

Government reform is needed in Jackson County

Arguments in favor of passing the three grassroots initiatives to reform Jackson County government keep mounting, sometimes coming from surprising quarters. County Administrator Danny Jordan recently noted that the Board of Commissioners would not be able to take a vote if two of them died in an accident. County governance would grind to a halt.

If you know your Oregon history, you know this is not a wild hypothetical. Consider Oct. 28, 1947, when the governor, secretary of state and Senate president were all killed in a plane wreck.

The real issue is that merely three individuals wield all policy-making power and bear all oversight responsibility for a population nearing a quarter-million.

The current three commissioners usually think in party-dictated lockstep — we might as well have a single person in charge. What is their counter-argument to a nonpartisan board of five commissioners? According to Colleen Roberts, the three entrenched partisan players have a “stronghold.”

Did she mean to say “stranglehold”?

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