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Clackamas County State Legislative Agenda

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

John Ludlow - Chair Jim Bernard Paul Savas Martha Schrader Tootie Smith

Oregon counties and the state are partners in delivering vital public services.

As governmental bodies close to local communities, counties are on the front line of coordinating and delivering many shared state-county services to the public. Counties work in close partnership with the state to ensure that services are delivered at the local level in a responsive, efficient, and effective manner.

Oregon counties and the state are partners in policy making.

Counties are participating in the transformation of large public service systems and bring expertise, experience, and resources to matters of statewide concern.

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FINANCE

Financial Sustainability

Monitor and influence proposed legislation to ensure adequate and stable funding of county programs and services. Counties partner with the state to provide vital public services and are on the front line of ensuring that services continue and reach those who need them.

State/County Shared Revenue Agreements

Preserve counties' share of tobacco, liquor, video lottery, and recreational vehicle fee revenue. Monies received by counties fund economic development programs, county park and recreation areas, and essential front line services, including sheriff's patrol, jails, and health services.

Preemption and Local Control

Oppose preemption of local tax sources and other efforts to restrict local government authority. Local control allows counties to create and fund programs that foster innovation and address the unique needs of their communities.

Public Contracting

Support considerations to the Public Contracting Code (ORS 279) that promote responsible use of public resources for local agencies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Lands

Support legislation to increase the supply of available land ready for industrial development; Support state financing and incentives to assist local governments in constructing infrastructure and preparing shovel-ready industrial sites.

Enterprise Zones

Support the creation of additional Enterprise Zones in Oregon; Oppose measures that would mandate prevailing wage requirements on private industries within Enterprise Zones.

Brownfields

Support legislation that facilitates redevelopment of vacated industrial sites, through measures such as recapitalizing the state Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, creating property tax incentives, and creating state tax credits.

Parks

Support legislation related to System Development Charges, land use and development policies promoting local parks, recreation, and natural areas.

Willamette Falls Locks

Support legislation aligning with the County's resolution to see the Willamette Falls Locks repaired and reopened.



TOURISM

Transient Lodging Tax (TLT)

Ensure fee and policy adjustments to the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) are consistent with their original intention; Retain local capacity within the TLT to meet countywide needs; Maintain legislatively-established levels of funding for Regional Cooperative Marketing Programs (RCMPs) across the state; Support collaborative information sharing by the State to positively affect enforcement across jurisdictions.

Oregon Skiing Activities Statute

Support efforts to update Oregon's Ski Activities statutes, which have remained unchanged since their creation in 1979. As currently written, the statutes do not address modern equipment, new activities and modes of conveyance, or attractive features such as terrain parks. The lack of references and definitions is causing ambiguity surrounding issues of liability.



HEALTH, HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES (H3S)

Funding for Health and Human Services

Preserve state funding levels for health and human services programs – behavioral health, social services, public health, children, youth & families, community solutions, developmental disabilities – to enable Clackamas County programs to continue at current service levels and, in some cases, provide additional prevention, support, and treatment services to vulnerable individuals and families.



Affordable Housing and Support Services

Support efforts to create and preserve affordable housing and support services for moderate, low, and very low income residents and those experiencing homelessness.

- Preserve state funding levels for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP);
- Preserve state funding levels for senior programs, including Oregon Project Independence, Health Promotion activities, abuse prevention activities through the Gatekeeper program, and the Options Counseling program;
- Increase funding for veterans' housing needs to meet the rise in the number of homeless veterans in Clackamas County; and
- Support legislation requiring Oregon Housing and Community Services to distribute National Housing Trust Funds to local jurisdictions.

Recreational Marijuana

Support efforts to regulate accessibility, marketing, and packaging of cannabis products targeting young consumers.

Future of Public Health Services Task Force

Support legislation that implements recommendations of the Task Force on the Future of Public Health Services, which was established by the Legislature in 2013 to modernize Oregon's public health system.

Mental Illness

Support legislation establishing community-based alternatives to incarceration for the purpose of diverting persons with serious mental illness from entering the criminal justice system, or linking people with serious mental illness to community-based services upon release to prevent further involvement in the criminal justice system.

Veterans Tax Relief

Support legislation that grants a higher property tax exemption for disabled veterans.

PUBLIC SAFETY

9-1-1 Operations and Funding

Support legislation to improve operations and funding for 9-1-1 centers:

- Support new spending authority to allow for the installation of the Next Generation 9-1-1 network; Support funding allocated to frame relay network upgrades.
- Oppose state-mandated consolidation of 9-1-1 centers and preserve local control of consolidation decisions.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding

Advocate for Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding from the Youth Development Council at the highest funding level possible, which provides approximately \$206,000 annually to the County Juvenile Department.

Oregon Juvenile Code

Oppose any statutory change to the Oregon Juvenile Code until adequate exploration of best practices by juvenile justice experts.

Justice Reinvestment

Preserve funding for the Justice Reinvestment grant program, which funds community-based programs that help people succeed outside of prison, such as community corrections, re-entry programs, addiction treatment, and mental health services. These programs have been shown to increase public safety and ultimately reduce the demand for costly prison resources.



EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Veterans' Preference

Support legislation that clarifies veterans' preference requirements in the public hiring process while giving veterans meaningful preference in the process.

Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)

Support legislation reducing the volatility of employer contributions and maintaining an adequate retirement program for employees.

Collective Bargaining

Oppose legislation affecting interim bargaining negotiations that reduces employer flexibility between contract periods and threatens scarce public resources.

Definition of a Supervisor

Oppose legislation permitting bargaining units of only supervisory personnel.

TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Roadway Policy and Funding

Advocate for state transportation policy and funding that supports the maintenance and construction of roads in order to improve the reliability and safety of our transportation system and meet the needs of our interconnected economy.

Sunrise Phase II Funding

Advocate for state funding to support extension of the Sunrise System from 122nd Ave. to 172nd Ave. or other operational enhancements that contribute to the entire Sunrise System. This project is vital to improving access to thousands of acres of employment lands, many of which are ready for development.



I-205 Expansion Funding

Advocate for state funding to support an additional lane of capacity in each direction of I-205 from Stafford Road to OR 99E. The Oregon portion of I-205 is federally designated as a High Priority Corridor and is of vital importance to the Portland metropolitan region. Without additional travel lanes, this section of I-205 will be overwhelmed by forecasted traffic volumes and will negatively impact regional freight mobility.

Marijuana

Support legislation to merge recreational and medical marijuana regulation and enforcement; Support legislation that clarifies the ability of local governments to regulate time, place, and manner of marijuana; Monitor and influence changes to the marijuana tax and revenue distribution.

Land Use

Support solutions to address Clackamas County's shortage of long-term employment lands, including subregional analysis and voter-approved annexations.