



Newsletter

THE TIDAL WAVE

News source for the building tsunami of resistance to autocracy

SEPTEMBER 2026

500 DAYS AND COUNTING

Photos by Marla Vardell and Rebecca Stone

Jerry just marked his 500th consecutive day standing in protest on the corner of NW 22nd and Hwy. 101. He, joined by other protesters, are not shy about their reasons for being out there, rain or shine. They tell it like it is!





FOLK ROCK THE VOTE

Photos by Marla Vardell

The day started off rather drizzly. But by the time the ILC-sponsored Folk Rock the Vote event began, the clouds parted and the angels sang. Under a nearly cloudless blue sky, nearly 100 people gathered in front of a stage at the new Schooner Creek Park in Taft. There were many familiar faces, but the music also lured passersby as well as folks from the neighborhood.



Lush clover blanketed the grounds, providing the perfect place to spread a blanket or lounge on lawn chairs and dine on the range of tasty



options available from the nearby food trucks. In fact, reports indicate that Canales Taco and Amar Cafecito food trucks did a pretty brisk business.





A number of attendees brought their K9 best friends, who enjoyed their own brand of meet-and-greet, while their humans enjoyed the sounds coming from the park's stage. The concert lineup included Tim Conley and Friends, Barbara Turrill, the Peace Band, Dylan



Crawford and Friends, and the ILC Resistance

Singers, who wrapped up the event with resistance songs assisted by the audience.

On the voter education front, BOC candidate Cathie Rigby's rep Andrew, and BOC candidate Cristen Don had information tables. Both said they were able to speak with a lot of people. Immigration Attorney Kate



Sinkins was also on hand with plenty of valuable information for surviving this ICE Age we are in. The ILC booth



displayed a range of voting information staffed by Marla and Jerry, who handed out an ample amount of literature with a focus on: VOTE EARLY / USE THE DROP BOX.



During the concert, the ILC Safety Committee helped ensure everything stayed safe and sane, while Becky and her dog, Gus, distributed GOTV power flowers throughout the audience (the dog was an ice breaker here!). Everyone seemed delighted with them...

and the dog. But we need more flowers. Do we need a flower committee? Just sayin'.



CHAOS VS THE BALLOT BOX

By Mary Beth Guerena

Chaos has reigned over our election process ever since President Trump gave an executive order in March, directing the United States Postal Service to create new rules allowing local post offices to track and potentially block ballots on their way to voters. The order required the Department of Homeland Security to collect voter rolls from each state and then create a list of eligible voters in each state to be sent to post offices as proof of eligibility. The USPS could then refuse to mail a ballot to anyone not on the list.

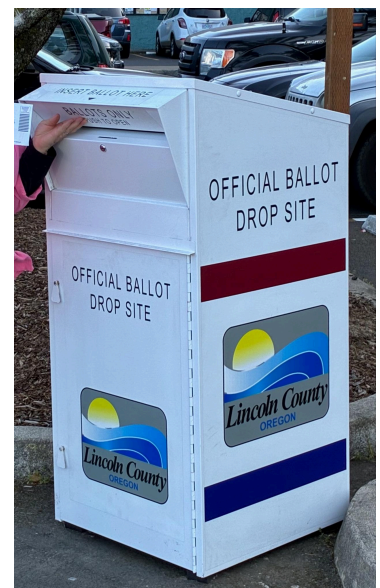
In response, a coalition of 24 states sued to block the order from being implemented. The Supreme Court of the United States ruled that executive order could move forward on a procedural decision that the Democratic state officials had sued too early. But District Judge Indira Talwani, from Massachusetts, placed a temporary restraining order that has been extended. She says that the government had not produced any evidence of fraudulent mail-in voting which needed to be fixed.

Recently, however, a whistleblower reported that the postal service is making a rushed and secretive bid to implement the anti-mailing order. Meanwhile, the DHS published a webpage to carry out Trump's plan to create a national voter registry. Per this administration's protocol, rules are to be ignored or broken.

Amidst all this chaos, calm minds prevail. Lincoln County's County Clerk, Amy Southwell, has informed me that the November 3rd, 2026 election will go on as any other election would, with no changes made to our process. She added that Secretary of State Tobias Read, as well as officials working in Washington, D.C., have ensured all 36 county clerks throughout Oregon that nothing will happen for this upcoming election and that it will take a lot to change our current system. Even considering this she said, "I encourage voters to drop their ballot in a secure drop box throughout the county to ensure it will be here on time and counted!"

It is important to remember who legally run our elections:

- State lawmakers (house and senate)
- Secretary of state
- State elections board
- State judges
- County clerk
- County's elections board
- County commissioners
- County executive
- County judge
- NOT the USPS or the federal government



So, what can we do to help keep our elections safe and secure and ensure our votes are counted?

- Many politically savvy types recommend double checking your voter registration. If you're not registered, you have until Oct 13th to do so.
- Fill out your ballot as soon as you receive it. Ballots are mailed on Oct. 14th
- If you don't receive your ballot by Oct. 18th or 19th, call Amy Southwell, Lincoln County Clerk at 541 265-4131
- Place your signed and sealed ballot in a ballot box by Nov. 3rd to make sure your vote counts!
- If you are mailing your ballot, be sure to put it in the mail by Oct. 21st allowing a 10-day window to be postmarked on time (Nov. 3rd)
- If possible, mail it from the post office and ask it to be postmarked in front of you!
- It is legal to drop off a ballot for a family member, a neighbor or friend, as long as it is signed, sealed, and dropped off in the ballot box within 48 hours. The county clerk advises, "Typically, if your neighbor or friend asks if you can drop their signed ballot in one of our drop boxes, it's not a problem, but I wouldn't go around and ask people if you can drop them off for them."
- It is also legal to drop your ballot off in another Oregon county's ballot box.

Get Your Ballot Counted

1. Drop Box –return *any time*, but no later than **8 pm, Tues, Nov. 3rd**
Highly preferred option
2. Mail* - put in outbox/mailbox no later than **Fri, Oct. 23rd**
3. Mail* – at post office, ask for *hand postmark* by **Fri, Oct. 30th**

* during this busy midterm election, it could take **7-10 BUSINESS DAYS** for ballots to be postmarked in Portland.

Courtesy of Indivisible Lincoln City

Our president has long sought to limit mail-in voting. Voting by mail is not only safe and secure but it is an integral part of keeping our elections secure and accessible. Oregon is the first state to do it, and it has a long history of success. If a president is actively trying to limit mail-in voting, then that president is

actively trying to take the vote away from the people and the control of the states. In solidarity, we must fight this. As of this writing, SCOTUS has put a hold on Trump's executive order for the midterms, but we need to be prepared to fight in 2028!

Wondering Where to Drop Off Ballots in Lincoln County, OR?

You may drop off ballots **at any Official Ballot Drop Site** within the State of Oregon by 8PM on Election Day. The following are located in Lincoln County. For more information visit:

<https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/617/Local-Drop-Site-Locations>

DEPOE BAY CITY HALL
570 SE Shell, Depoe Bay, OR 97341

EDDYVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH
6890 Crystal Creek Loop, Eddyville, OR 97343

LINCOLN CITY HALL
801 SW Highway 101, Lincoln City, OR 97367

NEWPORT CITY HALL
169 SW Highway 101, Newport OR 97365

LINCOLN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
225 W. Olive Street, Room 201, Newport, OR 97365

SILETZ CITY HALL
215 W Buford, Siletz, OR 97380

TOLEDO POLICE STATION
250 W Highway 20, Toledo, OR 97391

WALDPORT CITY HALL
355 Alder Street, Waldport, OR 97394

YACHATS CITY HALL
276 W 6th Street, Yachats, OR 97498

CAUTIONARY NOTE: Beware of the Musk-funded site VoteSafe.org. It is an America PAC-funded voter registration website that collects and shares voters' personal info.

MAYOR WAHLKE UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

Until recently, Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke was running for re-election uncontested. Now, she will face challenger Marci Baker, who sits on the Lincoln City City Council.



It dawned on me that I don't really know much about our current mayor. Who is Susan Wahlke?

A graduate of the University of Oregon, Wahlke worked for 30 years as a legal secretary in Oregon, served as downtown manager for the Bay Area (Taft) Merchants Association, was assistant to the former Chief of Police in Lincoln City, assistant to the former City Attorney in

Lincoln City, and worked in the Planning Department in Clatsop County.

A former city councilor, Wahlke has served as our mayor since June 2021. She sits on the Oregon Mayors Association Board of Directors, is Secretary of the Coastal Mayors Coalition, and Secretary of the Women's Caucus Board.

Wahlke volunteers with the nonprofit Business for Excellence in Youth. She also serves as Secretary for the Kiwanis Club of Lincoln City, and the Lincoln County Foundation. Under her tenure as mayor lodging tax was increased to fund the Lincoln City Police Department's role in establishing a Lincoln County Interagency Narcotics Team. She has also focused on creating low- and moderate-income housing, improving emergency preparedness and infrastructure, enhancing the financial health of the city, and protecting the environment.

When asked what she sees as one of her main strengths as a leader, Wahlke says she considers herself a good and thoughtful listener. This trait seems to have been beneficial in helping her carefully consider all sides of the various issues that cross her desk. Such an approach allows her to make informed decisions on matters ranging from finance, law enforcement, and city planning to healthcare, and challenges for seniors, working class, and small business.

Married to small-business owner Bob Wahlke, you could say the mayor has a vested interest in keeping on top of the trends in our community, and she commits herself to continuing education to stay up to date. In 2026, Wahlke was recognized during Community Days as Woman of the Year and Leader of the Year for her extensive volunteer work.

A LOOK AT GOVERNOR TINA KOTEK

Oregon Governor Tina Kotek (D/Working Families Party) is once again facing off with Republican State Senator Christine Drazan in the race for our state's governor. The former Oregon Speaker of the House won the 2022 gubernatorial election against Drazan 47.0% to 43.5%.

Back then, Kotek campaigned on the promise to “get things done” in addressing issues from homelessness to climate change. In fact, her first day in office as governor, she declared a state of emergency in regard to homelessness and set a goal of building 36,000 new housing units per year. Other changes she called for included increasing the number of police officers, improving education outcomes, increasing access to mental health services, loosening land-use policies, the development of grant and loan programs for businesses applying for financial assistance.



So how has she done?

The truth is this upcoming election could be a squeaker. While most Oregonians may not want to vote for Trump ally Drazan, Kotek has been struggling in popularity, with some pegging her as among the most unpopular governors in the country.

The reason for her unpopularity seems to stem from a lack of progress in a number of areas during her tenure. Such areas include one of her main objectives, to address housing and homelessness, and to tackle issues surrounding transportation and education. Still, a look on sites like Reddit indicate that many Oregonians will vote for Kotek despite perceived shortcomings rather than a MAGA contender, though as of this writing Drazan is slightly ahead in the polls.

Kotek has racked up [some accomplishments](#) that maybe she hasn't gotten enough credit for, such as strengthening immigration protections, expanding abortion rights and reproductive access, defending vote-by-mail, and standing up to Trump over National Guard deployment. She has directed \$140 million toward an early literacy program, and \$25 million to expand mental

health services for children and teens. She also created a major funding package, including \$94 million to build and repair affordable homes for seniors.

Through attack ads, Drahan has been accusing Kotek of rolling out the red carpet for data centers. But she is referring to a time more than a decade ago when data centers were enjoying nearly unanimous bipartisan support. Kotek is now calling for a moratorium on data centers in Oregon. In fact, last January she convened an Oregon Data Center Advisory Committee to build a policy framework to address high electricity and water use, and ensure ratepayer protection. While the state lacks the authority to enact a statewide moratorium, Kotek supports locally set moratoriums.

The first debate between Kotek and Drahan is slated for October 1, 2026, hosted by the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communications in Eugene. It can be watched from home at: <https://kval.com/thegovernorsdebate>.

Check out these sources for further insights:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlsdBek28Ow>

<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/politics/oregon-gubernatorial-candidates-kotek-drahan-spar-data-centers/283-b9b42276-8381-4f49-bcc7-b35ea6d11521>

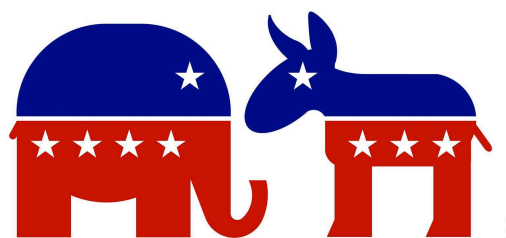
<https://www.opb.org/article/2026/08/30/data-centers-emerge-as-new-flashpoint-between-kotek-drahan-oregon-governors-race/>

https://www.thechoice2026.com/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=24101229032&gbraid=0AAABEX-sfLB11rXX21XshbKQKDFkEt69&gclid=Cj0KCQjwk5nVBhDiARIsAHNGqafFlaVxoeC7yiR85ZMOpACi38Ga99O8VwZ6TfoNuUmUP64fjeAhWZlAnVjEALw_wcB

https://ballotpedia.org/Tina_Kotek

<https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2026/08/13/oregons-2026-race-for-governor-the-facts-on-the-ground/>

<https://www.opb.org/article/2026/07/10/oregon-governor-race-competitive-early-signs-show/>



NO KINGS 4 SET FOR OCTOBER 17, 2026

By Shar Walbaum

We have been waiting for this moment since January 20th, 2025. This election is more important than our local or county races. It is bigger than any bill. It is our chance to stop the MAGA rampage. It will take an avalanche, a tidal wave of voters. If that happens, two things will follow:

- 1. We will win because we are the majority. If you've stood on the street corner everyday, you know it's true.**
- 2. We will stop MAGA.**

To do it, we need everyone to vote. It doesn't matter who they vote for because — remember — **WE are the majority**. We need to get that message to those people who are intimidated or hopeless or scared or just too mad to move. Voting is HOW we can save democracy. **No hyperbole. Fact.**



On Saturday, **October 17th**, we will stand up in force at the Outlet Mall for **NO**

KINGS: VOTE EARLY in concert with people all over the country. Hundreds of rallies are planned. It will be worldwide — there are already rallies scheduled in Spain, Sweden, and Italy.

Details (more on Mobilize):

NO KINGS: WE VOTE EARLY IN LINCOLN CITY

Saturday, Oct. 17th, 4 – 5 pm

on S. Hwy. 101 alongside the Lincoln City Outlet Mall

1500 SE East Devils Lake Road

Lincoln City, OR 97367

Please sign up even if you are already committed to being there. Numbers on Mobilize show how big NK4 will be.

Visit: <https://www.mobilize.us/nokings/event/1032060/>

Oct. 17th is a perfect date — ballots will have either arrived or will soon. Our signs will say things like:

BE READY

VOTE NOW

USE BALLOT DROP BOX

Remember: Numbers matter for both the rally and at the ballot box. We show drivers that there is a tidal wave of support for voting, they feel encouraged, maybe even hopeful to use their vote. Then, change can happen.

So ... tell someone and bring someone.

NO KINGS: WE VOTE EARLY Lincoln City Rally

Sat, October 17th, 4 – 5 pm

*We'll say
**BE PREPARED.
VOTE EARLY.
USE DROP BOX.
SAVE DEMOCRACY.***

RALLY LOCATION:

On S. Hwy. 101
alongside Lincoln City Outlet Mall
1500 SE East Devils Lake Rd
Lincoln City, OR 97367



Indivisible Lincoln City
We don't do tyrants.
indivisiblelincolncityor.org



NOW PLAYING

ILC made the big screen! Grab your popcorn and check out our new slides that are running at the Bijou Theater in Lincoln City:

Defending Democracy

Indivisible Lincoln City

As easy as 1-2-3!

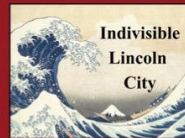
1. Be Prepared.
2. Vote Early.
3. Use Ballot Drop Box.

*Learn more.
Join the wave.*



Indivisible Lincoln City

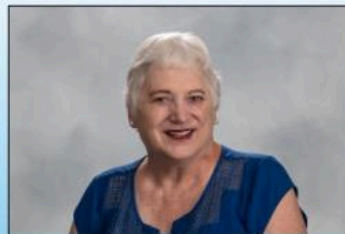
KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES
VOTE EARLY
USE BALLOT DROP BOX



*Learn more.
Be part of the solution.*



Re-Elect Lincoln City Mayor Susan Wahlke



A leader who listens; a leader we can trust.

Leader of the Year, 2026, Lincoln City Community Days
Mayor's Leadership Award, 2024, Oregon Mayors Association
President, AAUW, Lincoln City Oregon
Director, Business for Excellence in Youth



**What's the most effective
force in politics?
Asking your neighbors to **VOTE****

**As a NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER
you can meet your progressive
neighbors and Get Out The Vote**

Sign up at www.dpo.org/nlp



**Making a
difference
feels Great!**



LincolnCountyDemocratsOregon.com

AUGUST'S ILC MEETING WAS DYNAMIC

At our last meeting at the end of August there was no lolly gagging. We started with a safety training session in the wake of a tense confrontation at the last rally. Through a role playing session organized by Peter and Gary and led by Lynne, volunteers enacted similar encounters and practiced ways of de-escalating a situation portrayed by Greg in a stellar performance. Check out the [video](#) online and scroll to the bottom.

Following that, we split into small groups and brainstormed ways of getting out the vote. Imaginations ran wild and we ended up with some great ideas:

- Engage voters
- Educate voters about ballot challenges
- Educate voters about voting
- Help voters vote
- Help candidates get elected



To meet these goals, we generated the following strategies:

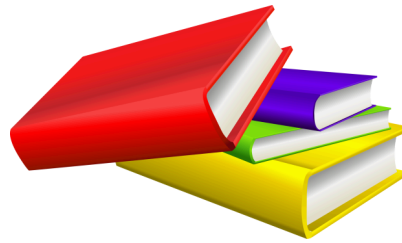
- Personal conversations during canvassing, over coffee, at salons/house parties
- Public tabling
- Letters to the editor
- Post cards, flyers, Q & A sheets
- Ads - print, Bijou, & broadcast
- Social media posts
- Newsletter - articles/interviews
- Collaboration - LWV, NLP, Dems
- Clothing, pins, car magnets, yard signs, bumper stickers, vote flowers

We could use everyone's help: Do what suits you best and what you can commit to. Shar plans on sending out a questionnaire to make committing simple.

Cristen Don and Cathie Rigby came by for the last part of the meeting. We split into two groups, one with Don and one with Rigby and discussed how we could best help them with their election bids.

Overall, it was an exciting and fruitful meeting.

MEDIA CORNER



NEW BOOKS:

Rebecca Blumenstein and Diana Knapp. The Last Free Women: A Daring Escape From Afghanistan and Coming of Age in America

Michael Lewis. Blockers: Rebels in the Deep State

Sarah Longwell. How to Eat an Elephant One Voter At A Time

Ben Meiselas. WTF America?! The Way Out Of This Hell and Back to Democracy

Skye Perryman. Ordinary People, Extraordinary Times

GOOD LINKS:

•Heather Cox Richardson's 9/15 post was smokin' hot:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1figRUiJ4ew>

•Katie Couric:

<https://katiecouric.substack.com/p/how-do-we-save-democracy-my-conversation>

And... everyone should see this:

https://katiecouric.substack.com/p/election-nightmare-scenario?utm_source=podcast-email&publication_id=4794323&post_id=215888317&utm_campaign=email-play-on-substack&utm_content=watch_now_button&r=99pw1&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

•Jon Stewart Weekly Show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3BMAkJlInw>

•Informative press conference on voting in Oregon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qc8tCcM87eI>

•Jimmy Kimmel's interview with James Talarico was aired on YouTube in response to threats from the FCC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLDE9LrGpNk>

CALENDAR

DAILY: Join Jerry from noon to 1pm on the corner of Hwy. 101 and NW 22nd, Lincoln City.

Newport Resistance Rally, every Saturday, noon to 1pm.
Hwy 101 and US 20.

EVERY THURSDAY: WHAT'S THE PLAN with Ezra Levin and Leah Greenberg.
Virtual event from noon to 1 pm PDT,
<https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/event/874938/?source=indivisible&medium=web>

Tues Sept 29th, 5-7 pm: ILC AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING, Lincoln City Rec Center, 2150 NE Oar Pl, Lincoln City, OR 97367

Oct 17th: NO KINGS 4

November 3: Midterm Elections: But be sure to mail your ballots in early... or better yet... use the dropbox! Again:

Regarding Your Ballot for Mid Term Elections 2026

Ballots are sent **Wed. Oct. 14th** & should arrive a few days later.

If you haven't received yours by **Wed. Oct. 21st**, contact Lincoln County Clerk, Amy Southwell at (541) 265-4131

Also, at any time, you could pick up a ballot from **Lincoln County Clerk's Office**
225 West Olive St., Room 201
Newport, OR 97365

If you end up with two, it won't matter. **Only one ballot is counted per person.**



Learn more at:
OregonVotes.gov

The Tidal Wave is the monthly newsletter for Indivisible Lincoln City. Editor: Rebecca Stone. For comments or suggestions, or to subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to: indivisiblelcor@gmail.com.

Also follow us on:

<https://indivisiblelincolncityor.org/>

<https://bsky.app/profile/did:plc:54axywvx4avrlx5r3xhev6s6>

<https://www.instagram.com/ind.lincolncity/>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@indivisiblelincol>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/253437991771336/>

