

This is KPTZ 91.9FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Nigel O'Shea bringing you news and commentary from the Jefferson County *Beacon* for Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

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Some SNAP benefits for November have been distributed in Washington State, preventing a food security crisis for some while leaving others still scrambling to make ends meet. On Thursday, November 6, a federal judge ordered ([https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-11/034\\_MemOrderRelief%20NOV%206.pdf](https://governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-11/034_MemOrderRelief%20NOV%206.pdf)) the Trump Administration to fully fund November SNAP benefits. According to the Washington State Governor's office, households scheduled to receive their monthly benefits between November 1 and November 7 have received 100% of their November SNAP benefits.

On the night of Sunday, November 9, the United States Senate voted 60 to 40 to invoke cloture, in a move to end the government shut down and potentially fund SNAP until September 30, 2026, the end of the fiscal year. Though Governor Ferguson released additional funds to food banks last week, local people are also stepping up to help fill the food insecurity gap. Small restaurants and bars have created special menus and bulletin boards where people can pre-purchase food for those experiencing food insecurity. You can find a list of businesses pitching in to help food insecurity at <https://www.jeffcobeacon.com/all-news/snap-benefits-secured-for-some-amid-ongoing-legal-battles-local-community-steps-up-to-combat-food-insecurity>.

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General Elections came and went on November 4, with a National wave of Democratic wins. Here in Jefferson County, 50.05% of the 28,875 registered voters cast their ballots. Though they will not be certified until November 25, these election results are not predicted to change dramatically with only 669 votes left to count. Here are the election standings as of November 6:

- Washington citizens approved the Proposed Constitutional Amendment, Senate Joint Resolution No. 8201, which means that the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Fund (known as WA Cares) can invest tax money into the stock market, creating additional funds to help cover the costs of aging for low-income people.
- The vote to approve the Jefferson County Transportation Benefit District (TBD), made Jefferson County the first countywide TBD to establish a funding source by implementing both a 0.1% sales tax and a \$20 vehicle license fee.
- The Parks and Recreation No. 1 Replacement Levy was approved, adding a \$.15 regular property tax for every \$1,000 of assessed value, used to fund regular repairs, operations, and administrative costs for the Laurel B. Johnson Community Center in Quilcene.
- Carol Hasse will remain in her position as Port of Port Townsend, Commissioner District No. 2. In an interview with the *Beacon* before the election, Hasse made her political philosophy clear, saying, "All of our government entities, state, our City, County, Port, PUD, we all have to keep putting our heads together about how we can serve that end of creating jobs and how we can be resilient in the face of climate change. It is a huge responsibility that I feel we all have as elected officials."
- Fred Obee won with a 68.34% vote for City of Port Townsend City Council Member Position No. 1 in the only contested race for City Council. Obee said in a statement to the *Beacon*: "I am excited to get started on the Port Townsend City Council and my first goal will be to establish a good working relationship with other council members. I'm looking forward to a respectful exchange of opinions and ideas. I have seen over and over again in my journalism career how an open and robust debate and transparent government actions fosters a more informed citizenry and better decision making. That will be a key goal."
- Naomi Stern won the Quilcene School District No. 48, Director District No. 2, race 53.16% to 46.33%, over incumbent Jon Cooke. Stern said, "I hope to build a board that truly works in concert with our teachers and

students and ensures that their voices are not diminished or overlooked. My larger hope is to unite our community and bring this school board back to the business of educating kids – without politicizing the role. I want to serve as a respectful steward of our resources, a good ambassador for our community, and to give back to this community – and these kids – who have my heart.”

- Amanda Grace won her race for Port Townsend School District No. 50, Director at Large Position No. 4 over Timothy Hawley.
- Fire Protection District No. 1 (EJFR), Commissioner District No. 2 will be incumbent David Seabrook.
- Former sheriff hopeful Art Frank will continue as Fire Protection District No. 2 (Quilcene) Commissioner Position No. 1.
- Fire Protection District No. 3 (of Clallam/Jefferson Counties), Commissioner Position No. 3 has been won by Bill Miano.

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and 5 Tuesday through Thursday, partnering on Wednesday to bring you stories from the Jefferson County *Beacon*. This is Nigel O’Shea. Thanks for listening.