

September 3, 2025  
ACAC Cowlitz County  
Meeting Notes

Attendees:

**In Person:**

Carolyn Fundingsland – Cowlitz County Auditor’s Office  
Hayley Johnson – Cowlitz County Auditor’s Office, Elections  
Makenna Kuljis – Cowlitz County Auditor’s Office, Elections  
Kaity Specht – Cowlitz County Auditor’s Office, Elections  
Becky Fabian – Cowlitz County Auditor’s Office, Elections  
Brandi Kuljis – Cowlitz County Assessor’s Office  
Candace Chapin – Cowlitz County Assessor’s Office  
Rhonda Black – HEVIN  
Rashelle Douglas – City of Longview  
Katherine Vickers – ASL Interpreter

**Via Zoom:**

Rachel Facer-Stone – Cowlitz County Auditor’s Office, Elections  
Amanda Grassest – Wahkiakum County Elections  
Camille Goldsmith – Wahkiakum On the Move  
Megan Wirtz – Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council Of Governements  
Emili Niles – Goodwill Disability Services

**Introductions by Hayley Johnson**

**Rhonda Black – HEVIN**

Based in Castle Rock, along with her husband, Rich, created HEVIN (Helping Every Veteran In Need) after a hard-working veteran friend needed help after having surgery. They provided aid financially and on the way home were bothered that more vets were needing help. Her husband had a dream that night about HEVIN and helping vets as a nonprofit and it grew from there.

HEVIN believes and utilizes a collaborative approach, working closely with other programs in the community to bridge the gap for vets in need. Services provided include, but are not

limited to, emergency rent, medical assistance, automotive repairs and mental wellness support. All services are for any veteran, not just disabled vets.

HEVIN Partners with:

VIP  
Elks  
Habitat for Humanity  
DAV  
Love INC  
Cowlitz Veteran Service Center  
Work Source

HEVIN has coordinated with Portland Vet Center to drive north to our community once a week to provide free on-site counseling.

HEVIN Upcoming Events in Cowlitz County

Veteran Stand Down & Expo, October 3, 2025, 10am-2pm. Public transportation to the Stand Down event is free for veterans attending.

6<sup>th</sup> Annual VetsGiving on Saturday before Thanksgiving, at RA Long cafeteria. Sign up required. Sponsored by Hop N Grape. Free event for vets and their families. Raffle prizes for veterans.

Working on coordinating more events, such as bowling.

HEVIN is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization accepting donations of all sizes. They also accept donated vehicles.

### **Kaitly Specht – Elections information**

- Just completed the Primary, with no recounts this year.
- Upcoming General Election – ballots to be mailed 10/17. If a voter doesn't receive their ballot by 10/22, voters are encouraged to reach out to Elections office.
- LVP mailed a week or so before ballots.
- Accessible voting units available at Elections office.
- Audio LVP available. Powerpoint also available with audio for those wanting to hear and see.
- SOS now has audio USB's available for free, reach out to the Secretary of State office.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition newsletter coming out today.

### **Megan Wirtz – Wahkiakum On the Move**

Suggested to add your organizations' information to this page. There are options for Housing, Veterans, etc. DSHS runs and manages it. This is supposed to be the Hub for all information for WA state residents.

<https://washingtoncommunitylivingconnections.org/consite/index.php>

Resource site - <https://mobility.cwcog.org/resources-for-veterans>

Free Fare for the Community Resource Fair with RiverCities Transit Thursday, September 18, 2025 - new commuter Route 433 to Rainier.

<https://rctransit.org/free-fare-for-the-community-resource-fair-on-thursday-september-18-2025/>

### **Carolyn Fundingsland – Cowlitz County Auditor**

ACAC appreciation. Some funding for ACAC project is available, please bring ideas forward to the Elections/Auditor's office. Past projects include updating ADA access to the County Administration Building.

### **Candace Chapin –Cowlitz County Assessor's office**

Property tax exemption program. See Assessor's office for more information to apply.

### **Rashelle Douglas – City of Longview**

Grant approved at Cloney park for accessible interactive equipment for everyone. Curb ramps updated to ADA standards.

# VETERANS STAND DOWN & EXPO

Friday, October 3rd, 2025 • 10am-2pm  
Cowlitz County Expo Center • 1900 7th Avenue in Longview



## FREE SERVICES FOR VETERANS

*Possible services may include:*

- Employment Services
- Housing Opportunities
- Medical / Dental / Counseling
- Financial Emergency Training
- Surplus Giveaway
- Veterans Administration Services
- Haircuts
- Coffee, Snacks and Lunch provided.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email: [cowlitzveteranstanddown@gmail.com](mailto:cowlitzveteranstanddown@gmail.com)

Or Call: 360-430-6682 or 360-749-2016



## Stand Down and Expo Provider Registration

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Services you provide: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ We will need electricity

\_\_\_\_ We will have giveaway items for our Vets

\_\_\_\_ We would like chairs in front and behind our table

\_\_\_\_ We will need internet

How else can we accommodate you?

\_\_\_\_\_

*Some simple housekeeping:*

*The room will be set up when you come on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> with a table and chairs. We will have the tables covered. Please arrive by 9:00 am.*

*We will be providing lunch.*

*Please no political campaigning from any entity, soliciting votes, or political brochures, banners, flyers, etc. It is prohibited and will be enforced accordingly.*

*Please do not pack up your area until 2:00pm, when the event ends. Please stay for the duration.*

*Please help us promote this event by sharing on social media and/or having the flier readily available.*

**10:00am – 2:00pm**

**October 3rd, 2025**

**Cowlitz County Expo Center, 1900 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Longview, WA 98632**

**Please return this form to [cowlitzveteranstanddown@gmail.com](mailto:cowlitzveteranstanddown@gmail.com)**

WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF

# ROOTED IN DEMOCRACY



## COWLITZ COUNTY ELECTIONS

ISSUE 2 - SEPTEMBER 2025

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ELECTIONS TEAM IN COWLITZ

Cowlitz County Elections is proud to present our second issue of "Rooted in Democracy." As Election Administrators, we know how important it is to stay informed so that you can cast your vote securely and with confidence.

In this issue, we provide information regarding the upcoming General Election, Cowlitz County Ballot Drop Boxes, When a Candidate Files For Office, and Elections Mythbusting. Cowlitz County is Rooted in Democracy!

### ELECT-PUN CORNER

Let's taco bout making your vote count!



## BE SURE YOUR BALLOT

### ARRIVES ON TIME

Returning ballot by USPS?



Mail by

**OCTOBER 28**

1 week before Election Day

*A message from:*



Cowlitz County Elections  
Rooted in Democracy

Using a ballot drop box?



Ballots due

**NOVEMBER 4**

by 8 p.m.

For a complete list of drop boxes, contact Cowlitz County Elections:

**360-577-3005**

or

[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)

### COWLITZ COUNTY BALLOT DROP BOXES

There are 8 curbside ballot boxes within the county and 1 indoor ballot box located in our office. Boxes are open 24 hours a day, beginning 18 days before an election. The boxes are locked promptly at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Ballots are picked up daily by two staff members from the ballot drop boxes and are promptly returned to the elections office for processing.

### ELECTION MYTHBUSTING

- ✗ Washington does not check ballot envelope signatures.
- ✓ Election workers are trained by experts in signature verification, and every ballot envelope signature is reviewed individually. Cowlitz County Elections does not use automatic signature verification.

# ROOTED IN DEMOCRACY



## NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL

### WHEN ARE BALLOTS MAILED?

Ballots for the November 4 General will be mailed October 17. Voters should see their ballot reach their homes by October 22.

### WHO GETS A BALLOT?

Participating Jurisdictions: Countywide. Learn more about participating jurisdictions on the elections website.

### WHEN ARE BALLOTS DUE?

Drop Box: 8 PM  
November 4, 2025  
In person: 8 PM  
November 4, 2025  
Mail: Postmark of  
November 4 or sooner



### WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT?

You can view races and measures on your ballot a few different ways starting in October:

- Online at [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov)
  - Login with your first name, last name, and date of birth
  - Select "Your Ballot & Voting Materials"
- Online at [co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections](https://co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)
  - PDF of the Local Voters' Pamphlet
  - Online Local Voters' Guide
  - Audio and Visual Local Voters' Pamphlet
  - Audio Local Voters' Pamphlet
- Mail
  - Local voters' pamphlets are delivered to each household at least one week prior to ballots being mailed
- In person
  - Visit our office at [207 N 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Rm 205, in Kelso, WA 98626](https://www.cowlitz.wa.us/elections)

### WHEN A CANDIDATE FILES FOR OFFICE

When a voter files for office during Candidate Filing Week, they must be a registered voter within that jurisdiction and possess the qualifications specified by law (RCW 29A.24.075). As the system pulls from the residential address on their voter registration, the system then only provides offices that the voter is eligible to run for. After that step, the candidate then has the option to provide a separate campaign mailing address, such as a PO Box.

# CIVICS: INTRODUCTION TO STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Focusing on the three branches of STATE GOVERNMENT, this workshop explores how a bill becomes law in Washington and how the public can track and participate in the process.



**INTRODUCTION  
TO STATE  
GOVERNMENT**

**SEPT 8TH  
5:30 - 7PM**

Focusing on the three branches of the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, the US Constitution, and legislative committees, this workshop explores the workings of the federal government.



**INTRODUCTION  
TO FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT**

**OCTOBER 6TH  
5:30 - 7PM**



**Explore how our government works and various ways to engage at different levels!**



## **Bunker Hill Cemetery Tour**

The Stella Historical Society, Cowlitz County Historical Museum and the Bunker Hill Cemetery Association invite you to attend a fundraiser event where history breathes beneath your feet, and names carved in stone find their voices once more. Those stories are ready to be heard.

*Journeys Ended, Legacies Remembered*

**Saturday, September 27, 2025**

Tours begin at 1pm and depart every 20 minutes.  
The last tour departs at 3pm. Each tour lasts approximately 1 hour.

Bunker Hill Cemetery is located at 350 Bunker Hill Road, about 12 miles west of Longview, WA, just off Ocean Beach Highway (SR 4).

Online registration is encouraged to choose your tour departure time. Registration ends on September 26 at 5pm. Please arrive on time.

**Suggested donation: \$5 per person.**

The tour is recommended for ages 10 and up. Please look for the ticket counter upon arrival at the cemetery. The cemetery grounds are somewhat uneven, so comfortable walking shoes are encouraged. Seating is available.



Visit [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for Bunker Hill Cemetery Tour

*Thank you for supporting our fundraiser and preserving local history.*

# COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR



September 18, 2025  
11:00am - 3:00pm

Columbia County Rider  
Rainier Transit Station  
207 Lower Columbia River Hwy  
Rainier, OR



Free to attend  
Giveaways  
Refreshments provided  
Free parking



Learn about the new  
Commuter Route to Rainier, OR  
and other resources in  
Columbia County.

**CC Rider and RiverCities Transit now serves Rainier, OR with a public transportation commuter bus service. We are hosting an Open House at the CC Rider Transit station on HWY 30 from 11:00 am - 3:00 p.m. CC Rider Line 1 to and from Rainier, Oregon only and RiverCities Transit will be Free Fare September 18, 2025. Come learn about the new route serving the community, our Trip Planner, and other resources available in your community.**

More information can be found at: [rctransit.org](http://rctransit.org) and [nwconnector.org/agencies/columbia-county-rider/](http://nwconnector.org/agencies/columbia-county-rider/) For more information please email [mwritz@cw cog.org](mailto:mwritz@cw cog.org) or visit [mobility.cw cog.org](http://mobility.cw cog.org).

**CC Rider**

**RIVERCITIES  
TRANSIT**



**Mobility Management  
Program**

COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**HEVIN**

**Helping Every Veteran In Need**

Rotary Club Presentation – Rhonda  
Black

# A Dream That Sparked a Mission

HEVIN began after our founder, Rich Black—a U.S. Air Force veteran—had a vivid dream. A friend and fellow veteran needed help, and we thought: If our community knew a veteran was struggling, they would step up.

After prayer and reflection, we launched HEVIN in 2018 to bridge the gap for veterans when traditional systems fall short. That dream became a mission—and now, a movement.



# Our Mission

- Founded in 2018 after Rich Black had a dream to help a fellow veteran.
- We believed if our community knew a veteran was in need—they'd step in.
- Our mission: Bridge the gap for veterans when other services fall short.

# What We Do

- Emergency housing, deposits, and utilities
- Food boxes and essential items
- Auto repairs, gas, insurance, and tabs
- Free onsite counseling- Portland Vet Center
- VA benefit assistance (onsite VSO)
- Job search and community referrals

# Community Collaboration

- We proudly partner with:
- Veteran Integration Program (VIP)
- The Elks, DAV, and Cowlitz Veteran Service Center
- Love INC and Habitat for Humanity-wheelchair ramps and home repairs
- Recently approved LCC work-study student for expanded support

# 2024 Impact

- \$18,000 in housing assistance
- \$16,000 in automobile-related support
- Dozens of veterans connected to stable housing, transportation, VA benefits and hope.

# Cowlitz Co Veteran Stand Down – October 3, 2025

10am-2pm at the Expo Center- a resource fair for veterans in Cowlitz County. Surplus, vaccinations haircuts, lunch and multiple resources for veterans to connect with.



**VETERANS STAND  
DOWN & EXPO** ★

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Or Call: 360-430-6682 or 360-749-2016

# Vetsgiving

Held the Saturday before Thanksgiving at RA Long High School, Vetsgiving is a warm, community meal for local veterans and their families. We celebrate with food, fellowship, gifts, and gratitude for those who served. **Sponsored by Hop N Grape**



# VetsGiving Dinner November 22nd

- Sixth Annual Free Thanksgiving Style Dinner.
- RA Long High School Cafeteria
- Free for veterans and their families
- Food prepared and donated by Hop N Grape
- Free raffle prizes for veterans
- A fun time to socialize and connect with other veterans and families.

# Monthly PNW Vets Meeting

We host the Pacific Northwest Veterans (PNW Vets) **monthly meeting.**

**Free events for vets and families**

It's a space for connection, conversation, event planning, and support.



**SHOW UP. BUILD UP. RISE TOGETHER.**  
JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT, CONNECTION & GREAT CONVERSATION!

<b>6/05 - THU - 6:00PM</b>	<b>LEWIS COUNTY</b> - GOOD BUZZ BREWING CO. 1640 S GOLD ST, CENTRALIA
<b>6/10 - TUE - 4:00PM</b>	<b>KOOTENAI COUNTY (IDAHO)</b> - CASCADIA PIZZA. 8083 MAIN ST, RATHDRUM
<b>6/11 - WED - 6:00PM</b>	<b>SNOHOMISH COUNTY</b> - MAJOR LEAGUE PIZZA. 2811 COLBY AVE, EVERETT
<b>6/12 - THU - 5:30PM</b>	<b>THURSTON COUNTY</b> - LACEY DEPOT. 5555 PACIFIC AVE SE, LACEY <i>**FAMILY-FRIENDLY, SEE COUNTY FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS</i>
<b>6/18 - WED - 8:30AM</b>	<b>SPOKANE COUNTY</b> - FIRE DISTRICT 4: STATION 41. 315 E CRAWFORD ST, DEER PARK <i>**EVENT HOSTED BY SCFD4 - PNWVETS GROUP INVITED TO ATTEND</i>
<b>6/18 - WED - 10:00AM</b>	<b>SKAGIT COUNTY</b> - AMERICAN LEGION POST 91. 721 E FAIRHAVEN AVE, BURLINGTON
<b>6/18 - WED - 6:00PM</b>	<b>WHATCOM COUNTY</b> - KULSHAN TRACKSIDE. 298 W LAUREL ST, BELLINGHAM <i>**LOOK FOR RESERVED TABLES THAT SAY PNWVETS</i>
<b>6/18 - WED - 6:00PM</b>	<b>PIERCE COUNTY</b> - STEILACOOM FARMERS' MARKET. 1700 LAFAYETTE ST, STEILACOOM <i>**BRING A BLANKET OR A CHAIR &amp; LOOK FOR PNWVETS SHIRTS!</i>
<b>6/18 - WED - 6:00PM</b>	<b>CLARK COUNTY</b> - A BEER AT A TIME. 216 NE 3 <sup>RD</sup> AVE, CAMAS
<b>6/18 - WED - 6:00PM</b>	<b>MARION COUNTY (OREGON)</b> - COURTNEY PLACE VET HOUSING. 220 COTTAGE ST. NE, SALEM
<b>6/19 - THU - 6:00PM</b>	<b>ISLAND COUNTY</b> - OAK HARBOR AMERICAN LEGION. 690 SE BARRINGTON DR, OAK HARBOR
<b>6/20 - FRI - 6:00PM</b>	<b>COWLITZ COUNTY</b> - ASHTOWN BREWERY. 1145 11 <sup>TH</sup> AVE, LONGVIEW
<b>6/23 - MON - 6:00PM</b>	<b>KITTITAS COUNTY</b> - RED HORSE DINER. 1518 W UNIVERSITY WAY, ELLENSBURG <i>**MEETING AT THE BACK PATIO, BEHIND RED HORSE</i>
<b>6/25 - WED - 6:00PM</b>	<b>KING COUNTY</b> - RENTON VFW. 416 BURNETT AVE S, RENTON <i>**VFW MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED</i>
<b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNTIES</b> - CHECK BACK NEXT MONTH

# We Accept Running Car Donations

Got a running vehicle you no longer need?

Donate it to HEVIN and help a veteran regain independence and mobility.

Every donated car makes a difference.

