

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 01/14/25 **Approx. Start Time:** 11:00 a.m. **Approx. Length:** 60 min.
Presentation Title: 2025 State and Federal Legislative Agendas
Department: Public and Government Affairs
Presenters: Tonia Holowetzki, Director and Trent Wilson, Government Affairs Manager

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Public and Government Affairs requests the Board of County Commissioners approve the county’s 2025 state and federal legislative priorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Public and Government Affairs (PGA) is tasked with advocating on behalf of the county to state and federal policymakers. PGA uses the Board-approved agendas to guide this work.

The county’s state legislative agenda supports continued state/county shared revenue agreements and other funding streams that support major county programs and services. Loss of these revenues would result in potential cuts to county programs and services. The county’s federal legislative agenda prioritizes key county programs and projects for potential federal funding and grant opportunities.

In fall 2024, PGA worked with each county department and the three continuing commissioners to identify potential state and federal policy and funding priorities for 2025. PGA also met with the two new commissioners the first week of 2025. Proposed drafts of these priorities are attached.

The 2025 state legislative session will convene January 21, 2025 and adjourn no later than June 29, 2025. The 119th Congress convened January 3, 2025 and is scheduled to adjourn January 2, 2027.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? YES

What is the cost?
N/A

What is the funding source?
N/A

Approval of the state and federal agenda sets a policy direction on behalf of the county. It does not, in and of itself, require an expenditure.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item aligns with the Public and Government Affairs Strategic Business Plan goals to provide intergovernmental connections and relationship building, strategic policy development and messaging, legislative, advocacy, and outreach services to county elected officials and departments so they can build key partnerships to achieve policy goals important to Clackamas County, with special emphasis on the strategic results in the Board’s Strategic Plan.

This item aligns with the County's Performance Clackamas goals by highlighting legislative principles that build a strong infrastructure; ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities; grow a vibrant economy; honor, utilize, promote, and invest in our natural resources; and build public trust through good government.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

PGA continues to maintain close working relationships with the county's legislative delegation and staff at both the state and federal levels, all of whom are instrumental in advancing the county's legislative priorities.

OPTIONS:

1. Adopt the 2025 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted.
2. Amend the 2025 State and Federal Legislative Agendas.
3. Take no action at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends Option #1: Adopt the 2025 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment #1: Draft 2025 State Legislative Policy Agenda
- Attachment #2: Draft 2025 Federal Legislative Policy Agenda
- Attachment #3: Legislative Process and Messaging Memo

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval s/Tonia Holowetzki

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Tonia Holowetzki @ 503-250-1381
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2025 Clackamas County State Legislative Policy Agenda

Clackamas County is urban, suburban, rural, and wild. We are dedicated to welcoming new residents and businesses and committed to delivering community services that are dependable, accessible, and equitable to the public.

COUNTY INITIATIVES

Clackamas County Recovery Campus

Secure \$10 million in additional funding to support the development and construction of the Clackamas County recovery campus, which will increase the number of beds available for substance abuse treatment. In line with our planned recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC), the recovery campus will offer person-centered support, treatment, and resources to help achieve and sustain long-term recovery for individuals overcoming substance use disorders. The county purchased a property for the campus in 2024, and community engagement is underway.

2025 Transportation Package

Advocate for long-term transportation funding that protects the 50/30/20 distribution in the State Highway Fund, funds the projects committed by the state legislature in 2017 without burdening local communities, addresses safety and deferred maintenance projects, and supports housing and job growth. Transportation priorities in 2025 include:

- Completing the HB 2017 commitments, including the I-205 Improvements Project
- Supporting infrastructure investments like the Sunrise Corridor to promote housing and job growth for our fastest-growing cities
- Improving transit ridership and rider connections between urban and rural providers
- Advancing safety improvements in rural communities, including Mt. Hood

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Advocate for legislation that provides **full cost and predictable revenue**, as well as reasonable liability protection, for local governments providing state-mandated and contracted services. Oppose unfunded or partially funded mandates from the state.
- Advance policies and funding to **address the housing and homelessness crisis** and to meet housing and employment growth goals. Ensure a **balanced approach to land use planning** and oppose legislation that limits or erodes local land use authority. Prioritize infrastructure investments that **rapidly advance housing production goals**.
- Support action to address the impact Measure 110 has had on public safety, homelessness, and our communities and pursue funding for a **recovery-oriented system of care**, including legislation that separates the deflection program formula from the M110 Oversight and Accountability Council and reconfigures the formula to meet the needs and size of the communities being served.
- Support legislation and funding to **reduce PFAS* in the environment and water systems and protect the county from undue liability from pass-through chemicals**. Clackamas County is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment.
*Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Support legislation that creates a **standard statewide process** for county foreclosure surplus claims in response to the Supreme Court decision Tyler v. Hennepin County.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Build a Strong Infrastructure

The county supports legislation that encourages long-term investments in major infrastructure projects to improve the quality of life of county residents. Successful legislation will ease congestion, expand travel options, enhance seismic and climate resiliency, spur economic growth, stimulate employment opportunities, increase housing inventory, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.

Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Secure Communities

The county supports legislation that improves the health, safety, and well-being of all county residents and communities. Successful legislation will support access to community assets, such as parks and libraries, and assist vulnerable populations, including residents who are facing homelessness, substance abuse and addictions, behavioral health challenges, and public health threats. Legislation also should help to reduce the rate of crime and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, improve emergency communications and disaster preparedness, and protect survivors of domestic violence and child abuse.

Grow a Vibrant Economy

The county supports legislation that incentivizes businesses to grow and prosper. Successful legislation will ensure the county has dedicated resources for attracting and growing industries, workforce, and childcare, and has access to an adequate supply of shovel-ready employment lands to expand economic development opportunities.

Honor, Utilize, Promote, and Invest in our Natural Resources

The county supports legislation that ensures effective and sustainable management and conservation of our abundant natural and agricultural resources. Successful legislation will stimulate and preserve the integrity of our natural resource-based economy, reduce and sequester carbon emissions and enhance wildfire and natural hazard resiliency.

Build Public Trust through Good Government

The county supports legislation that enhances the county's ability to deliver effective, reliable, and equitable services to residents. Successful legislation will maintain the county's financial sustainability, allocate sufficient resources, preserve state and county shared revenue agreements, support county efforts to attract and retain qualified employees and ensure adequate community engagement. Legislation should not impose unfunded mandates, preempt local tax sources, or restrict local government authority.

Attachment #2

2025 Clackamas County Federal Legislative Policy Agenda

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COUNTY INITIATIVE

Federal funding to support transportation projects.

- **I-205 Improvements Project** - Advocating for federal funding to support construction of the I-205 Improvements Project, which would resolve a congested bottleneck by adding a third lane in each direction on I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213, including the Abernethy Bridge.
- Identify federal funding opportunities to advance Phase II of the **Sunrise Corridor**, consistent with the community visioning work.
 - Promote findings from the community visioning work.
- Advocate for federal funding to support **the Bull Run Bridge** replacement project.

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Support funding for **housing and human services programs** and other county operations that are reliant on federal resources.
- Advocate for and support **the Willamette Falls & Landings area designation as a National Heritage Area (NHA)** and improvements to **the Willamette Falls Locks**.
- Support legislation for the responsible and sustainable **management of federal forestlands**, including Oregon and California Rail Trust (O&C) Lands, for **wildfire prevention and predictable revenue to counties from shared timber receipts**.
- Support legislation and funding to **reduce PFAS* in the environment and water systems and protect the county from undue liability from pass-through chemicals**. Clackamas County is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment.
*Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Legislation to support **Mt. Hood** recreation, access, and protection

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Build a Strong Infrastructure

The county supports legislation that encourages long-term investments in major infrastructure projects to improve the quality of life of county residents. Successful legislation will ease congestion, expand travel options, enhance seismic and climate resiliency, spur economic growth, stimulate employment, increase housing inventory, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.

Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Secure Communities

The county supports legislation that improves the health, safety, and well-being of all county residents and communities. Successful legislation will support access to community assets, such as parks and libraries, and assist vulnerable populations, including residents who are facing homelessness, substance abuse and addictions, behavioral health challenges, and public health threats. Legislation also should help to reduce the rate of crime and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, improve emergency communications and disaster preparedness, and protect survivors of domestic violence and child abuse.

Grow a Vibrant Economy

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Honor, Utilize, Promote & Invest in our Natural Resources

The county supports legislation that ensures effective and sustainable management and conservation of our abundant natural and agricultural resources. Successful legislation will stimulate and preserve the integrity of our natural resource-based economy, reduce and sequester carbon emissions, enhance wildfire and natural hazard resiliency, and adhere to the public process of Oregon's land use system.

Build Public Trust through Good Government

The county supports legislation that enhances the county's ability to deliver effective, reliable, and equitable services to residents. Successful legislation will maintain the county's financial sustainability, allocate sufficient resources, preserve state and county shared revenue agreements, support county efforts to attract and retain qualified employees and ensure adequate community engagement. Legislation should not impose unfunded mandates, preempt local tax sources, or restrict local government authority.

Attachment #3

Clackamas County Legislative Process and Messaging

Legislative Process

For issues covered by the county's legislative agendas (initiatives/priorities/principles):

- PGA coordinates with departments and partners
- PGA updates the Board weekly, if not more frequently depending on legislative action

For issues not covered by the county's legislative agendas (initiatives/priorities/principles) and that require county action:

- If time allows, PGA brings to the Board at a weekly setting
- If time does not allow, PGA convenes a Special Operations Committee to assess issues and determine the county's position so that PGA staff can carry out lobbying activities quickly and effectively. This Committee will be comprised of the County Chair, County Vice-Chair, County Administrator, County Counsel, PGA staff, and the subject-matter department director
- PGA informs the Board of new county positions within the week

Messaging

All legislative messaging (policy statements/letters/testimony) will adhere to the county's legislative agendas (initiatives/priorities/principles) or other Board-approved positions. Any issue not covered by the county's legislative agendas must be vetted through the above legislative process prior to messaging on the topic.

Policy Statements/Letters:

- PGA typically communicates county positions through verbal communications and/or concise policy statements delivered by the county lobbyist. Policy statements will be vetted and approved by PGA, in consultation with appropriate county department directors or designees.
- PGA also may communicate county positions using formal letters signed by the Chair on behalf of the Board. Such letters do not require Board approval providing they adhere to the county's legislative agendas or other Board-approved positions. PGA will consult with County Administration in cases where a different letter format is preferred.
- PGA shares county position statements to the Board within one week of their submission to the legislature.

Testimony:

- Testimony will be produced and/or reviewed by PGA in advance of legislative committee meetings, in consultation with appropriate county department directors or designees.
- Testimony may be given without Board approval providing it adheres to the county's legislative agendas or other Board-approved positions.
- Testimony will be available for review by the Board.

Legislative Letters/Testimony from an Individual Commissioner

- Individual commissioners may sign letters and/or provide testimony in support of or opposition to legislative issues on which the county has not taken a position.
- Individual commissioners should not write a dissenting letter or provide dissenting testimony that is in opposition to the county's legislative agenda or other Board-approved positions.
- Letters/testimony will note the opinion is that of the individual commissioner, not the entire Board.
- Letters/testimony does not need prior approval from the entire Board.
- Signed letter/testimony will be shared with the Board and PGA.