hoc Roads Committe
South Lane Fire & Rescue Board, current member

Reason for Running:

As a life long Lane County, and 50 year Cottage Grove resident, my heart and my family are here. As a former downtown Business owner employing 35 people for decades, I am concernd about some of the directions the city has taken in recent years. I have the experience, knowledge, and dedication to serve this community well. I will advocate for fiscal responsibilty, and economic growth. I will listen attentively with an open mind to both my constituents and fellow councilors. The people of Cottage Grove deserve to be heard.

Jim Settlemeyer
City Councilor At Large
Term Expiring 2026



Occupation:

Retired Teacher & Coach

Occupational Background:

36 years Science teacher in Cottage Grove, 15 years millworker, County Parks, grocery store, paper delivery, strawberry and bean picking

Educational Background:

M.S. Science Education - U of O B.S.
Chemical Engineering - OSU
1976 CGHS Graduate

Prior Governmental Experience:

NONE

Reason for Running:

Joyce, mi esposa y yo tenemos el placer de trabajar con muchos voluntarios y contribuyentes maravillosos en Tree of Joy, The Great IceCream Bowl, la creación de CG Peace Pole y muchos otros proyectos comunitarios positivos.

Cottage Grove no está en quiebra: tenemos recursos para crecer.

Si voy a ayudar a construir la unidad en nuestra ciudad, primero debo ser elegido.

I want to help the CG community and City Council combine their talents and efforts in positive ways to improve the future of Cottage Grove.

I have lived in CG around 50 years and graduated from CGHS in 1976.

Joyce, my wife and I have the pleasure of working with many wonderful volunteers and contributors in Tree of Joy, The Great IceCream Bowl, CG Peace Pole creation and numerous other positive community projects. Cottage Grove is not broke - we have a lot to build with. If I am going to help build unity in our city, I first must be elected.

Endorsed By: Jim Gilroy - Past Mayor, City of Cottage Grove
Thomas Munroe - Past Mayor, City of Cottage Grove
Jeff Gowing - Past Mayor, City of Cottage Grove
Dana Merryday - City Councilor and Candidate for Mayor
The Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society
Joyce Settlemeyer - Wife

Bernie Donner
City Councilor At Large
Term Expiring 2028

No Information Submitted

No
Image
Submitted

Darrel Wilson
City Councilor At Large
Term Expiring 2028



Occupation:

Semi-retired. Appointment Driver for Ascot Park Senior Center (2-3 days a week).

Occupational Background:

21 years as an Armed Security Officer with Loomis Armored Transport, Corrections Officer Lane County Sheriffs Office, Sales Mgr. Sirco Bus. Computers, Adv. Sales (KORE, KPNW, Trader Publishing, US Chamber)

Educational Background:

Assoc. Degree in Business and Data Processing – Western Business College Portland, OR
Graduated from Winston Churchill High – Eugene, OR

Prior Governmental Experience:

Worked indirectly with Governmental entities through the Eugene and Springfield Chambers of Commerce, as well as Lane Leaders organizations. Was a member of the Springfield Downtown Revitalization Committee

Reason for Running:

I have resided in the Cottage Grove area with my wife for 29 years and raised our adopted son here. I love this community, but have seen many issues arise over the years that have caused our beloved city to deteriorate. I believe I can bring a Common Sense approach to working to resolve the many issues that need to be addressed.

Endorsed By: South Lane Freedom Keepers

Patrick S Cartwright
City Councilor At Large
Term Expiring 2028

Occupation:

President: Northwest Automotive Customs Inc

Occupational Background:

Business Owner, Automotive repair, marine repair, landscaping maintenance

Educational Background:

High school diploma, 2 yr trade school, MBA

Prior Governmental Experience:

Elected Political Party Committee Person

Reason for Running:

Not pleased with the direction of the trajectory of past and present affairs within our city government.

I feel there is a way to reunite and rebuild relationships on both sides of the political spectrum. I consider myself as a person who will cooperate and work for the betterment of our community

No
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Submitted

Richard Andrew
City Councilor At Large
Term Expiring 2028



Occupation:

Self-employed legal and educational consultant.

Occupational Background:

Richard Andrew is a professional leader with over ten years of experience in education and legal service. He has been a Trustee for a community college, which helped shape his leadership role. He also obtains a self-employed business in legal and educational consulting. Richard has over fifteen years of experience in dairy/farm work, industrial welding, agriculture, and harvesting. His talents and skills have motivated him to continue to seek opportunities to be involved and serve his community.

Educational Background:

Richard Andrew has earned an associate degree in Criminal Justice, a bachelor's in legal studies, and a master's in education.

Prior Governmental Experience:

Urban Forestry Committee Member & Lane County Parks Advisory Committee Member

Reason for Running:

All voices need to be represented in the decision-making process. As an at-large council member, I ensure that citizens have multiple opportunities to provide input and feedback on policy, budget, and planning initiatives. This could include public forums, town hall meetings, surveys, standing committees, and other methods of gathering information from the community. I would also strive to create an environment where diverse perspectives are encouraged and respected. Additionally, I would work with local organizations and advocates to ensure that Cottage Grove's needs are met. I've volunteered for several city and county committees and attended meetings and events on issues facing our community.

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
BALLOT MEASURE 20-365

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The City of Cottage Grove (City) is responsible for building, maintaining, preserving and repairing its City streets. Historically, City street preservation and repairs were funded by the Federal government from timber revenue. However, that funding source ended in 2007. Deferred maintenance and increasing street improvements costs resulted in an average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) score of 55.4 (“Low Fair”) in 2022, which is below an ideal PCI of 72 (“Good”.)

As a result, the City formed an Ad Hoc Street Improvement and Funding Committee in 2023 to address the backlog of street repairs and maintenance. The Committee concluded that current City revenue is insufficient to pay for necessary street preservation and repair projects, with priority placed upon arterial and distributor roadways.

Through this Bond Measure, the City seeks the authority to issue up to \$2,500,000 of general obligation bonds to finance street repairs to identified sections of Row River Road, Taylor Avenue and Harrison Avenue.

Why is Ballot Measure 20-365 on the ballot?

The Oregon Constitution, City Charter, and ORS Chapter 287A allow voters of the City to issue general obligation bonds in order to generate additional revenue for street repair projects.

After nearly a year of reviewing needed City-street improvements and funding sources, the City’s citizen Ad Hoc Street Improvement and Funding Committee made several recommendations to the City Council. After considering all recommendations, the City Council determined to allow voter consideration of the Committee proposed General Obligation Bonds, in an amount of up to \$2.5 million. Accordingly, the Council approved Resolution No. 2149 on August 12, 2024, which referred this matter to the Cottage Grove electorate for consideration at the City election called on November 5, 2024. If approved, the City would repay the general obligation bonds issued over 5 years, via an annual City tax levy estimated at \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

What would be done with the funds raised by Ballot Measure 20-365?

The Bond funds would be dedicated to repair:

1. Row River Road, from Thornton Lane to Currin Connector;
2. Taylor Avenue, from Gateway Boulevard to 6th Street; and
3. Harrison Avenue, from Highway 99 to R Street.

A component of the measure involves the creation of a Citizen Oversight Committee to ensure that all bond proceeds are used for the above purposes. The measure also requires the performance of revenue use audits.

Who would pay?

City of Cottage Grove citizens would pay for the measure's proposed street repairs. If the bonds are approved, the City would repay any issued bond amounts via a five-year tax on property or property ownership, which is not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution. The estimated annual rate is \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value on all properties within City limits. Oregon law limits general obligation bond amounts in certain cases to three percent of real market value of taxable property in the City. The proposed bonds will not exceed that limit.

CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE
MEASURE 20-366

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Chapter 5.26 of the Cottage Grove Municipal Code currently imposes a business license tax of \$0.03 per gallon of all motor vehicle fuel sold, used or distributed on each motor vehicle fuel dealer in the City. In order to implement citizen committee recommendations to the Cottage Grove City Council, Measure 20-366 seeks to increase this “gas tax” by \$0.06 per gallon, for a total of \$0.09 per gallon. By law, the gas tax proceeds must be used solely to construct, reconstruct, improve, repair, maintain and operate public highways, roads and streets within the City. The proposed gas tax increase is expected to generate approximately an additional \$750,000 annually for these purposes.

Why am I being asked to increase the City’s Gas Tax from \$0.03 to \$0.09 per gallon?

Pursuant to ORS 319.950, any motor vehicle fuel tax adopted or amended by the City Council must be referred to and approved by the voters before it can take effect.

After nearly a year of reviewing needed City-street improvements and funding sources, the City’s citizen Ad-Hoc Street Improvement and Funding Committee made several recommendations to the City Council. After considering all recommendations, the City Council decided to allow voter consideration of the proposed gas tax increase. Accordingly, the Council approved Resolution No. 2150 on August 12, 2024, which referred this matter to the Cottage Grove electorate for consideration at the City election called on November 5, 2024. If approved, the Ordinance implementing the gas tax increase of \$0.06 will take effect January 1, 2025.

What would be done with the funds raised by Measure 20-366?

The money collected from the tax stays with the City. The tax funds must be used exclusively as proscribed by Cottage Grove Municipal Code 5.26.250 for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, maintenance, operation, and use of public highways, roads and streets within the City. Street improvements and maintenance will start with City-street segments having the lowest pavement condition index. A Citizen Oversight Committee will be established to ensure proceeds are used for the purposes indicated, and audits will be required.

Who would pay?

This tax will be paid by all motor vehicle fuel dealers within the City, based upon the amount of motor vehicle fuel sold, used or distributed in the City by the dealer or for which the dealer has assumed liability during the preceding calendar month. While the dealer will pay the City, those amounts will be charged to and collected from purchasers of gas within the City.