

COLUMBIA COUNTY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Certain residents living along the Multnomah Channel have questioned why they won't receive a ballot including the Columbia River Subdivision 1 Director's Race. This Release is intended to clarify why certain voters will not see the CRPUD Director's race on their 2016 General Election ballot.

In 1999 the Columbia River PUD annexed certain property in the City of Scappoose and the Scappoose Drainage Improvement District into the CRPUD special district. That process was done according to specific special district annexation statutes. Following a citizen's petition, the Board of County Commissioners approved the boundaries of the special district to include the City of Scappoose as it existed in 1940 and the Scappoose Drainage District as it existed in 1940. The boundary excluded area beyond the low water line on the Multnomah Channel, thereby excluding floating homes in the Multnomah Channel. The record of the decision (Orders 82-99 and 72-99) is clear that the CRPUD district boundary does not include the moorage or floating homes. Copies of the 1999 annexation documents are available here (Orders 82-99 and 72-99) or by contacting the Columbia County Clerk's Office at 503-397-3796. The service area of a district may not be the same as its boundaries for purposes of elections. In 2012 this same issue arose and the County Clerk notified the CRPUD by letter that the moorage and floating homes are not in the CRPUD boundary. No subsequent action was taken either by CRPUD or residents to annex the property into the District. The County elections department has consistently applied this boundary for purposes of CRPUD elections.

The County Clerk has again determined that residents in the excluded area are not within the PUD boundary as defined in 1999 and will be issued a ballot reflective of this for the November 8 election. The affected candidates have been informed, as has the CRPUD. There is no change to the CRPUD subdivision 1 contest and it will appear on the November ballot as it was on filing deadline date August 30, 2016.

Per Oregon Revised Statutes, after an election the County clerk will certify and deliver an election results abstract to the district and it is the district elections authority that will determine from it the results of the election, including whether candidates will meet the qualifications to hold office. The County is not involved in certifying the election of individual candidates.

Ballots will be mailed October 21, 2016.