



CITY OF  
**West Linn**

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**<http://westlinnoregon.gov>**

The Citizen Support Center logs and tracks your requests for City assistance to ensure timely responses and accurate information from City staff.

# 2011 City Council Priorities

West Linn City Council

September 2011 Update

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CITY OF WEST LINN | 22500 SALAMO ROAD | WEST LINN, OR 97068  
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## Noteworthy Items From the Quarter:

**CNN Money**  
A Service of CNN, Fortune & Money

FORTUNE Money

Home Video Business News Markets Term Sheet Economy Tech Personal Finance

**BEST PLACES TO LIVE** *Money's list of America's best small towns* 2011

Full List Near You Housing Financial Quality of Life

69. West Linn, OR 69 of 100 Back Next

Vote for this town as fan favorite: Like 166

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WINNER  
**Top 100 rank:** 69  
**Population:** 26,200  
[Compare West Linn to Top 10 Best Places](#)

Oregonians move to the hilltop homes here for a breathtaking view of the Cascades and relatively low local taxes. With Portland just 25 minutes away, most residents commute into the city during the week. Weekends are spent enjoying waterfront recreation: West Linn sits at the junction of two rivers. On summer evenings, residents enjoy picnic dinners over concerts in the park. Locals also flock to a revitalized downtown area, Historic Willamette, which offers a farmer's market and, occasionally, dancing in the street. --A.W.

PHOTO: KIM STONE/CITY OF WEST LINN

West Linn is the top-ranked Oregon community on the CNN/Money Magazine "Best Places to Live" list.



Music in the Park attracts record crowds, and an increased effort to recycle is led by the Sustainability Advisory Board and volunteers.



The Building Department launches Accla; now all West Linn building permits are available for sale online. The system is designed for local building departments, property owners and contractors who seek information about permitting and permit applications.

## Interest 4 - Sustainability

- *Sustainability should be incorporated into all City processes moving forward; sustainability is integral to the West Linn culture. Sustainability is how we do business.*

### May 2011 Update:

- *The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) commenced and completed a sustainability lecture series.*
- *On March 28, 2011, Patrick Condon made a presentation to the West Linn City Council regarding sustainable development practices*
- *In February 2011, the City Council passed Resolution No. 2011-05 to support legislation regulating the use of single-use plastic bags and non-recycled paper checkout bags at retail stores.*
- *Cooperative office supply purchasing program at City Hall is underway; a sector lighting upgrade at City Hall was completed; and City expenditures on paper/plastic products for City Hall lunchrooms has decreased.*

### September 2011 Update:

- *The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) is working with Clackamas County to secure a grant to fund outreach and education leading to enrollment of West Linn and Lake Oswego homeowners in a bulk purchase of residential solar equipment.*
- *The SAB, in coordination with the Parks & Recreation Department and Clackamas County, established recycling facilities at the Music in the Park concert series; these facilities diverted more than 35 percent of the event waste from landfills.*
- *City Hall is now recycling its used packing peanuts.*
- *Automatic hand dryers were installed in the first- and second-floor restrooms at City Hall to reduce paper waste.*
- *The Green Team now distributes a monthly newsletter to share information about sustainability-related events, facts and tips.*
- *The City Council received an update on commercial composting at its September 6, 2011 work session.*

# West Linn City Council

## Mayor and Councilors

Mayor John Kovash

Council President Jody Carson

Councilor Teri Cummings

Councilor Mike Jones

Councilor Jenni Tan



*Left to right: Jones, Cummings, Carson, Kovash, Tan*

There are five members of the West Linn City Council. Each member serves four-year terms, and are elected at-large by West Linn voters. Email the entire Council at [cwl\\_council@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:cwl_council@westlinnoregon.gov).



**Mayor John Kovash**

[jkovash@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:jkovash@westlinnoregon.gov)

Term expires: 12-31-12



**Council President Jody Carson**

[jcarson@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:jcarson@westlinnoregon.gov)

Term expires: 12-31-14



**Councilor Teri Cummings**

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Term expires: 12-31-12



**Councilor Mike Jones**

[mjones@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:mjones@westlinnoregon.gov)

Term expires: 12-31-14



**Councilor Jenni Tan**

[jtan@westlinnoregon.gov](mailto:jtan@westlinnoregon.gov)

Term expires: 12-31-12

## Interest 3 - 2013 Centennial Celebration

- City staff will assist with the long-range planning process for this event and work closely with the volunteer planning committee.

### May 2011 Update:

- The WL 100 steering committee is meeting monthly on the first Tuesdays of each month. The committee is moving forward aggressively with organizing.
- Committee members have written and sent a letter to approximately 55 organizations and groups asking them to participate in monthly meetings and organizational activities.
- The Committee has advertised a contest for the WL 100 logo and tagline contest, which will begin the public awareness campaign.

### September 2011 Update:

- Due to busy schedules, the Committee took a break for the summer, and will commence meeting in September 2011.

## Interest 2 - Public Art Process

- *The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will suggest a new process regarding public art for City Council consideration.*

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### **May 2011 Update:**

- *The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has been working on a policy, that will advance to the City Council for a work session discussion and meeting adoption later in 2011.*

### **September 2011 Update:**

- *This item is scheduled for City Council decision on September 12, 2011.*

## Goal 1 - Public Safety Facility

- *In the next 30 days, the City Council will facilitate the formation and leadership of a political action committee (PAC) in support of a ballot measure on this topic.*
- *In the next 60 days, City staff will prepare a report to the City Council with an analysis of potential public safety facility sites.*
- *By November 2011, the City Council will be prepared to pass a ballot measure funding a public safety facility.*

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### **May 2011 Update:**

- *The City Council has been working with Bill Hill on political activities.*
- *Staff presented due-diligence information to the City Council at the April 25, 2011 executive session and per the guidance received at that session, has begun negotiations on a potential facility site.*
- *A tentative date of June 6, 2011 has been set for the first of several "community conversations" to engage the community in the due-diligence research and site selection process.*

### **September 2011 Update:**

- *Notice of the measure was posted and the measure was successfully filed with the County elections office; measure number is 3-377.*
- *Explanatory statement was reviewed by the Secretary of State's office and successfully filed with the County elections office.*
- *All inquiries about the measure's detail have been vetted through the Secretary of State's office.*
- *Bill Hill continues to work with the City Council on political activities.*

## Goal 2 - Stafford Strategy

- *The City of West Linn will continue to support the preservation of the rural nature of the Stafford area as a buffer between surrounding cities.*
- *The City of West Linn will work on this issue with surrounding cities and regional partners.*
- *Litigation will be successful, and the Stafford area will be designated as a rural reserve.*

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### **May 2011 Update:**

- *Staff continues to monitor the pending legal challenge.*
- *Metro has forwarded its revised ordinance to DLCD and an August 2011 hearing is expected.*

### **September 2011 Update:**

- *The City is waiting for the LCDC report that acknowledges the Metro decision designating Stafford as an urban reserve.*

## Interest 1 - Recreation Center

- *A ballot measure regarding the aquatic community center will be on a future ballot pending the successful outcome of the public safety facility measure.*
- *The City Council designates Councilors Tan and Cummings to converse with potential partners, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Aquatic Community Center Taskforce on this issue.*

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### **May 2011 Update:**

- *The City Council formally acknowledged and accepted the Aquatic Community Center Taskforce's recommendation on April 25, 2011.*
- *Councilors Tan and Cummings continue to pursue potential public/private partnership opportunities.*
- *The Parks & Recreation Department will prepare a Request for Information (RFI).*

### **September 2011 Update:**

- *The Parks & Recreation Department is working on the Request for Information (RFI).*

## Goal 5 - Water Infrastructure Maintenance

- *The Utility Advisory Board will recommend a plan to the City Council for maintaining, upgrading and sustaining the West Linn water system.*

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### May 2011 Update:

- *The Utility Advisory Board (UAB) has been briefed on this Council Priority and UAB meeting agendas will focus on the plan to recommend to the City Council at the end of 2011.*
- *Resources and informational support from Public Works, Engineering, Finance, and Communications will be utilized by the UAB as they work on the plan recommendation.*

### September 2011 Update:

- *The Utility Advisory Board (UAB) met on July 12, 2011 and invited the City's Chief Financial Officer to report back on UAB questions. The main takeaway from this meeting was a request for an updated Five Year Financial Forecast for June 30, 2011 actual and a request of staff to provide alternative options for financing Water Master Plan projects.*
- *The UAB met again on August 9, 2011. As requested, updated financial forecasts were presented showing flat revenues in the Water Fund, and with Environmental Services Fund revenues slightly greater than budgeted.*
- *A decision tree was presented which highlighted the various decision points for the UAB. For example, funding levels of \$8 million versus \$21 million, and GO versus Revenue bonds. Various financing options were discussed to include the option of offering lower sewer and surface water rates to help offset increased water rates.*
- *The UAB Chair issued homework assignments for all UAB members, asking them to review the financial information presented and to return to the September meeting with their ideas, comments, and suggested recommendations.*
- *Complete materials prepared to date are available online at <http://westlinnoregon.gov/finance/utility-advisory-board>.*

## Goal 3 - Community Vision/Comprehensive Plan

### *Highway 43/Willamette Falls Drive*

- *City staff will develop an action plan and initiate the citizen visioning process for a targeted Comprehensive Plan change affecting Highway 43 and Willamette Falls Drive.*
- *The City Council and staff will actively communicate this process with the community so there is understanding about the vision and involvement in the process.*
- *The City will work with regional governments to achieve a satisfactory ownership and maintenance agreement for transportation corridors.*

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### May 2011 Update:

- *Staff identified project approaches and public outreach possibilities and presented them to the Planning Commission in March 2011.*
- *The Planning Commission offered suggestions and identified groups that should be involved with the project.*
- *On March 28, 2011, Patrick Condon made a presentation to the West Linn City Council regarding sustainable development practices*
- *Three project phases were identified:*
  - \* *Phase I: development of a conceptual vision for the residential and commercial areas in the Highway 43/Willamette Falls Drive Corridor;*
  - \* *Phase II: a workshop process or charrette to refine, map, and illustrate the vision and analysis of the market viability;*
  - \* *Phase III: development of implementation measures.*
- *An RFP for Phase I was released on April 20, 2011 with a May 6, 2011 deadline; RFP review has commenced.*
- *An important first step will be characterization of the current reality (e.g. zoning and current code restrictions) for this corridor, so the future phases can address the items of greatest importance.*

## Goal 3 - Community Vision/Comp. Plan - Continued

### Highway 43/Willamette Falls Drive

#### September 2011 Update:

- Project consultant was hired.
- Project website launched - <http://westlinnoregon.gov/vision>
- Staff and the consultant compiled and analyzed the physical opportunities and constraints that have a bearing on planning for the area - <http://westlinnoregon.gov/vision/opportunities-and-constraints>.
- Staff compiled and analyzed local, state, and Metro policies and regulations pertaining to the project.
- Staff formed an advisory group that has met twice to help identify project issues and opportunities, advise on public outreach, and generate ideas/alternative development concepts for the future of the corridor. The community will consider the concepts at a visioning workshop on September 29.
- Public outreach to date includes:
  - \* Conducting workshops with the Robinwood and Willamette Neighborhood Associations and Sunset and Bolton residents;
  - \* Distributing an online community opinion survey to more than 5,000 West Linn residents via the Citywide email distribution list;
  - \* Surveying local business owners and developers;
  - \* Distributing project information in the West Linn Update;
  - \* Distributing project informational bulletins at the West Linn Farmers Market, Music in the Park, and at local retail centers;
  - \* Scheduling meetings with the West Linn Chamber of Commerce to discuss the project and solicit input; and
  - \* Posting a link to the project page on the Chamber's website.

## Goal 4 - Political Advocacy & Citizen Engagement

- 2011 will yield a communications and outreach strategy that engages residents, leading to knowledge, trust and involvement by a diverse group of informed citizens.
- This plan will result in a knowledgeable, trusting, and diverse representation of our citizens who are poised to become dynamic future leaders of West Linn.
- Civic engagement is measured by more than attendance at public meetings and now includes technology, social media, and other opportunities that promote involvement with city affairs.

#### May 2011 Update:

- The City Council will receive a detailed update on the Communications Plan at its May 16, 2011 work session, and will accept the Communications Plan at its May 23, 2011 meeting.
- Highlights from the update include:
  - \* Development of Neighborhood Association work plan;
  - \* Completion of CIP and biennial budget documents;
  - \* Citizen advisor training;
  - \* Volunteer summit and wiki outreach;
  - \* State of the City delivery and outreach.

#### September 2011 Update:

- Day-to-day communications and outreach activities continue.
- Planning is underway for the "City Council Listening Tour" this fall. Each City Councilor will host a meeting with citizens to help engage the community and inform the City Council in advance of 2012 priority setting.
- Planning continues on the "West Linn Leadership Academy" concept to identify and educate future West Linn leaders.
- Each City Councilor and the City Manager are scheduled to attend individualized communications training in October.
- The Neighborhood Association Presidents continue to work on their mission statement development, for presentation to the City Council at the October 17, 2011 work session.