

Voter Guide

Jefferson Westside Neighbors Executive Board Election 2025
Election is April 8, 2024 - 6:30pm
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street

Instructions

In-person Voting: Voting will take place at the April 8 General Meeting, the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street.

Absentee Voting: Members who cannot attend may request an absentee ballot by requesting one from jwneugene@gmail.com.

- Requests must include the member's full name and complete street address. If you are a business owner or manager or director of a non-profit with a physical location in the JWN, identify your role and provide the name and address of your organization.
- Each absentee ballot must be requested in an individual email even if members live at the same physical location.
- Ballots will be sent as an attached file with an ID number associated with your name and address. DO NOT SHARE BALLOTS. Multiple submission using one ID number will invalidate all ballots with that ID number. All absentee ballots will be cross referenced matching the ID number, name, and address.
- Completing Ballots: Ballots require your full name, physical address, and a signature. Members may only vote for the candidates listed. If you do not support any candidate for a particular position, write NONE.
- Submitting Ballots:
 - Ballots may be dropped off via the mail slot at 971 W. Broadway NO LATER than noon April 8. Ballots submitted should be inside a sealed envelope that will not be open until votes are counted at the April 8 meeting.
 - Ballots must be printed and can be dropped off at the April 8 meeting by the voter or a third party but must be in the possession of the vote counter before the vote counting begins. To be safe, drop off by 6:30pm.

Nomination Process

All Board positions (Chair, Vice Chair, and five member-at-large positions) are open every year. [View the JWN Bylaws for details](#). Call for nominations was sent out via the Winter 2025 Newsletter mailed to every JWN address, posted on our website, and included in the February and March eNews. A Nominating Committee comprised of a Board member and at least two neighbors' reviews applications to ensure candidates qualify.

- March 10: Deadline for candidates to declare their intention to stand for election. Candidates are supplied a candidate information sheet. Candidates should send an email to jwneugene@gmail.com
- March 20: Deadline for candidates to submit required bio and answer candidate questionnaire.
- March 25: Completion and submission of voter's guide.
- March 26: Deadline for publication of voter's guide on JWN website.
- April 1: Ballot is complete and sent for photocopying.
- April 8: General meeting and election.

Candidates

Candidates filled out a standard form. Their answers are below.

Candidates will serve a one-year term, election date to election date, April 2025 to April 2026

Position: Chair

Candidate: Ted M. Coopman (Incumbent)

Stephanie and I have been visiting friends in family in Eugene since 1995 and bought a home in the JWN in 2012, moving here full time in 2016. I retired as a faculty member from San Jose State University in 2020. For fun, I grow fruit and veggies, and we can and dry food, take our dog Raven to the park and the beach, and enjoy Broadway in Eugene shows, the symphony, and are patrons of Ballet Fantastique.

Please share any relevant experience that you feel prepares you for this position on the JWN board.

I have over 30 years' experience as an activist and have served on the JWN Board as an at-large member from 2016-2018 and as Chair from 2018 to 2025. As Board member I reactivated the Friends of Monroe Park group and still lead it, advocating for resources and organizing work parties, as well as working to put organized groups in all JWN parks. As Chair I led the effort to build the Ollie Court Affordable Housing Apartments and early learning center at 13th and Chambers, a project the JWN has been advocating for over decade. I was the only neighborhood leader invited to join the Eugene Chamber of Commerce's Business Leaders Task Force on Homelessness. I currently also serve on the Lane Events Center Visioning Work Group and am a Board member for Eugene Neighborhoods Inc.

What are the two main things you hope to accomplish in the coming year if elected to the JWN Board?

Continue work on the Historic District Task Force project and disaster preparedness.

Board service entails attendance at monthly board and general meetings, and occasional committee work (5-10 hours/mo.). Can you commit the time necessary to serve?

Yes.

What, if any, experience do you have working collaboratively in small groups?

Serving 9 years on the JWN Board as well as leading the Friends of Monroe Park group. I currently serve on the Eugene Chamber of Commerce's Business Leaders Task Force on Homelessness, the Lane Events Center Visioning Work Group and the Board of Eugene Neighborhoods Inc. I previously served on the Executive Boards of the American Communication Association and the Association of Internet Researchers as well as the steering Committee of the Live Oak Neighbors Association, Live Oak Off-Leash Advocates, and the Santa Cruz Independent Media Center, all in Santa Cruz CA.

Position: Vice Chair

Candidate: Sandra Bishop (Incumbent)

Brief Bio (100-200) words

I came to Eugene originally to attend the University of Oregon and stayed. I grew up east of the mountains in central Oregon. My husband and I lived at 10th & Jefferson for several decades, in a multi-unit building that we own and maintain as reasonable cost rental apartments. About six years ago we moved to the south part of town. I have a deep and abiding concern for maintaining the livability of the JWN neighborhood. After more than 30 years of running my own business as a government relations practitioner and lobbyist at the state level in the Oregon Legislature I closed

(Bishop continued)

my business in 2019. I currently work under contract as a writer/editor and researcher. I sing and write an occasional song. I'm an Argentine Tango dancer.

Please Briefly Answer the Following Questions

Please share any relevant experience that you feel prepares you for this position on the JWN board.

Serving as Vice-Chair for the past two years has given me a good grounding and overview in neighborhood challenges and concerns. I have also served as the board appointed liaison to the Neighborhood Leaders Council (NLC); a monthly meeting with one representative from each of the neighborhood associations in the city. Participating at the NLC level I have seen that JWN is one of the most active and effective neighborhood groups in the city. I have found ways to share information, interact and network with other neighborhoods to strengthen resources and participation in JWN. Owning and operating a business engaged in government relations at the Oregon Legislature, and working on behalf of businesses and advocacy groups in cities in other areas of the state has given me valuable experience working with individuals, groups and coalitions; helping to navigate through state, city and county bureaucracies.

What are the two main things you hope to accomplish in the coming year if elected to the JWN Board?

Continue to expand the number of neighbors who attend general meetings and encourage newer members to take leadership roles. Continue to facilitate more residents coming together on the JWN Disaster Preparedness Committee to facilitate individual, family and neighborhood planning and preparation for disasters. It is critical to get more people involved to safeguard neighborhood viability into the future.

Board service entails attendance at monthly board and general meetings, and occasional committee work (5-10 hours/mo.). Can you commit the time necessary to serve? (yes/no)
Yes.

What, if any, experience do you have working collaboratively in small groups?

For decades in Eugene I have been an advocate, elected official and/or volunteer who has served on many boards, commissions. I have worked and/or volunteered with various community-oriented advocacy groups. Previously I served for 10 years as an elected member of the Eugene Water & Electric Board. As part of the 5-member EWEB board I worked cooperatively to set the budget and policies that guided the largest municipal utility in Oregon. Currently I'm a volunteer with the League of Women Voters of Oregon Action Committee tracking, testifying and advocating on agricultural land issues in the Oregon legislature. I'm also a volunteer with several other organizations including the City Club of Eugene Programming Committee with 6 or 8 active members arranging speakers and coordinating programs on local and statewide issues, WOW Hall (Community Center for the Performing Arts), as well as an active member of several Tibetan Buddhist organizations. In all of these organizations I work cooperatively in small groups, including work groups on policy and document retention, and advocacy work on recycling, renewable energy, land use and zoning and other subject areas. I have experience and feel comfortable working with people from varied backgrounds and orientations. I'm willing and able to work with others to address mutual concerns and build stronger community ties.

At-Large Position #1**Candidate: Peter Borden (Incumbent)**

I'm a recent transplant to Eugene, 2021 was my first year in the JWN. I was interested in connecting and tightening the community in the JWN and sought to join the board to learn and be of service. I encourage anyone who is interested in this or advocacy to step up and run for a board position.

Please share any relevant experience that you feel prepares you for this position on the JWN board.

Other than my previous years in this role, I have work, and schooling experience working in small teams.

What are the two main things you hope to accomplish in the coming year if elected to the JWN Board?

I want to keep that feeling of a well-integrated community growing. Now, facing the challenges we're facing this is more important than ever.

Board service entails attendance at monthly board and general meetings, and occasional committee work (5-10 hours/mo.). Can you commit the time necessary to serve?

Yes

What, if any, experience do you have working collaboratively in small groups?

I have experience working in small groups from high school on... Whether it was completing a group project working in a team to complete a construction project or coordinating resources within a small business I have worked in small teams before.

At-Large Position #2**Candidate: Stephanie Coopman (Incumbent)**

Ted and I moved to Eugene and the JWN at the start of 2016 after visiting for many years. When we bought our house here in 2012, we'd planned on splitting our time between Eugene and Santa Cruz, CA. Then in 2015, with the Bay Area and Santa Cruz getting more crowded and more expensive, we decided to leave our townhouse near the beach for a saner and mellower life in Eugene. Happily, we've found a home in the JWN with Raven, our golden retriever/border collie. I retired from San Jose State University in August 2023, although I still teach full-time every fall semester. I teach online courses in communication, primarily in the areas of applied communication and game studies. I started teaching online in 1999. For a few years, I taught a mix of in person and online classes. Then I moved to all online more than 10 years ago. In addition to teaching, I served as chair of my department for five years.

What are the two main things you hope to accomplish in the coming year if elected to the JWN Board?

Continue leading the historic district task force and editing the JWN's paper newsletter. I'm especially interested in getting neighbors involved in the neighborhood and matching up neighbors' interests and passions with work that needs to be done.

Board service entails attendance at monthly board and general meetings, and occasional committee work (5-10 hours/mo.). Can you commit the time necessary to serve?

Yes

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What, if any, experience do you have working collaboratively in small groups?

In addition to my experience working on the JWN's executive board, I've chaired and served on numerous committees and task forces for my university and a number of professional organizations.

At-Large Position #3

Candidate: Sue Cummings (Incumbent)

I've lived in the JWN for 24 years and have been on the JWN board since 2009.

I have served as the JWN Treasurer for the past 8 years and have also served terms as secretary and vice chair. I have been a member of the events committee for several years and have worked with some great volunteers to organize the JWN summer picnic. I have helped to coordinate JWN Neighborhood Food Drives for Food for Lane County.

Currently, I help to organize clean-up events for Friends of Charnel Mulligan Park, I am a member of the JWN's Historic District Task Force and the JWN Disaster Preparedness Committee.

I enjoy staying active, gardening, spending time with family and friends and like to attend local cultural events. I volunteer for Meals on Wheels and have been volunteering in a 3rd grade classroom the last two years.

I care about democracy, affordable housing, finding help for the homeless, supporting neighborhood businesses, alternative transportation, parks, trees, green spaces, climate change and the overall health and safety of our neighbors and neighborhood. I believe that in order to best represent my neighbors it is important to stay informed, listen to and consider diverse opinions and then to be willing to stand behind the decisions that were made during votes by the JWN neighborhood association.

Please share any relevant experience that you feel prepares you for this position on the JWN board.

I have served on the JWN Executive Board since 2009 (see above).

What are the two main things you hope to accomplish in the coming year if elected to the JWN Board?

I hope to continue working with Friends of Charnel Mulligan Park, the JWN Historic District Task Force and the JWN Disaster Preparedness Committee.

Board service entails attendance at monthly board and general meetings, and occasional committee work (5-10 hours/mo.). Can you commit the time necessary to serve?

Yes

What, if any, experience do you have working collaboratively in small groups?

I have been on the JWN Executive Board since 2009. I have worked with volunteers to help successfully plan many of our annual JWN Picnics.

At-Large Position #4

Candidate: Mary Maude

I moved to Eugene to attend the University and fell in love with the city. I have previously lived in University, Whitaker, and Friendly neighborhoods where I have furthered my appreciation for the culture and natural environment of Eugene. I have lived in JWN for the last 16 years. I chose this

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neighborhood because of the historic architecture and walkability. My family and I have labored over the restoration of our current home, happily bringing it back to its original intention. I am most proud of my two amazing twenty-something daughters. I am an avid gardener and most content with my hands in the dirt or while turning compost.

Please share any relevant experience that you feel prepares you for this position on the JWN board.

I have been in leadership positions for over 35 years. My favorite part of leadership is helping others grow and develop their potential. I enjoy listening to a variety of viewpoints, finding shared perspectives, and looking for the win-win solution to issues. My current position as a Quality Analyst at a local substance abuse clinic keeps me in tune to social issues affecting our neighborhood and focused on data regarding positive quality outcomes; improving the lives of our neighbors.

What are the two main things you hope to accomplish in the coming year if elected to the JWN Board?

My goals are to be more involved in local politics and to determine how I can best support my neighbors.

Board service entails attendance at monthly board and general meetings, and occasional committee work (5-10 hours/mo.). Can you commit the time necessary to serve? (yes/no)

Yes

What, if any, experience do you have working collaboratively in small groups?

I have over 35 years of experience working on and leading groups focused on generating collaborative, outcome-focused systems and solutions.

At-Large Position #5

Candidate: Raechel Medina

Living most of my life in Idaho, I am a new transplant to Eugene. Mom of three, now-grown children, I've spent the last 26 years raising my kiddos, volunteering in my community, owning my own small business, and maintaining multiple homes. I've had wonderful opportunities to work with families, young children, and other groups in the broader community, and truly enjoy helping others. I enjoy walking and hiking in nature, observing my surroundings, gardening, and camping. I am a baker, a knitter, and a creator/builder/problem-solver. I'm loving Eugene and am excited by the community, new opportunities, nature, and walkability. I look forward to bringing my unique background to help the JWN expand its sense of community and support.

Please share any relevant experience that you feel prepares you for this position on the JWN board.

I have many years of experience in various roles in nonprofits and volunteer positions. This has given me so many opportunities to work with people in different settings and with different focuses. I've helped start a family resource center - as a co-president, an executive director and a program provider. I've worked with families, caregivers, and interested community members as a Child Passenger Safety Technician and Instructor, teaching about car seats and vehicle safety. I've

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worked in gardens, with gleaning organizations, and with food banks to get food to people who need it. And I've started and operated my own small business, managed two rental properties and maintained a household and multiple homes. These many positions have given me a strong attention to detail, ability to multitask and work well with others, brainstorm and problem solve.

What are the two main things you hope to accomplish in the coming year if elected to the JWN Board?

I would like to endeavor to foster an ongoing neighborhood cleanup project. Regardless of the causes of the terrible trash problem Eugene has, I think we can all agree that we'd appreciate a cleaner community. Let's work together to make this happen! I would also like to continue and expand the efforts already underway to promote neighborhood community and interconnectedness. The more we know our neighbors, the greater stake we have in working together and having a healthier, happier, more vibrant and supportive community.

Board service entails attendance at monthly board and general meetings, and occasional committee work (5-10 hours/mo.). Can you commit the time necessary to serve? (yes/no)
yes

What, if any, experience do you have working collaboratively in small groups?

I've often worked collaboratively with small groups. Working with a small, tightly knit group of other moms, we successfully remodeled an old house in which to start and run a nonprofit family resource center which provided child-centered information, classes and support groups to families in our community for many years.

Working as a Child Passenger Safety Technician Instructor for 14 years, I worked closely with a small group of 4-10 other Instructors to hold classes to train new technicians, small presentations to teach groups of caregivers the basics of car seat safety and large community events, working with both the instructors and technicians, to teach caregivers about car seat and vehicle safety. We also ran the regional Child Passenger Safety Team which, in addition to the above, wrote for and utilized grant funding to purchase car seats to distribute to low income families.

I've also held positions as an Assistant Manager, Shift Leader, and Restaurant Training Coordinator which all taught me to work collaboratively with my team of employees, in very fast paced environments, while training, encouraging and supporting the group so we could best serve our customers.