

From: [Virginia Scott](#)
To: [Benton Public Comment](#)
Subject: LU-24-027: Information to add to the record regarding Number of People Opposed to the Landfill Expansion
Date: Sunday, May 4, 2025 6:23:44 PM

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Dear members of the Planning Commission and Community Development Department staff:

Please enter the the information below into the record for LU-24-027:

Benton County Residents Largely Oppose the Landfill Expansion

On Thursday May 1, 2025 during Republic Services testimony to the Planning Commission (2:03:45 time marker on the recording), Brian Rupe, the Area VP, Northwest from Republic Services "reminded" the planning commission members that, when considering the opposition comments, they need to keep in mind that only 0.2% of the Benton County population submitted comments in opposition and that the Planning Commission should remember the rest of the Benton County residents.

Rupe's statement has an unstated assumption, which is, *people who aren't being vocal don't agree with VNEQS*, or conversely are in favor of Republic's landfill expansion. There is no evidence for this.

In real life, it's a rule of thumb that for each person taking action, there are many behind them who agree, but are not taking visible action, for various reasons. Each activist is the "tip of an iceberg". Let's assume for our purposes that for every person taking action on the landfill issue, there are 20 who agree with them.

If we assume 20 behind the scenes supporters for each vocal supporter, then there are 40 people in Benton County who are pro-expansion and 6000 people who are anti-expansion. (Assuming the number of people active on the anti-landfill side is 300). (The pro side is only 2 people, since I've excluded the pro-expansion person who lives in Lincoln County.)

Along those lines, if you think that three-quarters of the people in Benton County don't care one way or another, then you have 24,725 who do care. And if we apply the percentages established above, that means that 24,560 of the people who care and do have an opinion, are people who are against the landfill expansion.

Benton County Population: 98,899 (2024)

Corvallis Population: 61,087 (2023?)

Below are the "group" testimonies that I am aware of, who are testifying as groups against the landfill expansion, and the number of people represented by each. You will note that these numbers are not totaled, as I am aware that, with the exception of the political parties where

voter registration limits an individual to one party, citizens may be part of several groups. The point in this table is that one comment does not equal one person in all cases, and that several comments were submitted on behalf of a group and its members in opposition to the landfill expansion.

Benton County Democrats Resolution (Registered Democrats in Benton County)	25,735
Benton County Republicans Resolution (Registered Republicans in Benton County)	12,242
Green Party Resolution (Registered Green Party in Benton County)	288
Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance	300
Marys Peak Group – Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club	58,000
League of Women Voters – Corvallis	143
Willamette Broadband – Great Old Broads	300
VNEQS Petition Opposing the Landfill Expansion	1,300
Citizens registered for Oral Testimony (Air Table 5/2/25 3:57 PM)	63
Written Testimony submitted (Per Rupe)	200

Individual People Registered to Testify in Favor of the Expansion	2
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Fools figure, and figures fool, but in this instance and by any manner in which these numbers are represented, the data illustrates strong and broad opposition to the landfill expansion.

Thank you for taking this information into consideration for your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,
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