



# OCRCP NEWS

February 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 - 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

*“Reclaiming the American Dream”*  
*Celebrating the USA’s 250th Birthday*  
**Lincoln Day Dinner**  
**Saturday, March 21, 2026**  
Omak Elks Lodge  
110 Ash St. S., Omak  
3:30 p.m. - Social Hour - Meet Your Candidates  
5:30 p.m. - Beef Roast Dinner  
**Speakers: Mark Herr & Pam Leslie**  
Center for Self Governance  
**Renewing America’s Lost Mutual Pledge**  
**MC: Matt Brown** - WAGOP Political Director

**Suggested Donation: \$50 per plate includes drink ticket**  
Reserve by March 8 with the Q-code above - \$60 at the door  
**Sponsored by The Okanogan County Republican Party**  
Questions: Wayne Turner - wturner1528@gmail.com; Stacy Storm 509.429.7287  
Paid for by Okanogan County Republican Party, PO BOX 3504, Omak WA 98841

**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.....**

There is dispute over the date the Declaration of Independence was signed?

Although July 4, 1776 is the date 12 of the 13 Colonies comprising the Second Continental Congress voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence and the majority of representatives applied their signatures to the document, New York abstained until their delegates received instruction to agree to and sign this critical document from their convention.

Due to the limitations of travel and messaging of the times, that directive and application of the ‘missing’ remaining signatures did not occur until August 2, 1776.

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

**March 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday  
Central Committee Meeting starts at 6:00 PM**

**Location:** TBD Keep an eye on our socials!

**April 23<sup>rd</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.



Okanogan Republican Party February Central Committee Meeting  
Photo by ~ Tina Holan

Precincts were originally the subdivisions of a county where citizens from a certain area came together on election day to cast their ballots. Precincts were kept small so that people would not have to travel far to vote. Over the years, as our county's population grew and spread, we created more precincts. By 2020, Okanogan County had 247 of the little critters. Most of them were not represented by a Precinct Committee Officer, so their residents did not have a voice in the Central Committees of the major parties.

To confuse things a bit more, precincts were not the only political subdivisions of our county. School districts, fire districts, hospital districts, and various other "junior taxing districts" occupied different areas of the county, and their boundaries often did not follow precinct boundaries. As a result, there were often different issues on ballots within a single precinct, so the precincts were divided into as many as seven "splits" by the overlapping districts.

Whenever an election came around, the County Auditor Cari Hall's office had to create dozens or even hundreds of different ballots, each tailored to the different races that applied to the different splits of our many precincts. Complicated! And the worst part was that some splits were so small that there might only include 5 or 10 voters, making it possible to guess from the election reports how individuals had voted. To avoid that loss of privacy, multiple splits across several precincts had to be "rolled up" in the final reports, to make total counts that were large enough to ensure ballot secrecy.

It all worked, but it was a huge task for the elections staff to administer the complexity, while double-checking everything to assure total accuracy. Also, both the Republican and Democrat parties were concerned because so many precincts didn't have a PCO to represent them or reach out to them. In addition, the roll-ups were custom-tailored for each election, so it was hard for the parties to compare the results from one election to another, to know where to focus their efforts.

The parties and the election department came to the shared conclusion last spring that it would be easier all around if we had fewer precincts, and if we adjusted the precinct boundaries to follow (as near as possible) the school district and other subdivision lines, reducing the number of splits.

Last spring, two Republicans (Stacy Storm & Kit Arbuckle), two Democrats, a tribal member, and two election department members (Jamie & Matthew) went to work on the revision project, with the added constraint that no current PCOs would lose their position as a result of boundary adjustments. The task was finished in the summer, adopted by the County Commissioners in the fall, and took effect on January 1, 2026.

To match the state's record-keeping system, each new precinct was assigned a 4-digit numeric as its identifier. New ID cards have been mailed to all registered voters, and the new precinct information is also available to voters via the Secretary of State's website (VoteWA.gov).

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

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

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

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

**April 19<sup>th</sup> – Area 6 CSG Training**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Central Committee Meeting**

**May 4-8<sup>th</sup> – PCO/Candidate Filing**

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Maps of the new precincts are accessible on the County Assessor's website, or Kit can print out a custom one for you on request.

There are a few state-required precincts that have a population of zero (quarries, reservoirs, and such). If we leave them out of consideration, the net effect of the precinct reset is that we have gone from 240 precincts (average voter population 119), including 441 splits, to 85 precincts (average voter population 337), including 233 splits.

Each of our 42 PCOs/Captains still represents the same core precinct, but with a new ID# and enlarged area.

The reset leaves us with a few pieces of important unfinished business:

- We need to adjust our bylaws to revise the precinct lists for our 7 areas
- We urgently need to find PCOs for 43 unrepresented precincts
- We all need to get up to speed on the use of our Voter-Science app and the Operations Portal

Our PCO roles have become more important than ever, now that we are the critical contacts for expanded constituencies. Let's get out there and build relationships with our conservative voters! The outcome of this fall's election depends on the ground game of folks like us.

**“All about midterm elections is turnouts. And, turnout is measured by enthusiasm, intensity and how interested people are.” ~ Mark Shields**

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## Protecting the Secrecy of the Ballot ~By Marcia Butchart

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When Okanogan County Auditor Cari Hall began her first term in 2019, she already knew a lot about elections. She had learned from her mother, Mila Jury, who had been Elections Administrator for the county from 1975 to 2006 and then Chief Deputy /Elections Supervisor until her retirement in 2018. From that connection, one main matter had priority in Cari's mind: the right of each voter to have a secret ballot.

As she became immersed personally in Okanogan County's voting process, she realized that the population of the 248 precincts had changed since the precinct lines had last been redrawn in 2004, the year the County went to all mail-in ballots. At that time, the state RCW's required 200 registered voters or under in a precinct. By 2019 due to population changes, some of the Okanogan County precincts had only 10-15 voters which made ballot secrecy virtually impossible. Our Auditor wanted to change that.

Also, an election is a lot of work for the State and the County. Since the State system does not allow for copying and pasting, the County Auditor's office has to rebuild the ballot for each precinct. That takes a lot of time, costs more, and makes more opportunities for human error.

Cari knew that re-precincting was necessary, but she knew the time had to be right. She did not want to do it in a presidential year, which could interfere with data reporting and analysis, or right after the Precinct Committee Officers were elected. So she decided to begin the process of redrawing the precinct lines in early 2025.

She asked the two political parties if they would be willing to participate in the process. Republicans Stacy Storm, Okanogan County Republican Party Chair (OCRP), and Kit Arbuckle, Precinct Committee Officer (PCO) plus Katie Haven, then Okanogan County Democrats Chair (OCD) and Dennis Montes, PCO and Tribal member agreed to help. They joined Cari, Jamie Grooms, who builds the ballots, and Matthew Schuh who all do elections in the Auditor's office.

During the process, Cari urged the committee to get the word out that they were re-precincting, not re-districting. At the time, there was controversy about the re-districting, the process conducted by the Washington State Legislature, which faced accusations of gerrymandering. She wanted people to know the Okanogan County Auditor's office has nothing to do with the district lines.

They worked with the RCWs in front of them, which currently require no more than 1500 registered voters per precinct. They worked with the State all along the way, as the committee aimed for 1000 or less to allow for growth and to keep the precincts manageable from the PCO perspective. The goal was to cut the number of precincts in half, if possible. They looked at the existing precincts geographically. They looked for split precincts, i.e. - where fire districts overlap voting precincts. None of the district boundaries (i.e. - Commissioner, Schools, and Fire) were changed. They took care not to put an existing PCO out of their current precinct. Our auditor's priority was a minimum of 100 voters per precinct to ensure ballot secrecy. Every committee member had their fair share of participation. Finally, they made sure the committee members were all in agreement.

Once the lines were established, they worked on naming and re-doing the numbering system. Matthew Schuh came up with the current numbering convention. The first digit in the precinct number stands for the voters' Commissioner District. The second digit indicates the type of precinct, e.g. - rural, within city limits, unique circumstance - rural, airport, cemetery, unique circumstance within city limits. The third and fourth digits are for two-digit precinct numbers. The last digits are for splits.

Their finished work was reviewed and approved by the Okanogan County Commissioners in a public meeting on January 1, 2026. It was then shared with the Tribal Council.

It took almost a year, but the committee had met their goals: cut the precincts in half, cut splits in half, followed all the RCWs, and created precincts with no less than 100 voters to ensure the secrecy of the ballot.

Cari says, "It was a huge project. I was blessed that all parties were willing to be on the committee. I could not have done it without the committee. They really helped us a lot."

We are blessed to have an Okanogan County Auditor who is passionate about voting and the secrecy of the ballot. She says, "It is our right. We need to exercise our right. And we need to protect it."