

Public Affairs Committee

Prospective 2024-25 Programs

Topics that were highest ratings (higher ratings to lower ratings)

I am listing some of the top programs from the survey along with some suggestions on topics

- 1) Foreign Policy – International Engagement or Disengagement, Inflation and Tariffs, Unauthorized migration and its effect on our area.
Resource: Portland State University
- 2) Energy & Conversion to non-fossil fuel sources – Oregon milage taxes vs gas taxes, local grid energy sources
- 3) Education – Public vs. Private – local attempts to support private schools of choice with the use of public Monday – We could have a local school board member. There is continuous effort to make transfer to private schools with the transfer of public funds to such entities.
- 4) Homelessness: We could use the September meeting to explore the issue. We could have someone talk about ways local government and non-profits deal with homelessness. How accurate is the statement from the county that they reduced homelessness by 65%? How much do we know about homelessness and existing housing?
- 5) Property and Personal Crime in our area: Clackamas County Sherriff, Sara McClurg, Public Information and Education Officer, Public Information and Education, phone number to reach her 503-785-5000. It has been suggested that we organize a ride-a-long.
- 6) County Infrastructure - What is the county responsible for? Roads & transportation, ground water drainage. Lighting, maintenance of roads. We could explore how federal money is helping us pay for improvements. What are the key issues regarding infrastructure? – e.g. Kellogg lake/creek progress
- 7) Mental Health –
 - a. We could explore how our community’s young people are dealing with the social network and personal image or abuse from our local high school.
 - b. Another option would be to explore the reporting on the growth of mental health issues, e.g. suicide. Resource: Clackamas County Mental Health Program - Murray Galli – 503-655-8401.
 - c. Clackamas County NAMI – local non-profit, Gary Maschke, gary@namicc.org.

d. See other lists of programs.

8) Corporate Effect on Public Policy – Financial support, taxation of huge firms, Initiative Petition 17, 2024, which has been approved for certification of signatures. Gives Oregonians \$750/year. Also, we could explore issues about huge corporate contributors for election of city, state and federal officials.

9) Programs of lower rank:

- a. Affordable Housing – C. Roberts campaign recommended an individual who was the Clackamas County Director of Housing & Community Development.
- b. Equal Rights – Banning Books, Voting rights, taking over of school boards
- c. Abortion Policies and Programs – how is woman's health being affected by the Supreme Court's decision to turn over authority to the states?
- d. Role of Religion in Society – Lewis & Clark University or Willamette University Departments of Religion or Political Science
- e. Workforce Needs: Clackamas Community College programs, women in the workforce (plumbers, welders, carpenters, servers, etc.).
- f. Inflation & Control
- g. Transmission of Animal Diseases to humans– for US
Clackamas County Public Health, Dean of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University set up for September meeting.

10) Other Suggestions –

- a. Preservation & Protection of public lands for wildlife, mental health and recreation – Willamette Riverkeepers, State of Oregon Department of Land use.
- b. Disfunction in government Entities
- c. Gun Control interpretation of proposed amendments to state laws – Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety is asking for municipalities to financially support groups that intervene before violence starts, July 2024
- d. Free Speech – Interpretation of amendments to state law
- e. Dealing with “alternative facts –_aka political lying. – OPB
- f. Social Media focusing on personal beliefs that no longer represent social values. What “truths” are agreed upon?
- g. Sustainability & Climate Change, waste
- h. Gender Issues
- i. Initiative petition to create ranked choice voting for US President, US Senators and Representatives, Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General.