

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 01/11/23 **Approx. Start Time:** 10:30 a.m. **Approx. Length:** 30 min.
Presentation Title: Approval of 2023 State and Federal Legislative Agendas
Department: Public and Government Affairs
Presenters: Sue Hildick, Chris Lyons and Trent Wilson
Other Invitees: Department Directors and County Elected Officials

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Public and Government Affairs (PGA) is seeking final adoption from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) of the county's state and federal legislative priorities for 2023. PGA also is seeking BCC direction on federal advocacy activities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In fall 2022, PGA worked with each County Commissioner and county department to identify potential state and federal policy and funding priorities for 2023. The proposed drafts of these priorities are included in this packet.

A copy of the county's legislative process and messaging document is included in this packet for review.

The 2023 state legislative session will convene on January 17, 2023 and adjourn no later than June 25, 2023. The 118th Congress convened on January 3, 2023 and is scheduled to continue until January 3, 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

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.

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 BCC Strategic Plan.
- This item aligns with all five of the county's Performance Clackamas goals:
 - Build public trust through good government;
 - Grow a vibrant economy;
 - Build a strong infrastructure;
 - Ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities; and
 - Honor, utilize, promote, and invest in our natural resources.

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 2023 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted
2. Amend the 2023 State and Federal Legislative Agendas

RECOMMENDATION:

Option #1: Adopt the 2023 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft 2023 State Legislative Policy Agenda
- Draft 2023 Federal Legislative Policy Agenda
- Clackamas County Legislative Process and Messaging

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval s/Sue Hildick

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Sue Hildick @ 503-742-5900

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2023 Clackamas County State Legislative Policy Agenda

COUNTY INITIATIVES

Courthouse Replacement Project

Secure approval of \$61 million in additional state bond funds to support the replacement of the 85-year old, structurally-deficient Clackamas County Courthouse. These state matching funds will complete the state's contribution toward this project. Clackamas County has already committed to bearing the increased costs for its share of the project, and construction began in October 2022.

I-205 Improvements Project

Advocate for state action to ensure timely completion and diversified funding for the I-205 Improvements Project. As ODOT's primary funding mechanism, tolling must be developed and implemented in a transparent manner that mitigates all impacts of diversion into local communities, ensures equity for the most burdened users and communities, and is turned on at the same time as the regional toll program to eliminate any economic disadvantages across the region.

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Pursue policies and other solutions to **rebuild the critical partnership between the state and counties**, exemplifying governments working together to deliver sufficiently funded and high quality services to the public.
- Support legislation that ensures a **regionally balanced approach to land availability and readiness**, and advances the **housing and employment land needs** of Clackamas County.
- Support policies and funding to address the **housing crisis** and improve housing stability for low income households, including supportive housing services.
- Support legislation that provides **sufficient and predictable revenue** and **state indemnification** of local governments in cases where the county contracts with the State to provide services, such as Aid and Assist contracts for mental health programs.
- Support **funding for local public safety diversion programs** tied to addictions, such as crisis stabilization centers and juvenile prevention programs.

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STATE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Clackamas County's policy positions will be guided by the five strategic goals below. Priority consideration will be given to policies that advance equity and inclusion, and support the county's goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.

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 and workforce, and has access to an adequate supply of shovel-ready employment lands to expand economic development opportunities.

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 resiliency, spur economic growth in employment areas including the Sunrise Gateway Corridor, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.

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, and adhere to the public process of Oregon's land use system.

Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Secure Communities

The county supports legislation that improves the health, safety, and wellbeing 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 crime rate and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, improve emergency communications and disaster preparedness, and protect survivors of domestic violence.

Build Public Trust through Good Government

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

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2023 Clackamas County Federal Legislative Policy Agenda

COUNTY INITIATIVE

- Federal funding to support the **I-205 Improvements Project**
 - 2023 Objectives:
 - Advocating for federal funding to support construction of the I-205 Improvements Project, which would add a third lane of capacity in each direction on I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213, including the Abernethy Bridge
 - Lobbying the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to prioritize funding for the construction of the I-205 Improvements Project
 - Ensuring that the I-205 Improvements Project remains a Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) federal priority
 - Ensuring that any toll program is regional in nature and does not cause undue harm to the communities surrounding the project

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Funding and legislation to support the repair and ownership transfer of the **Willamette Falls Locks**
 - 2023 Objectives:
 - Advocate for \$7.25 million for capital repairs (to match state investment)
 - Advance efforts for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to transfer the facility to the Willamette Falls Locks Authority
- Legislation for the responsible and sustainable **management of federal forest lands**, including O&C Lands, for **wildfire prevention and predictable revenue to counties from shared timber receipts**
 - 2023 Objectives:
 - Partner with NACo and other key stakeholders on efforts to advance federal forest management reform
 - Engage with members of the Oregon delegation on the need for federal forest management reform and a predictable source of revenue to be achieved through sustainable harvest
 - Work with the Association of O&C Counties and others to support long-term solutions to Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding and management of O&C lands

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- Legislation to support **Mt. Hood** recreation, access, and protection
 - 2023 Objectives:
 - Support legislative efforts to enhance transit, travel safety, recreational access, and other tourism and economic development initiatives that allow Mt Hood to thrive as a destination
 - Engage with members of the Oregon delegation to build support for the county's FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant application to underground electricity lines and rebuild substations along the Mt. Hood corridor, in partnership with Portland General Electric (PGE)

- Policies and funding to support **housing and human services programs**, and other county operations that are reliant on federal resources
 - 2023 Objectives:
 - Advocating the county's needs with Congressional offices
 - Supporting the priorities of Clackamas County in related legislation

- Policies and funding to encourage **increased food production and production acreage in the county**, and support for the farming industry – especially family farms – to thrive and adapt to market and climate impacts.
 - 2023 Objectives:
 - Engage with members of the Oregon delegation on the county's desire to increase food production and food production acreage, including but not limited to addressing barriers to farmer entry and succession planning, policies that protect and preserve specialty crops, and climate adaptation
 - Participate in the policy development of the anticipated Farm Bill, and provide relevant feedback to the Oregon delegation offices

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FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Clackamas County's policy positions will be guided by the five strategic goals below. Priority consideration will be given to policies that advance equity and inclusion, and support the county's goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.

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 and workforce, and qualifies for programs that assist efforts to expand economic development opportunities.

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 resiliency, spur economic growth in employment areas including the Sunrise Gateway Corridor, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.

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 our natural resource-based economy, reduce wildfire risk, and improve the financial stability of counties by creating a predictable and long-term solution to county revenue needs.

Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Secure Communities

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

Build Public Trust through Good Government

The county supports legislation that enhances the county's ability to deliver effective, reliable, and equitable services to county residents. Successful legislation will maintain the county's financial sustainability, allocate sufficient resources for county programs, preserve state and county shared revenue agreements, and support county efforts to attract and retain qualified

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employees. Legislation also should not impose unfunded mandates, preempt local tax sources, restrict local government authority, or use population as the sole criteria for federal funding allocations in cases where multiple jurisdictions serve a metropolitan area.

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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 BCC weekly at a minimum, 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 BCC at a weekly setting
- If time does not allow, PGA convenes a Special Operations Committee to assess issue and determine County 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 BCC 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 BCC-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 director or designee.
- PGA also may communicate county positions using formal letters signed by the Chair on behalf of the Board. Such letters do not require BCC approval providing they adhere to the county's legislative agendas or other BCC-approved positions. PGA will consult with County Administration in cases where a different letter format is preferred.

Testimony:

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

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 BCC-approved positions
- Letters/testimony will note that opinion is that of individual commissioner, not the entire BCC
- Letters/testimony does not need prior approval from all BCC
- Signed letter/testimony will be shared with BCC and PGA