



# OCRCP NEWS

December 2025

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*Championing Liberty, Inspiring Change!*

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## 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 - 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Dist.Cmt.  
Ray Campbell - 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Dist.Cmt.  
Anthony Jenkins - 7<sup>th</sup> 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

Chancey C. Crowell  
Charles D. Short  
509.422.7170

## Okanogan County Prosecutor

Albert Lin  
509.422.7280



Suzy and Isaac Taylor accepting their Center for Self-Governance Apprenticeship completion awards from CSG founder, Mark Herr.

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**Wishing you a very Merry Christmas filled with peace, joy, laughter, love and irreplaceable memories!**

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This year has flown by.

Thank you to all of you fine people who have invested your time and treasure in working to make our state, county and nation a better place to live. The founding fathers gave us a remarkable and unique form of government. ...."a Republic, if we can keep it." Our civic responsibility does not end at the ballot box. It extends to continued study, involvement and engagement. The Okanogan County Republican Party (OCRCP) Central Committee is grateful to all of you who have engaged with us over this past year by attending events, following our social media posts, distributing and signing initiatives, writing letters to the editor and all the other things you do to promote liberty and freedom.

Our governmental structure is a representative form of government. The power is derived from we the people selecting individuals to represent us in the various legislative and executive functions. The Republican Party is set up in a similar fashion. Your Central Committee is made up of elected Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) who represent geographic areas of the county. Recently the Okanogan County precincts were revised. When PCOs file for election this coming May, they will be filing to represent areas of about 500-700 citizens. Your engagement is invaluable to shaping the course of the party and thus, our governmental institutions.

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## Okanogan County Sheriff

Paul Budrow  
509.422.7200

## Okanogan Superior Court Judges

Robert W. Grimm  
Kathryn Burke

## 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.....

Although not formally acknowledged in USA history, some scholars of American politics credit the Iroquois to influencing early United States of America federalism.

The Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois Confederacy, was comprised of representatives from all tribes (selected chiefs) who attended the Grand Council meetings. Decisions impacting the 5 Nations were by unanimous consensus to promote peace among the tribes. It's possible their system of governance's efficiency impressed George Washington, as similar methods and processes can be seen woven throughout the early stages of American federalism.

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

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday**

**Dinner: set menu/non-spicy Cajun/gluten free/delicious desserts!**

**Central Committee Meeting starts at 6:00 PM**

**Location:** Cavender's on the Bayou

8 Rose Street, Okanogan

**February 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.



*"I am announcing today that I will not seek reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives. Serving the Fourth District of Washington has been the honor of my life, and this decision comes with no reservations or remorse, only gratitude for the tremendous opportunity to have represented my home state in Congress.*

*After over 25 years of public service, including more than a decade in the House, I am grateful to the Washingtonians who put their faith in me, as well as the colleagues I have served with on both sides of the aisle.*

*Public service takes many forms. As I look forward to this new chapter and ways I can continue to serve my community and this great Nation, I do so with confidence that there are now qualified and serious people expressing interest in this office. Central Washington will have a strong, capable leader to whom I can pass the torch.*

*I thank my family for their steadfast love and support which allowed me this opportunity to serve. I am truly humbled by this uniquely American journey that took a farm boy from Sunnyside, Washington clear across the country to represent his friends and neighbors in the 'other' Washington. I will continue to serve my district with energy and enthusiasm until the end of my term.*

*God bless America and God bless the people of the Fourth District of Washington."*



(...continued page 1)

As Republicans, we are united by a love of liberty, a belief in personal responsibility and the conviction that the most local form of government is the most effective and efficient. These personal values and beliefs are stated in our local county party platform, which is a "living and breathing" document it is reviewed and revised by a committee of appointed caucus attendees and ratified at the OCRP Convention every 4 years. While we may differ on various points of how best to affect these objectives, we hold these principles dear. Have you read the OCRP Platform? It is available on our website <https://oc-rp.com/ocrp-platform>. If you haven't read it recently, I urge you do so. The platform is the basis of what Okanogan County Republicans stand for. Our candidates are representatives who are expected to uphold the platform through their votes and actions. Print a few copies of the short form platform and share it with friends and family. Encourage them to register, to vote and to become involved in the process.

2026 is an important election year. Congressional District 4 will be an open seat with Congressman Dan Newhouse retiring. At the state level, our Legislative District 7 Representatives Abell and Engell will be facing their first re-election campaign. This is often the most difficult campaign as they have a voting record to run against and the opposition can organize and campaign while they are busy working in the legislature on our behalf. Senator Short will also be up for re-election. All of our county offices will be on the ballot as well as County Commissioner District 3 (North County).

Things are going well at the national level, but we dare not be complacent. The opposition is well organized and they play a long game. We must stay on our game. Our good Republican candidates will need your support and efforts. According to recent statistics, there are approximately 9000 eligible people in Okanogan County who are not registered to vote. Election returns in Okanogan County tend to run between 40% to 70%. Most counties in Washington State have similar statistics.

These two areas present a big opportunity. We need your help. Do you know someone who shares our values who is not registered to vote? Encourage them to register. Do you know someone who thinks their vote does not count? Urge them to turn in their ballot anyway. Educating and engaging our young neighbors is extremely important. The few young families still fighting to stay in Okanogan County and raise our next generation are yearning for something they have yet to experience – freedoms that have been compromised or taken from them before they were even born and only vaguely linger as cherished memories among our elders. We have a group of young people of voting age who have never had the opportunity to live free. They are searching for hope and they need to hear the message conveyed in our platform. You are the best ambassador to the people within your circle of influence. If each of us can reach a few more people, the results will be exponential. We can indeed turn Washington State around.

The Okanogan County Republican Central Committee wants to hear from you. What issues are most important to you? Would you like to become more involved? Do you have an idea or a project that you think will help achieve our goals? Reach out. Attend our Central Committee Meetings. File for PCO. Work on a campaign. Your voice and your vote matter. Thank you for all you have done this year. Have a Merry Christmas. Let's make 2026 a prosperous year!

**Contact [OCRPcoms@gmail.com](mailto:OCRPcoms@gmail.com) for more information or to participate in any of the events below!**

**January 18<sup>th</sup> – Area 6 CSG Training**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Central Committee Meeting**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> – Area 6 CSG Training**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> – Central Committee Meeting**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – Area 6 CSG Training**

**March 21<sup>st</sup> – Lincoln Day Dinner**



*"Reclaiming the American Dream"*

**Lincoln Day Dinner**  
**Saturday, March 21, 2026**  
Omak Elks Lodge  
110 Ash St. S., Omak

**Save the Date!**  
**Details to Come!**

 **Okanogan County Republican Party**  
Paid for by: OCRP, PO BOX 3504, Omak WA 98841

**OKANOGAN COUNTY CONSTITUENT SURVEY  
DECEMBER 2025  
148 Registered Voters – Key Findings ( Summary)**

**Who Responded (top towns):**

**Tonasket/Aeneas Valley 34 | Omak 29 | Okanogan 21 | Oroville 14  
Brewster 8 | Twisp 8 | Riverside 7 | Winthrop 7 | Other 20**

**Top Services (total mentions):**

Respondents were asked to prioritize from the following: Roads, Law Enforcement, Court services, Jail, Juvenile Justice, Animal Control/Shelter, Weed Department, Planning and Building, Health Department, County Fair, Other.

1. Law Enforcement 126
2. Roads 122
3. Court Services / Jail 83

**How to Fix the \$2.5 Million Shortfall - (respondents could pick multiple)**

| <b>Solution</b>                                | <b># of Residents</b> | <b>%</b> |
|--|-----------------------|----------|
| Trim salaries – elected officials & dept heads | 85                    | 57%      |
| Reduce professional services & travel          | 74                    | 50%      |
| Liquidate county land/assets                   | 68                    | 46%      |
| Reduce county employees                        | 42                    | 28%      |
| Cut services                                   | 41                    | 28%      |
| Use reserve funds                              | 27                    | 18%      |
| Eliminate deputy coroner position              | 22                    | 15%      |
| Raise taxes                                    | 8                     | 5%       |

**County Employees Should Be Unionized?**

No 68% | Yes 25% | Blank 7%

**Ideal Salary – Rural County Commissioner or Dept Head:**

\$40–60k 45% | \$61–80k 32% | \$81–100k 13% | Higher <2%

**When did you last have a Raise?**

5+ years ago or never ~65% | 1–2 years ago ~15% | Annual COLA/SS ~20%

**Distribution of Responses by area - East vs West Divide**

| <b>Attitude</b>            | <b>Eastern/Northern (77% of responses)</b> | <b>Methow Valley (Twisp/Winthrop)</b> |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Raise taxes?               | 0–6% yes                                   | 13–29% yes                            |
| Cut elected/dept head pay? | Very strong support                        | Moderate support                      |
| Sell county land?          | Very strong support                        | Moderate support                      |
| Unions?                    | 71–86% NO                                  | ~50% NO                               |
| Acceptable salary          | Mostly \$60k or less                       | Often \$81–100k                       |

**Loudest Recurring Themes in Comments:**

- Do NOT raise taxes – “we are taxed to death”
- Sell county land, old pits, fairgrounds, surplus equipment
- Cut leadership & administrative salaries first
- Eliminate or shrink Weed Board, Planning/Building, Trango, Animal Shelter
- Stop non-essential travel and “good-old-boy” contracts
- Crime and drugs are out of control – protect Sheriff/Jail/Roads at all costs

**Bottom Line Message from Residents:**

“Live within your means. Cut from the top and the fluff. Sell assets. Do not touch law enforcement or roads. Whatever you do – do not raise our taxes.”

(Prepared from 148 registered voters – December 2025)

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## **Citizens Respond to Okanogan County's \$2.5 Million Budget Deficit**

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Okanogan County Commissioner Andy Hover attended the September meeting of the Okanogan County Republican Central Committee and advised us that the Okanogan County Budget was facing a shortfall of approximately 2.5 million dollars. He asked for input on how this should be handled. Would people prefer cutting services or increased taxes and so forth. He made a similar presentation at the Okanogan County Farm Bureau Banquet and was interviewed by several newspapers.

In response to Commissioner Hover's request a committee of Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) was tasked with examining the budget. It was decided that - since PCOs represent the people in their precincts - it would be useful to create a poll to get an idea of which services are most valued by the citizens and what their thoughts on the budget situation might be, while not presenting an official recommendation of the OCRP Central Committee. The survey was available for 8 days and was available through a link to a website. The invitation to participate was posted on the OCRP social media (Face Book and X) as well as extended via email to our mailing list. 148 registered voters responded. Respondents were asked for their name, city and email to avoid duplication. This individual information will not be shared. They were also asked if they were registered to vote. All respondents were in fact registered voters.

Participants were given a list of services provided by the county and asked to prioritize the three that are most important to them. Law Enforcement, Roads and Court Services/Jail were the top three. A list of possible solutions was provided and participants were again asked to prioritize their top three preferences. Trimming salaries of elected officials and department heads was the first choice. That was followed by Reducing professional services and travel, and liquidating county land/assets. Raising taxes was the least preferred option.

Additional questions provided more insight into the thoughts of respondents. Those questions were: Should county employees be unionized? No, 68%. What do you think the ideal salary for a rural county commissioner or department head should be? \$40-\$60K – 45%, \$61-\$80k – 32%, \$81-\$100k – 13%. Lastly, respondents were asked when they last had a raise. 65% said their last raise had been 5 years or more ago, or never.

There was a field where respondents could provide additional feedback. These comments were spontaneous and unprompted. The comments covered a variety of subjects related to county government. They provide insight into what is valued by these citizens, and what is not. The overwhelming theme in the comments was that "the county should live within its means. Cut from the top and reduce the fluff. Sell assets. Do not touch law enforcement or roads. Whatever you do – do not raise our taxes."

Although it was a small sample of the county it is hoped that the results will be helpful in addressing this concerning situation. The results also show areas where some education may be in order. Citizens do not necessarily know what services are mandated by state law. They also are not aware how some programs and services are funded outside of the current expense budget. Their reflections on value of various departments and services are still worth noting.

The OCRP appreciates the opportunity to be involved in the conversation regarding this issue. Attached is a more detailed breakdown of the survey responses. We hope the County Commissioners will find this information useful as they work for the betterment of Okanogan County. Thank you to the citizens who took the time to respond.

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***"Every age and generation must be as free to act for itself in all cases as the age and generations which preceded it."***

*~ Thomas Paine*

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