

WALLOWA COUNTY  
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS  
STATE of OREGON

541-426-7730  
FAX: 541-426-0582  
TERA ELLIOTT E.A.

COMMISSIONER LISA COLLIER  
COMMISSIONER JOHN HILLOCK  
CHAIR - COMMISSIONER SUSAN ROBERTS

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[commissioners@co.wallowa.or.us](mailto:commissioners@co.wallowa.or.us)

**June 5, 2025**

Wallowa County Board of Commissioners (BOC)  
Work Session with Secretary of State Office - Minutes

8:30 a.m. Thornton Conference Room  
VIA Zoom Meeting  
Wallowa County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Lisa Collier  
Commissioner John Hillock

STAFF PRESENT: Tony Boyd, Fair Manager  
Sandy Lathrop, County Clerk  
Brenda Micka, Administrator  
Amanda Piper, Admin. E.A., Policy Compliance Manager  
Tera Elliott, BOC E.A.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Bradshaw, Chieftain  
Milley O'Callaghan

ZOOM: Joanna Lyons Antley, County Counsel  
Roger Averbeck  
Andy Huwe, OR Young Republicans  
Alicia Zinni

10:00 a.m. – Commissioner Collier opened the Work Session advising this session is to discuss the process to fill a vacant position on the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Collier also advised after opening discussion, the meeting would be recessed allowing an Executive session to be held.

Commissioner Collier gave the floor to our County Counsel, Joanna Lyons Antley.

Ms. Antley noted that although we had anticipated the Oregon Secretary of State's office would be available to answer our questions, they declined the invitation. Based on research conducted by County Clerk Sandy Lathrop and Ms. Antley, they have identified potential directions for filling this position.

Options were discussed, sharing information as obtained from the Secretary of State's office, and Rob Bovett, former counsel for County Clerks. Term length was discussed, noting a term beginning after the General Election in 2026 would place Commissioner positions 2 and 3 on the same election cycle. Discussion also included options for appointing a replacement. As for an election, there are no options for a "special" election, the earliest election would be May of 2026 with the possibility of the election moving forward to the General Election in November if there is not a "50% + one" winner.

A key concern with a continuing vacancy is that the two remaining commissioners must reach unanimous agreement on all decisions; otherwise, no action can be taken, resulting in a potential stalemate.

10:18 a.m. - With no further discussion, Commissioner Collier recessed the meeting to enter into Executive Session (in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(f)) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection and ORS 192.660(2)(h) Conferring with Legal Counsel regarding litigation.)

10:44 a.m. – Commissioner Collier once-again called the meeting to order. There were no members of the public present at this time.

Commissioner Collier yielded the floor to Joanna Lyons Antley, County Counsel, who outlined three options that the Commissioners may choose to pursue, based on her understanding.

1 – The Commission may do nothing and wait for the regular election process beginning with the Primary Election in May of 2026. If a run-off is required, the election would continue to the General Election in November of 2026.

2 – The Commission may appoint a former Commissioner who would have experience in the position and would be willing to consider serving in this position for the remainder of 2025 to January 1, 2027, when a newly elected Commissioner would take office. The appointed Commissioner may choose to resign the position following a successful election, allowing the newly elected Commissioner to be appointed for the remainder of the time to January 1, 2027.

3 – The Commission may collect cover letters/applications from the public who are interested in filling this vacancy, identify a process to find the most qualified candidate, conduct interviews, and appoint the desired candidate to serve until the Primary Election in 2026.

Commissioner Collier thanked Ms. Antley for joining us today. The Commissioners will touch base after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to consider how they will proceed.

**Adjournment:**

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:48 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted by:** Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant

WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Lisa Collier

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner John Hillock

Absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Susan Roberts

  
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ATTEST: Tera Elliott, Executive Assistant