



OCRCP NEWS

April 2026

Championing Liberty, Inspiring Change!

2024-2026 Executive Board members:

Stacy Storm - Chair
Michael Blake - Vice Chair
Mary LaVelle - Secretary
Wayne Turner - Treasurer
Isaac Taylor - State Committeeman
Suzy Taylor - State Committeewoman
Trinity Stucker - 7th Legislative Dist.Cmt.
Ray Campbell - 7th Legislative Dist.Cmt.
Anthony Jenkins - 7th Legislative Dist.Cmt.
Kim Frey - Area 1 Chair
Kelly Knapp - Area 2 Chair
Nick Timm - Area 4 Chair
Yvette Hill - Area 5 Chair
Tina Holan - Area 6 Chair

Okanogan County Commissioners

Nick Timm, District 1
Andy Hover, District 2
Jon Neal, District 3
509.422.7100

Okanogan County Assessor

Larry Gilman
509.422.7190

Okanogan County Auditor

Cari Hall
509.422.7240

Okanogan County Coroner

Dave Rodriguez
509.422.7221

Okanogan District Court Judges

Charles D. Short
Byron J. Moore
509.422.7170

Okanogan County Prosecutor

Albert Lin
509.422.7280



PCO Patti Hill presenting Mark Herr with a Quilts of Valor quilt made by members of the local QOV chapter. ~Photo by Suzy Taylor

WANTED: Precinct Committee Officers!!!

Okanogan County needs strong local voices, and filing week, **May 4 through May 8**, is your opportunity to answer the call by becoming a Republican Precinct Committee Officer. PCOs play a vital role in organizing at the neighborhood level, energizing voters, and helping shape the future of our communities. Real change begins with citizens who are willing to step up and lead where they live. This is your moment to take action, stand for your values, and help strengthen the grassroots foundation of the Republican Party. Do not sit this one out — file for PCO and be part of the movement forward!

Okanogan County Sheriff

Jodie Barcus
509.422.7200

Okanogan Superior Court Judges

Kathryn Burke
Rachel Hong

Okanogan County Treasurer

Pam Johnson
509.422.7180

7th Legislative District Representatives

Hunter Abell
360.786.7988

Andrew Engell
360.786.7908

7th Legislative District Senator

Shelly Short
360.786.7612

4th Congressional District Representative

Dan Newhouse
North District Office
509.433.7760

4th Congressional District Senators

Maria Cantwell
Spokane Office
509.353.2507

Patty Murray
Spokane Office
509.624.9515

Did You Know.....in July 1776, an estimated 2.5 million people lived in the 13 colonies? Today, there are an approximately 338.02 million people living in the United States of American. The nation turning 250 is a reminder of how dramatically America has grown since its founding era.

Join your Okanogan County Republican party leadership at the Central Committee Meeting and bring a conservative friend or neighbor.

April 23rd, Thursday

POTLUCK starts at 5:30 PM

Central Committee Meeting starts at 6:00 PM

Location: Okanogan County Commissioners
123 5th Ave N, Okanogan

May 28th, Thursday

Central Committee Meeting starts at 6:00 PM

Location: TBD Keep an eye on our socials!

Please visit [Calendar @ Okanogan County Republican Party](#) for more details.

Lincoln Day Dinner Recap

~by Tina Holan

This year's Lincoln Day Dinner was one of our most successful and best-attended events yet, with strong turnout and a noticeable sense of enthusiasm throughout the room. Attendees heard from a number of candidates running for a variety of positions, giving everyone an opportunity to connect with those stepping forward to serve. The energy and engagement made it clear that momentum is building as we head into the upcoming election season.

A highlight of the evening was the keynote presentation, "Restoring the Mutual Pledge: Self-Governance in the 21st Century," delivered by Pamela Leslie and Mark Herr. Together, they offered a thoughtful message focused on restoring unity, emphasizing the importance of moving beyond division, strengthening families and communities, and recommitting to the principles of self-governance at the local level. Their remarks challenged attendees to prioritize future generations and to lead with responsibility, respect, and a shared commitment to rebuilding trust. Mark and Pam also presented members of the OCRP Dick Ewing with the Mrs. Powel Award for his years of dedicated civic service and Stacy Storm, Trinity Stucker and Anthony Jenkins with CSG's Apprenticeship Certification for successful completion in the program's first level of government systems training.

Of note: Center for Self-Governance founder, Mark Herr, was awarded with a handcrafted quilt by members of the local Quilts Of Valor Chapter thanking him for his years of service to our Country!

Over 100,000 people flooded the Legislative system in 24 hours to express their opposition to SB 6346, the bill that would impose a 9.9% income tax on persons earning a million or more per year. That was the most comments ever against a bill. If they had given us more time, 150,000 registering their opposition would have resulted in a referendum. The Democrats put an emergency clause in the bill to prevent that.

Many amendments were proposed and rejected, 78 in all. One wanted the bill to guarantee that the income tax would not eventually extend to everyone. They rejected that saying future legislators would need more flexibility. The bill passed with 27 yeas, 21 nays, and 1 excused. Three Democrat senators and 10 representatives voted Nay on this, because there were “no guard rails” (Senator Cortes).

Some polls reflected that 67% of Washingtonians approved of this bill. It was promoted as providing funds to supplement a wide variety of State programs, including K-12 education and healthcare. However, no budget was included in the bill. Do those 67% realize that the Democrats have made no promise that an income tax would not come to them eventually?

Were the Democrats trying to make up for lost Federal funding due to non-compliance with Federal laws regarding boys in girls sports, the schools usurping parental rights in reference to transitioning children with gender confusion, not releasing criminal illegal aliens to ICE, and fraud?

Maybe they should ask themselves why Washington State has the highest rate of business failures in the U.S. 58% of new businesses fail within the first five years. 67% of businesses fail within ten years. Forbes ranked it 48th for overall business climate. Flourishing businesses add a lot to the State coffers. How many more will leave if the owners are penalized for their success?

Opponents of the bill say it is unconstitutional. Al clarifies that: “The Washington State Constitution does not explicitly mention income taxes, but it features a strict uniformity clause (Article VII, Section 1) (continued...) ”

Contact OCRPcoms@gmail.com for more information or to participate in any of the events below!

April 19th – Area 6 CSG Training

April 23rd – Central Committee Meeting

May 4-8th – PCO/Candidate Filing

May 17th— Area 6 CSG Training

May 28th — Central Committee Meeting

(...continued)

that requires all property taxes to be uniform on the same class of property. In 1933, the Washington Supreme Court interpreted income as a form of property, meaning graduated income taxes—which apply higher rates to higher earners—are unconstitutional.

On March 30th, the same day that Governor Ferguson signed this bill into law, a coalition led by the Citizen Action Defense Fund including former Washington Attorney General Rob McKenna, and former state Supreme Court Justice Phil Talmadge announced their intent to challenge it. Plaintiffs include business owners, the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW), and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), arguing that a graduated income tax is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit was filed on April 9, 2026 in Klickitat County Superior Court. A full trial date has not been set.

Our friends and neighbors need to know that this so-called “Millionaires” Income Tax is likely the first step to imposing an income tax on us all. Spread the word: The majority of Democrats voted for this bill knowing it does not protect YOU from future expansion of the income tax they passed.

The 2025-26 Washington State Legislature is over. Since the Democrats had a 30-19 majority in the Senate and a 59-39 majority in the House, some bills that were very unpopular with Conservatives passed and were signed into law by Governor Bob Ferguson.

The one that impacted Okanogan County dramatically was SB 5974 which gave the governor and an unelected board the authority to remove an elected sheriff from office and appoint someone of their choosing. Thousands of citizens made comment on the bill; 12,873 were against it. That was 87% of the respondents. The bill passed the Senate with a vote of 30 to 19. Governor Ferguson signed it into law on April 1.

This issue had a direct impact on Okanogan County because it was one of the factors that led Paul Budrow to resign as sheriff and return to his previous role as police chief in Twisp. He said, "I understood that if I continued holding individuals for U.S. Border Patrol in a manner I believed was consistent with federal law and allowed those individuals access to due process, it could be interpreted as a violation of Washington's Keep Washington Working Act. As a result, I faced the possibility of removal from office by the governor. Such an outcome could have led to decertification, effectively preventing me from serving in any future law enforcement capacity."

On April 3, the sheriffs from Spokane, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties responded by filing a lawsuit, stating that it is unconstitutional and undermines the power of the voters. The lawsuit was supported by the prosecuting attorneys of all four counties. They also sought an injunction to stop it from taking effect. The court hearing is scheduled for April 16, 2026.

Hopefully, the courts will recognize this law for the overreach that it is and strike it down.

We wish Police Chief Paul Budrow well in his new position. He has been a valuable asset to our county in both positions. Twisp is delighted he is back.

*Let us accept our own
responsibility
for the future.*

— JOHN F. KENNEDY —



Step Up, Okanogan: Midterm Elections Are Where Local Leadership Begins

~By Trinity Hightower Stucker

Midterm elections are often treated like a quieter season in politics, but here in Okanogan County they may be the most important elections of all. These are the races that shape daily life close to home: who helps guide our state/federal representation, courts, neighborhoods and political parties, county governance and who makes the decisions that affect taxes, roads, public safety, economic opportunity and the future our children will inherit. In Washington, candidate filing week for the 2026 election cycle runs from **Monday, May 4th through Friday, May 8th**. Filing closes at **5:00 p.m. on May 8th**.

For Okanogan County citizens, this is more than a date on the calendar. It is an invitation to serve. Too many people assume public office is only for long-time insiders, but strong communities are built when ordinary citizens decide they will no longer leave leadership to someone else. Farmers, large and small-business owners, parents, retirees, veterans, tradesmen, educators, and working families to name a few all bring needed wisdom to public office. Good government does not begin in Olympia or Washington, D.C. It begins when a neighbor decides to stand up for the town, district, or community he or she calls home.

This year, all three **Legislative District 7** partisan offices are open for filing: **State Senator, State Representative Position 1, and State Representative Position 2**. Okanogan County voters are also part of **Congressional District 4**, which includes the race for **U.S. Representative**. We also will be voting for **5 Supreme Court Justices** and **1 Court of Appeals Justice**.

At the local level, every Republican and Democratic **Precinct Committee Officer** (PCO) position is open for filing, creating one of the most accessible and meaningful opportunities for citizens to step directly into grassroots leadership. PCOs are the neighborhood-level foundation of party organization. They help connect with voters, strengthen local engagement, encourage participation, recruit volunteers, support candidates, and give all 102 precincts a real voice in the political process. For citizens who care about the direction of their communities, want to build stronger local representation, and believe government should remain close and accountable to the people, serving as a PCO is a powerful way to make a lasting impact right where they live.

Just as important are the county-level offices that directly shape the everyday administration of justice, taxation, records, department coordination and public safety. The county offices positioned for this cycle include **Assessor, Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecutor, Sheriff, Clerk, Coroner, County Commissioner District 3, 1 Superior Court and 2 District Court Justices, and OK PUD Commissioner D1**. These are the offices that touch people's lives in practical and immediate ways: how property is assessed, how public funds are managed, how laws are enforced, how court records are handled, how justice is carried out, and how departments and electricity are managed close to home. The county's candidate packet makes clear that county offices filing wholly within Okanogan County are filed through the Okanogan County Auditor's Office.

That is why filing week deserves real reflection. Where are your gifts most needed? Is it at the state or federal level, where Okanogan County life and realities are so rarely understood, yet over-regulated? In a courthouse office where fairness, professionalism and accountability are essential? At a grassroots level strengthening community engagement? Or, in a county seat where growth, infrastructure, and budgets must be managed wisely? Directing the future of our electrical infrastructure? The question is not whether leadership matters. The question is whether enough good people are willing to answer the call.

Midterm elections shape the bench of leadership for years to come. They determine whether government remains local, accountable, and rooted in the values of the people. Okanogan County does not need more spectators. It needs citizens with integrity, courage, humility, common sense, and a sense of duty. If you have ever looked at your community and thought, "Somebody should step up," this may be the year to realize that somebody could be you. Filing week is May 4 through May 8. Step forward and lead.