



Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Whither Moderate Washington County?

With the primary polls closing in a few hours, we are about to find out whether Washington County's long history of electing moderates, on both sides of the aisle, has given way to the push to bring Democratic Socialists into office.

It is important to repeat that WEA does not endorse in candidate campaigns. And that we believe that the vision we work towards, to realize vibrant, prosperous, and diverse communities on the Westside of the Portland Metro region, is one we think most folks can agree with.



I don't believe there is anything controversial about advocating for an economy that allows us to afford things like clean water and air, safe streets, or jobs that pay a living wage and lead to careers based here in the region.

I also don't believe that it should be controversial to state that we need both big and small business, industrial manufacturers and locally owned artisan shops. We need affordable and accessible public transit and transportation infrastructure to move goods to market. We need housing of all shapes and sizes and in every community. And that we need industrial land that is job ready both inside the urban growth boundaries and through smart expansion outside those boundaries.

Elections are very much about the "yes" or "no", the "this person" or "that person". But, the rest of our world is not so simplistic. We should always aim to live in the "BOTH-AND" world. The "No, but here is another solution" space. Even the "We've not agreed in the past but need to work together now" realm.

In the next 24 hours we will know more about the direction our region's voters are taking us. Whether we are on the precipice of a new approach to politics or not, I hope we are all ready to set the tables that bring thoughtful policy solutions that serve all of our residents, not just those with whom we already agree.

Stay tuned. And if you want to hear more, join us at we partner with CCBA for a post-primary recap on May 27. See below for details and to register.

Elizabeth

Committee Meeting Recap



A Successful Policy Committee with Westside Legislators

A big THANK YOU to Oregon Senate President Rob Wagner and Representative Sue Rieke Smith for coming in to talk with our Policy Committee last Thursday. Both legislators took part in a very active conversation with our members about economic development, transportation funding, education reform and accountability and more.

WEA Policy Committees are held monthly and open to WEA members only. We hear from local experts regarding land use, transportation, housing, government affairs, education, and more. If you have any questions about membership to WEA, please [CLICK HERE](#) to contact our Director of Membership and Events, Dani Siver.

And, if you are already a WEA member and you are interested in attending an upcoming committee, [CLICK HERE](#) to contact our Policy Committee Coordinator, Teddy Russell.

Ways to Engage

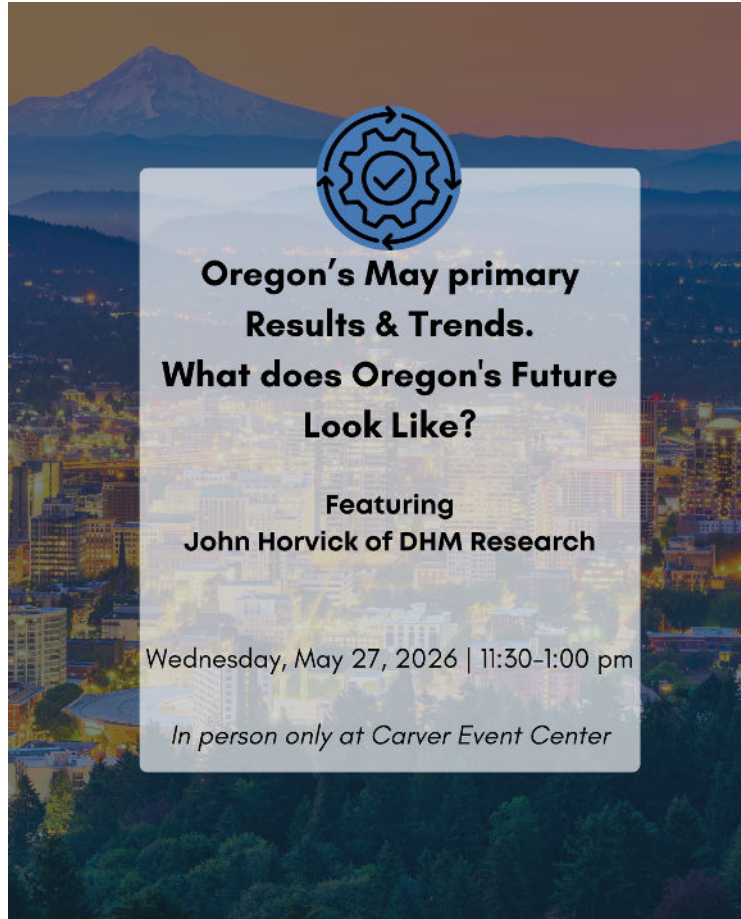
May's Primary: Recap and Look ahead

The 2026 Primary Season is proving to be highly contested. Join our partners, Clackamas County Business Alliance, to get a post-election rundown of the regional trends and what they might mean in the general election. This presentation will focus on all levels of government in the Tri-County Region.

Featuring one of our state's top pollsters, John Horvick of DHM Research.

[Click here to register.](#)

\$40 CCBA Members; \$50 Non CCBA-Members



**Oregon's May primary
Results & Trends.
What does Oregon's Future
Look Like?**

**Featuring
John Horvick of DHM Research**

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 | 11:30-1:00 pm

In person only at Carver Event Center



Metro Future Vision Survey Open until May 31!

Fifty years from now, the way people live, work and build their lives in the region will be the result of the choices we make today.

As the regional government, Metro is setting the table to collaborate with cities, counties, communities, individuals and organizations across greater Portland to build a shared vision for the future. The Future Vision will set the course for policies, programs and projects that will work toward a better future for the greater Portland region. It will touch on a wide range of topics, from land use, transportation and our economy to housing, climate, nature, arts and culture.

[Click Here](#) to take the Future 50 survey now through May 31 to share your ideas. It's very important that voices from the Westside get heard in this process. Your response will inform regional values and guiding principles that are the foundation of the region's 50-year vision.

ODOT would like feedback on how they track progress to improve access to safe, accessible transportation



The Oregon Transportation Plan defines Oregon's long-range transportation policy through 2050 for the movement of people and goods across the state. It identifies a vision and actionable direction for all entities delivering transportation services including state agencies, regional and local governments, transit agencies, and more.

One of the Oregon Transportation Plan's goals is to "improve access to safe and affordable transportation for all." We adopted temporary performance measures for this goal when we published the plan in 2023, and this year we're updating them with two new, draft measures to help us track our progress: Traffic safety and access to destinations.

[Click Here](#) to participate in the survey.

The new performance measures are still in draft form. We'd like your feedback before we finalize them later this year. **The survey will close June 26, 2026.**



NECA/IBEW Industry Luncheon

WEA Members are invited to attend the upcoming NECA/IBEW Electrical Industry Luncheon, hosted at IBEW Local 48.

The event brings together leaders from across engineering, construction, development, public agencies, and elected leadership for a focused conversation on the opportunities and challenges shaping the electrical industry. With continued growth and increasing demand across the region, the discussion will be timely and relevant for those involved in planning, delivering, and supporting infrastructure projects.

Event Details:

- Tuesday, May 26, 2026
- 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM (lunch provided)

📍 IBEW Local 48 - 15937 NE Airport Way

👉 Reserve your spot here: [RSVP for the NECA/IBEW Industry Lunch](#).

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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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