FRIENDS of HANNON LIBRARY

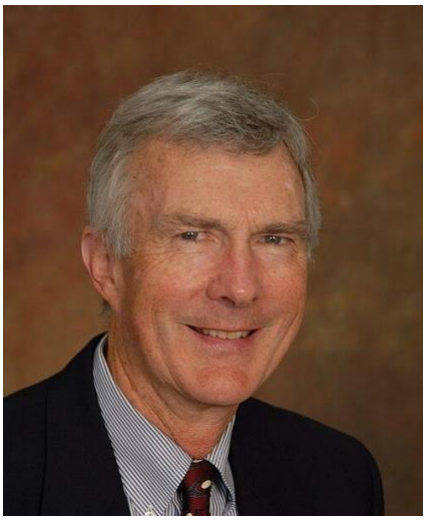
**November Friends Panel Looks at Libraries and Free Speech**

For immediate release—

The First Amendment to the US Constitution says that "Congress shall make no law … abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." Does that include the corollary right to receive information and ideas? How have – and how do – politics affect libraries, and what roles do libraries and their patrons have when it comes to freedom of speech? Can libraries remain politically neutral when issues around books, access, and speech are highly politicized?

Join us in the Meese Room of the Hannon Library on November 12, 2026, 5–6 p.m., for "Libraries and Free Speech in Challenging Times." We will hear from author and attorney John Frohnmayer and civil rights attorney James Lobsenz for a discussion of the First Amendment and libraries as a space for civic engagement. The panel is moderated by educator and writer Barry Vitcov.

Attorney John Frohnmayer was the fifth chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and is the author of *Leaving Town Alive* and *Out of Tune: Listening to the First Amendment*. James Lobsenz was an adjunct professor of Law at Seattle University, where he teaches courses on constitutional law, the First Amendment, and civil rights litigation. He is currently teaching Constitutional Law at SOU.





**John Frohnmayer** **James Lobsenz**

This Friends of Hannon Library event is free and open to the public. It will take place in the Meese Room (room 305) of the Hannon Library on the SOU campus, and a Zoom link will also be available on the Friends website (https://hanlib.sou.edu/friends/lectureseries.html).

Metered visitor parking is available for those coming to campus to attend the event in SOU parking lots 1, 12, 29, 36, 37 and 41. Those who need disability accommodations to participate in the event may contact SOU's Disability Resources office at (541) 552-6213. For more information, contact Hannon Library staff at libraryevents@sou.edu.

To view previous lecture series events, see the Hannon Library YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@SOU-HannonLib.

**About Hannon Library**

As Southern Oregon University's main library, Hannon Library's mission is to advance information literacy and lifelong learning, by teaching diverse learners to navigate and understand increasingly complex information environments. We embrace new information technologies and are committed to providing equitable access to extensive electronic and print collections.

## About the Friends of the Hannon Library

Friends of Hannon Library's goal is to enrich the collections at Hannon Library. Funds raised by the Friends of Hannon Library have enabled the library to purchase materials that the Library would not have been otherwise able to afford, and to support programming to assist students. In addition, Friends of Hannon Library sponsors a lecture series of outstanding speakers on topics of literary and intellectual interest.