



Vol. I (22), March 20, 2026

“Sunshine” or openness in government refers to access to public records and meetings. Regardless of what label an access law is given – “sunshine,” freedom of information, or transparency – the premise is that everyday people have the right to know what actions their government is taking.¹

The ☀️ Sunshine Report from the LWVLC Observer Corps:

Lane County Board of Commissioners

March 3, 2026 [[meeting agenda](#); [webcast recording](#)]

At the beginning of the **Public Comment** session, Lane County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky stated: “I wish that I did not have to take the time here today to address the escalating attacks and false statements by Commissioner Loveall about me and our employees, but I have an obligation to provide the Commissioners, our employees, and the public with the facts.” Mr. Mokrohisky proceeded to correct the alleged false public statements made by Commissioner Loveall and finally asked: “The question today is this: Should an elected official be allowed to use his or her power to violate workplace laws by threatening, intimidating, and retaliating against employees? I say no! And my hope is that, as an organization and as a community, we recommit to ethical and appropriate behavior for everyone serving the public, especially our elected officials.” [The complete statement is from 6:07 to 18:56 on the webcast recording.] Thirty additional 3-minute public comments followed, most of which were either supportive of Commissioner Loveall (14) or critical of Commissioner Loveall’s alleged behavior (10). Most of the remaining comments were related to pending Board decisions related to waste management in Lane County.

In the **Commissioners’ Business** portion of the meeting the Board took up the matter of the “Statement of Unity” that was written pursuant to a decision made at the Board of Commissioners’ meeting on February 18, 2026. Vice-Chair Buch read aloud an order, **In the Matter of a Statement of Unity and Support for Those Reporting Discrimination and Harassment**. During the following discussion Commissioner Farr asked Counsel Jose Klein if the administrative procedures on the Lane County Administrative Procedures

¹ [LWV Observing Your Government in Action](#)

Manual applies to all Lane County employees, “including the Sheriff, the DA, the Assessor, and the County Commissioners.” Counsel Klein opined that the Administrative Procedures Manual applies to all “people working in Lane County.” Following the discussion the Board of Commissioners passed the order unanimously.

The next order of business was an opportunity for Commissioner Loveall to publicly apologize for his actions. Commissioner Loveall refused. Next, Vice-Chair Buch read aloud an order **In the Matter of a Censure of Commissioner Loveall**. After a brief statement by Commissioner Trieger the Board approved the [censure order](#) by a split vote: Buch, Trieger & Farr voted “Aye”, Ceniga voted “Nay” and Loveall abstained from voting.

Staff from Lane Workforce Partnership (LWP), a federally-funded organization with a \$5M budget, presented a brief report to the Board of Commissioners about the **current status of employment in Oregon**. Henry Fields, Workforce Analyst, Oregon Employment Dept. shared key facts. Seasonally adjusted, unemployment in Oregon has risen slightly (about 5.2%) and is higher than the U.S. average (4.4%); the primary area of job growth has been in “private education and health services”; most of the job openings are the result of replacement requirements (workers leaving); the Oregon workforce is getting older (due to workers 65 and older working longer) and more diverse (80% Non-Hispanic White vs. 90% Non-Hispanic White 25 years ago). LWP Executive Director, Ashley Espinoza, shared additional information regarding the functions of LWP, including that it works with local employers and workers to develop a local plan that meets the needs of both businesses and workers.

March 3, 2026 [[afternoon webcast recording](#)]

At the afternoon session, Commissioners voted unanimously to **extend the Term and Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications** for supplying cable service to Lane County until January 5, 2027.

Lane County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky recognized **Dr. Jocelyn Warren**, PhD, MPH, for her many years of exemplary service to the residents of Lane County as a Public Health Division Manager and as a Local Public Health Administrator since 2015. Dr. Warren will be retiring soon.

In its role as the Lane County Board of Health, the Lane County Board of Commissioners met with the Lane County Department of Health and Human Services to receive its report on the **2026-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHP)**. CHP was created to address public health needs in Lane County discovered during the Community Health Assessment (or CHA), the results of which were presented to the Board of Commissioners in August 2025. Live Healthy Lane is the collaborative that carries out the CHP through partnership with local communities of Lane County, Lane County Community Advisory Council, Kaiser Permanente, Lane Community Health Council, Lane County Health & Human Services, Pacific Source Health Plans, and Trillium.

CHP addresses three priorities: (1) Affordable, inclusive **health services**; (2) Community resilience and **access to basic needs**; and (3) **Mental health, substance use disorders**, and well-being. All of the Commissioners were effusive in their praise of the report. [Note: The Live Healthy Lane CHP can be found starting at page 205 of the [full agenda](#).]

☀️ **Reported by: Tom Rigell**

Eugene City Council

February 25, 2026 [[meeting agenda and webcast](#)]

In a Work session, Councilors reviewed an **analysis of the city's Phase 1 and Phase 2 renter protections** by the consulting firm EcoNorthwest and city staff. The protections appear to be working as intended without the negative market effects that critics had feared. Among the findings:

- No clear evidence that regulations suppressed rental housing construction. The city's recent construction rates exceeded the two years before the protections were adopted. A decline in single-family detached homes used as rentals (from 24% to 21%) started well before the protections and mirrors national and statewide trends. Eviction filing rates in Eugene have risen above pre-pandemic levels, but that pattern is consistent with peer cities and is largely driven by nonpayment of rent, wage stagnation, and the end of pandemic-era protections. EcoNorthwest could not establish a causal link between the renter protections and either housing supply changes or eviction trends.
- The \$10 screening fee cap has provided real relief: people facing systemic barriers like conviction histories submit roughly five times as many applications as others, so reducing the per-application cost from around \$50 to \$10 is significant.
- The relocation assistance requirement resulted in 84 payments over roughly two years — a small share of the city's nearly 40,000 rental households — but staff noted those payments can be the difference between finding new housing and homelessness. Staff also highlighted expanded services including a trauma-informed hotline, criminal records set-aside clinics, fair housing training, and outreach to more than 35,000 renters and 2,500 landlords.

Councilor Zelenka called the program an overall success with minimal feared impacts. Councilor Clark cited an anecdote from a realtor about 16 families evicted after Phase 2 passed and expressed skepticism about the utility of Phase 3. The Council took three actions, all passing 7-0.

1. Councilor Yeh moved to direct the City Manager to bring back information and a possible implementation plan for a **Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) policy, prioritized over the Phase 3 renter protections work**. TOPA gives tenants a first right of purchase when a rental property is sold.

2. The Council directed the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on minor code fixes to the rental housing code – five technical amendments to clarify and align the code with prior Council direction.
3. Councilor Clark asked the City Attorney to look into **extending the rental code to protect manufactured home park residents** who own their homes but rent the land, citing a situation in his ward where a new park owner is seeking substantial rent increases.

March 9, 2026 [[Work Session meeting agenda and webcast](#)]

As part of the City’s goal to “decarbonize” buildings by 2045, Councilors heard a second presentation regarding **adding an energy score to information about a home when it goes on the market**. The score functions like a miles-per-gallon rating for houses, showing buyers how much energy a home uses. Staff estimated the program would cost roughly \$80,000 to \$100,000 annually, with no funding source proposed. The proposal divided the council, with Councilor Clark recommending a voluntary rather than mandatory program. By a 5-3 vote, the Council told the City Manager to draft an ordinance requiring the disclosure. The Council also reviewed a streamlined version of its **policies for naming public facilities**. The new language provides clearer criteria, a more inclusive engagement process, and three tiered options for community involvement. The Council voted 8-0 to approve the new language.

March 9, 2026 [[Council meeting agenda and webcast](#)]

The Council voted unanimously to **reopen the record on the proposed University of Oregon east campus land use package after the University substantially revised its application during the final comment period**. A new public hearing on the revised package is set for April 20.

Councilors continued discussing improved coordination with environmental regulators for industrial development permits, an effort rooted in the GH Baxter contamination situation in west Eugene. The planning commission had recommended only requiring the city to notify regulatory agencies when applications come in. Councilor Kashinsky moved to require that applicants themselves submit a form listing what environmental permits they'll need – essentially an attestation of due diligence. Councilor Groves suggested the City should help applicants navigate the process rather than adding paperwork. Councilor Evans expressed concern about changing land use code to fix what he sees as a regulatory failure, but ultimately the substitute passed 8-0, and the Council voted 8-0 to move forward with requiring applicants to acquire and submit information on federal regulatory requirements.

Public comment: Fifteen people spoke and two issues dominated: ongoing objections to an Amazon warehouse to be constructed near the airport, and concern with federal plans to construct a fence around the ICE offices in downtown Eugene. Several speakers called

on the City to deny permitting for such a fence which would make it more challenging for activists to track actions and potentially restrict protests.

It's rare for councilors to respond directly to issues as they come up in Public Comment, but at this meeting **Councilor Keating noted that roughly 75 percent of Americans subscribe to Amazon Prime and pointed out the legal complexity of the City picking winners and losers.** He said he would attend a March 14 community meeting on the topic. In regard to community objections about the ICE fencing, the City Attorney clarified that the federal government generally doesn't need city permits for work on federal property.

 Reported by: Susan Palmer

Springfield City Council

March 9, 2026

The City Council and its Planning Unit are actively trying to create housing opportunities in Springfield that accommodate all levels of housing needs from low income rentals to individual homes on lots. Governor Tina Kotek and the State Legislature are also trying to deal with housing problems and have created a list of housing-related mandates, some of which partially overlap with what Springfield is already doing. But **these mandates appear to be mostly unfunded by the State.** As much as the Council would like to carry through with these unfunded mandates, the city is already under fiscal stress, and if the State does not offer more than the token amount of money it has offered towards fulfilling the current mandates, the city will not be able to fulfill them. The Council indicated that part of the problem with State unfunded mandates is that when any new mandates are issued they often include changes to the previous ones that the Council has already been working on, and that takes money to fix. As usual, money is the main issue.

 Reported by: Jen Allison-Keim

Lane Community College

March 4, 2026 [[agenda and meeting materials](#)]

Public Comment was much shorter as there had been a **breakthrough on contract negotiations with LCCEA** with representatives on both sides able to reach a compromise and agree to new contract terms. Fifteen people, mostly students, advocated for a lower tuition increase for FY27 and in support of the Dance Program. Since the retirement of the longtime director over a year ago, the Dance Program has remained without leadership, and there is concern that the program is at risk of being cut altogether.

Action items focused on the **FY27 budget planning** process and framework. Two key votes were taken:

1. The Board voted 4-3 in favor of **an additional \$1.4M in budget cuts**, bringing the total budget reductions in next year's budget to \$4.4M. The Board had approved \$3M in unspecified reductions previously as part of the 3-yr Mitigation Plan to restore mandated reserves. While no specific staffing or program cuts have been identified or proposed, staff indicated this reduction is **equivalent to 22.5 FTE**. The three dissenting voters all indicated they needed more specific information before agreeing to move forward. Staff noted that they needed Board approval now in order to begin the process of cutting staff per contractual agreements.
2. The Board voted to **cap the tuition increase at 1.2%**, rather than the earlier proposed 3.3%, based on student input gathered by the Student Government Association (SGA) and the fact that LCC has the second highest tuition rates in the State. This is the lowest tuition increase in several years. Capping the tuition increase will impact the anticipated revenues in the FY27 budget. However, the recent **decision by the state legislature to maintain current funding levels for community colleges across the state** will likely help minimize the impact. A more detailed FY27 budget proposal, including specific proposed cuts, will be presented and discussed at the board work session on March 18.

{Note: Additional details on budget cuts and the tuition cap are reported in this Lookout Eugene Springfield [article](#).}

A discussion item of note, embedded in an informational report to the Board on the complex process for how curriculum changes occur at LCC, was that **the LPN program will be returning**. Its new, streamlined format has been approved at the State level and will roll out next fall. All credits gained in the new LPN program can be applied directly to the RN program should students decide to further their education.

Though not discussed in detail, there was a palpable sense of relief that LCCEA contract negotiations have come to a close. As soon as the contract is approved by the union membership, the administration will begin to process retroactive pay and the many LCCEA signs across campus will come down, just in time for the difficult business ahead of developing and approving a balanced budget for FY27.

 Reported by: Anne Delaney

Springfield Public Schools Board of Education

March 9, 2026

The purpose of this Special Meeting was to interview twelve candidates for the vacant Board position. The applicants were Zach Bessett, Matthew Brandt, Robert (Bob) Brew, Jill E. Cuadros, Emily Dodson, Danae deGlee, Kayleen Keller, Guy Latham, Devon Lawson, Hunter Murphy, Christina Scott, and Brody Wasson. The Board asked each candidate the following questions:

- How would you describe your approach to interacting with others?

- How would you balance interests and multiple perspectives in the past?
- What is the purpose of the board?
- Given the short-term nature of the position, how would you quickly become an informed contributor in making decisions?
- How would you navigate a difficult conversation or address a challenging topic?
- What is your understanding of school district governance?
- Do you intend to run for a full term?

Subsequent Board discussion narrowed the candidates to three: Matthew Brandt, Devon Lawson, and Robert Brew, with further discussion about the candidates and the appointment to take place at the business meeting to follow.

March 9, 2026

Public Comment featured several community members, and comments were mostly more positive and encouraging compared to recent history. The Board requested speakers to provide a copy of their comments for the record.

- Mindy LeRoux, District High School Administrator shared her thoughts as a 27 year educator. She has worked for SPS for the last seven years and cares deeply for all the students and dedicated staff at all levels. She pointed out that incredible work is being done. Graduation rates are at an all time high, student achievement has grown and the district is financially solvent. Compared to many other districts this shows the hard work of staff for their stability, shared commitment to students and thoughtful decision making.
- Angela Landy, Administrator at Agnes Stewart Middle School, spoke about all the great things going on at her school despite all the troubles the district has been through.
- Sarah Bosch, a former teacher and parent, spoke about community involvement and communication. She discussed reasons for declining enrollment and encouraged the Board and administration to rise up stronger after stumbling.
- Robert Morgan discussed the importance of filling the Board vacancy with someone who can work with the other board members. He is excited for this new chapter in the district.
- Katie Ryan, a 3-year teacher and Springfield Education Association representative . presented a letter of “no confidence” in District leadership because of the mid-year cuts of teachers. She made several demands concerning the way the District should go about informing everyone of budget shortfalls and what that might mean, and if it means teacher cuts to allow everyone to weigh in.

Chief Operations Officer Brett Yancey reported to the Board on the financial statement resolution 25-26.042 and presented the Annual Integrated Pest Management Report. The Board also discussed the timeline and process for choosing the next superintendent.

The Board selected Robert (Bob) Brew to fill Board Position 2 by a vote of 3 (Light, Kohl, and Langworthy) to 1 (De Graff). Acting Superintendent O'Mara administered the oath of office to new Board Member, Robert Brew.

[Observer Note: Additional information about the vote of no confidence in District leadership by the Springfield Education Association (SEA) and its filing of an unfair labor practices complaint can be found in this Lookout Eugene Springfield [article](#). The SEA claims the District used threats of layoffs to control the bargaining, did not communicate clearly about the midyear layoffs, and fostered a climate that caused employees to fear for their jobs if they dared to speak openly.]

☀️ **Reported by: Patty Sandoz and Kim Weston**

Eugene 4J School Board

March 4, 2026 [[meeting agenda](#); [webcast](#)]

During Public Comment, Brian Steffen, CEO of the Eugene **YMCA**, Holly Kriz-Anderson, VP of Operational Excellence for the Eugene YMCA, and Beverly Smith, Executive Director of **Kidsports** spoke about their **historic partnerships with the 4J School District**. In the past the District granted them use of 4J fields and facilities, including gyms and cafeterias, making it possible to provide camps, after-school programs, no-school day programs, and sports programs to thousands of underserved children. However, the District is no longer offering free access. All three speakers requested the Board and District leaders meet with them to find a solution. Later in the meeting Board Member Jenny Jonak asked for information regarding whether 4J is charging what it actually costs to maintain the facilities and what wiggle room may exist.

Eugene Education Association (EEA) President, Jamie Myers, reported that the **Eugene Association of Substitute Teacher's contract** is at an impasse and headed for mediation on April 13.

The Board received an information-only presentation of the **Charter School Review**. For each of the five schools, the review summarized their educational model, contract status, focus area, and other issues unique to each school (e.g., academic success, attendance, graduation, etc.). The summary was supported by a 50-61-page report for each school.

Jenny Jonak asked what obligation 4J has to these schools and their students. She expressed concern that the summaries did not adequately reflect details in the longer reports. For example, the Village School summary noted that 7th grade reading performance was significantly above state and district averages. However, the detailed report showed that Village School's 6th and 8th graders were struggling. Also of concern, attendance was as low as 43% for disabled students and 46% for underserved students. English Language Arts for disabled students had dropped to 27% and math to 6.7%. Board Member Morgan Munro echoed this concern, asking what, if any, recourse they have between contract renewals. The District employee indicated that in the past she

knew a school had been put on an improvement plan, but that she would research it further. Board member Judy Newman suggested that a topic for a future meeting should be reducing the renewal interval from the current 10-year maximum.

☀️ **Reported by: Lenice Shaw**

Oakridge City Council

March 5, 2026 [[meeting agenda and materials](#); [webcast](#)]

During Public Comment, Guen DiGioia let people know there is a tour of the 2022 Cedar Creek Fire area on March 13 and to [RSVP](#) and meet at the industrial park.

Councilor Tarman spoke about the ODOT work on Hwy 58. He recommends Oakridge provide input as this might be an opportunity to update some of the underground service lines. He asked the City Administrator to contact ODOT to set up work sessions. Mayor Cutcheon explained some of the ADA improvements such as increasing the number of sidewalks, wheelchair access, and the number of stop lights.

Motions unanimously approved:

1. To permit the Mayor to join the coalition of other Oregon cities in signing a document **opposing the watershed bill of rights** measure on the May ballot.
2. To appoint Jara Mouracade to fill seat 4 of the Planning Commission. (She is also a Westfir City Councilor.)
3. To hire Guen DiGioia as the new Community Development Director with a start date of March 16. Councilor Brewer was pleased with Guen's experience at grant writing.
4. To use \$45.63 in RTMP funds for the webcam "tariff fees". This is the webcam on the Oakridge City Office building. One benefit is to let people see that Oakridge is "Below the Snow and Above the Fog" a lot of time during the winter.

☀️ **Reported by: Leslie Heaton**

The Observer Corps is a group of LWVLC members who pledge to regularly attend government meetings and report back to the Lane County League. We have Observers at the County Commissioners meetings, Eugene City Council, Springfield City Council, Eugene 4J School District, Springfield School District, Eugene Water and Electricity Board, and Lane Transit District. To keep you informed, we will distribute their reports by email twice a month. When topics arise that require action or attendance by a larger number of us, LWVLC will send out an email "Call for Action".

If you are interested in joining the Observer Corps, please contact Terry Parker, President (president@lwvlc.com) or Beatrice McKenzie (beatricem@lwvlc.org). We hope to recruit one or two members for each government group. You can attend a meeting first before you pledge to go regularly.