

From Our Board President

Getting Climate Action Right

This past week, NW Natural and a coalition of employers, labor groups, and business associations filed a legal challenge related to Oregon's Climate Protection Program (CPP), citing concerns about cost impacts, technical feasibility, and legislative oversight. These concerns reflect what many in our community have been raising as the program advances: that the CPP, as currently structured, may be creating significant carbon-compliance costs while leaving important questions about cost management and accountability still unresolved.



I wanted to take a moment to address this issue given its implications for our region's economic competitiveness, affordability, and long-term growth. Westside businesses are already navigating workforce shortages, rising operating costs, and a strained housing market. In that context, uncertainty around energy and compliance costs can make it more difficult to retain and attract employers and plan for future investment. There is particular concern that the current framework places a substantial share of the burden on downstream natural gas users—including manufacturers, small businesses, and households—without sufficient cost-containment tools to provide predictability over time.

Our region has long supported climate action that is effective, accountable, and aligned with economic vitality. We believe Oregon can reduce emissions while also strengthening—not undermining—its competitiveness. It also lacks mechanisms that other states rely on—such as market linkage and verified offsets—to control costs and support predictable investment.

We join partners across the state in encouraging policymakers to take a constructive step back and work toward a legislative solution that strengthens the CPP. Greater alignment with programs in Washington and California, enhanced transparency and governance, and clearer connections between program costs and outcomes can help ensure the policy delivers real emissions reductions while maintaining affordability and a stable environment for business growth.

[Click here to read the full coalition statement.](#)
[Read OBI's statement.](#)

Washington County Chair Candidate Forum

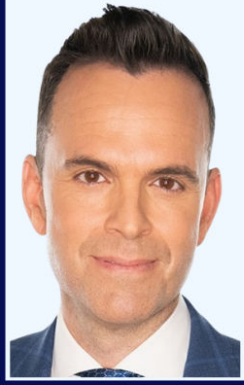
WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAIR | CANDIDATE FORUM



CANDIDATE
NAFISA FAI
COMMISSIONER DIST. 1



CANDIDATE
PAM TREECE
COMMISSIONER DIST. 2



MODERATOR
DAVID MOLKO
KGW CHIEF ANCHOR



29 APRIL 2026



DOORS 11:30AM
PROGRAM 12 - 1PM



www.WestsideAlliance.org

HOSTED BY



Register

Join Westside Economic Alliance for a lunch forum with the candidates for Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners moderated by David Molko, KGW's Chief Anchor.

The next Washington County Chair will shape major countywide decisions on transportation and infrastructure funding and help determine the future of a new Courthouse, while serving as a key voice in our push for smart regional growth.

Don't miss this chance to hear directly from the two leading candidates for this influential elected role.

Interested in Sponsorship?
[Reach out to Danielle.](#)

May Committee Meeting



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

UPDATES: TriMet Funding and IBR

Featuring Representatives from TriMet and the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program

Thursday, May 7, 2026 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

*Meeting ONLINE Only
via Zoom*

**WEA Committees are open to
Members only.**

For more information about committee schedule, attendance or to present contact
teddy@westsidealliance.org

Member News



Pride Disposal recently celebrated their 40th anniversary with their valued community partners, local government agencies, other haulers, vendors, and employees who have been a part of their success for the past 40 years!

The Leichner family has been in the solid waste and recycling industry since 1917, and Pride Disposal was established in Washington County in 1986. They are proud to serve the communities of Sherwood, Tigard, King City, Durham, Hillsboro, Beaverton, and Unincorporated Washington County.



Pride Disposal President Kristin Lechner with Sherwood Council President Kim Young, Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington and Mike Lechner.



The Lechner Family - Michael, Kristin, City and Mike - with an electric garbage truck.



WESTSIDE STATE OF THE CITIES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 6 May | City of Cornelius, City Hall, 5:30pm |
| 19 May | City of Tualatin, Grand Hotel - Bridgeport, 5:30pm |

THANK YOU, ANNUAL PARTNERS.

DIAMOND PARTNERS



PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNER



SILVER PARTNERS

DUNN CARNEY	MACERICH-WASHINGTON SQUARE
KAISER PERMANENTE	ROBINSON CONSTRUCTION
KIRBY NAGELHOUT	SCHNITZER PROPERTIES
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	

INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ANNUAL PARTNER? DANIELLE@WESTSIDEALLIANCE.ORG

Want to know more about how you can support WEA's work?
Reach out to [Dani](#) about Membership and Partnership Opportunities.



Westside Economic Alliance | [Contact Us](#) | www.WestsideAlliance.org

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