

## CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

### Study Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** January 14, 2014    **Time:** 10:30 am    **Length:** 30 minutes  
**Presentation Title:** Approval of 2014 State & Federal Legislative Agendas  
**Department:** Public and Government Affairs  
**Presenters:** Gary Schmidt, Jared Anderson and Chris Lyons

#### **WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?**

Public and Government Affairs is seeking Board approval of the County's 2014 state and federal legislative agendas.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Each year Clackamas County adopts both a state and federal legislative agenda, which serve as the blueprints for County funding and policy priorities at the state and federal levels. These agendas are not the final word on the County's legislative priorities. As issues arise during and throughout the year, the Board of Commissioners will be asked to comment and determine support or opposition to developing legislation.

The 2014 Oregon legislative (short) session is designed to deal with adjustments required by the Feb. 13 revenue forecast and to fix glitches in previous years' legislation. The 35-day session also will include a focus on the Columbia River Crossing, marijuana, liquor retail innovations, and a 9-1-1 tax on prepaid cell phones. Clackamas County's state legislative agenda focuses primarily on maintaining State/County shared revenue agreements and program funding to various county programs and services, including public safety; health, housing and human services; economic development; and transportation. Other priorities are outlined in the attached state legislative agenda.

The U.S. Congress begins its legislative year with an emphasis on economic and fiscal affairs, including legislation to fund the government beyond Jan. 15 and raise the debt ceiling by early March. Clackamas County's federal legislative agenda focuses primarily on protecting federal funding for key county programs and services (public safety; health, housing and human services; juvenile services; emergency management; and communications), extending county timber payments and supporting responsible federal forest management, obtaining funding for I-205 expansion, and addressing numerous items at Willamette Falls.

These agendas reflect feedback from the Board of Commissioners, County Administration, and department directors. A legislative planning session was held on November 13 to narrow the agendas. Today, the final state and federal legislative agendas are presented for review and approval.

#### **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. The County's federal legislative agenda supports continued federal funding for key county programs

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and services and extending county timber payments. Loss of these revenues would result in potential cuts to County programs and services.

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:**

N/A

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

N/A

**OPTIONS:**

1. Approve the County's 2014 state and federal legislative agendas.
2. Direct staff to investigate or research additional priorities for consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Board approve the County's 2014 state and federal legislative agendas, so that they may be promoted during and in advance of the start of the state legislative session (February 3) and at the County's annual visit to Washington, D.C. (March 3-7). The agendas will be revised and updated throughout the state legislative session and the year-long federal session as issues arise and develop.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Clackamas County's 2014 state legislative agenda.
2. Clackamas County's 2014 federal legislative agenda.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director/Head Approval s/Gary Schmidt  
County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Gary Schmidt @ 503-742-5908

## **DRAFT CLACKAMAS COUNTY 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**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.

As with most governments, Clackamas County faces the challenge of providing more and better services within tighter fiscal limits. We are committed to protecting the financial health of both counties and the state to ensure that the vital services communities rely upon are preserved during this difficult economic time.

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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 & 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.

#### **Franchise Fees**

Support legislation that would preclude public agencies from being subject to franchise fees of other public agencies in right-of-ways. A proliferation of new franchise fees levied on public agencies has the potential to greatly increase costs to ratepayers.

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### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Recreational Vehicle (RV) License Fees & County Parks**

Support legislation to achieve a more equitable distribution of RV license revenue between counties and the State. Counties provide 49 percent of campsites in Oregon, yet receive only 35

percent of this dedicated funding source for parks. The percentage is scheduled to further drop to 30 percent in 2015.

### **Industrial Site Readiness**

Secure state funding to support the newly established Oregon Industrial Site Readiness Program. Funding will assist local governments in making industrial sites market ready. The availability of market-ready industrial sites is essential to job creation and economic growth. Assistance is needed for due diligence and capital investments for transportation, sewer, water, brownfield cleanup, wetland mitigation, and site aggregation.

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## **HEALTH, HOUSING, & HUMAN SERVICES**

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### **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 & 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 Oregon Housing and Community Services;
- Increase funding to the State Homeless Assistance Program and the Emergency Housing Account; and
- Increase funding for veterans' housing needs to meet the rise in the number of homeless veterans in Clackamas County.

### **State Workforce System**

Monitor and influence proposed changes to the state's workforce system, including a new integrated workforce budget, to ensure that state services continue to support the work of re-chartered local workforce investment boards.

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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### **Juvenile Justice Grant Funding**

Advocate for maintaining state grants to county juvenile departments at the highest funding level possible. Basic and Diversion funding from the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and Prevention funding from the Youth Development Council (YDP) allow counties to meet the needs of high-risk youth and safely manage juvenile offenders in local communities.

### **9-1-1 Operations & Funding**

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

- Require payment of the 9-1-1 tax by users of prepaid wireless devices and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services;
- Support an increase to the current monthly 9-1-1 tax of \$0.75, which has remained unchanged since 1995;
- Support new spending authority to allow for the installation of the Next Generation (NG9-1-1) network; and
- Oppose state-mandated consolidation of 9-1-1 centers and preserve local control of consolidation decisions.

### **Inmate Health Care Coverage**

Support efforts to prohibit private insurance companies from denying or canceling health care coverage of inmates in the custody of a county jail. Currently, the Sheriff pays the costs of an inmate's health care – pre and post adjudication – even for those inmates with private insurance coverage who continue to pay their premiums.

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## **TRANSPORTATION**

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### **Roadway Policy & Funding**

Advocate for state transportation policy and funding that primarily focuses on road maintenance and capital construction projects. Economic development and job creation opportunities should be the primary drivers for transportation investments.

### **I-205 Expansion**

Advocate for funding to support an additional lane of capacity in each direction of I-205 from Stafford Road to OR 99E. Without additional travel lanes, this section of I-205 will be overwhelmed by forecasted traffic volumes and will negatively impact regional freight mobility.

## **DRAFT CLACKAMAS COUNTY 2014 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Federal Forest Management and O&C Lands**

Support legislation for responsible management of federal forest lands, including O&C Lands, which improves counties' financial stability and creates a predictable, long-term solution to county revenue needs. Federal forest legislation should balance economic, social and environmental values so that significant areas of federal forest are focused on producing forest products and significant areas of federal forest are also focused on environmental protection. The County is on record as supporting the O&C Trust, Conservation, and Jobs Act introduced by Reps. DeFazio, Schrader, and Walden.

#### **Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act**

Support future reauthorization or extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act or similar legislation. Extending the Secure Rural Schools Act would continue critical funding to timber dependent counties in Oregon while Congress works to enact legislation to allow for responsible management of federal forest lands. This historically important source of revenue, derived from federal O&C lands, is critical to timber-dependent counties in Oregon, including Clackamas County. From 2001-2010, the Act provided the County approximately \$12 million per year for the county road and general funds.

### **HEALTH, HOUSING, & HUMAN SERVICES**

#### **Funding for the Housing Choice Voucher, Public Housing, and Capital Fund Programs**

Support increased funding for the voucher, public housing, and capital fund programs, which is critical to maintaining a sustainable level of operations of the Clackamas County Housing Authority. In particular, the Voucher Program (formerly known as Section 8) provides assistance to families that rent units in the private rental housing market. Any further reduction in Federal funds would require the County to subsidize the voucher program or reduce service levels to 75 families.

#### **Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program Regulatory Relief**

Support reform of the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs to reduce administration, streamline process, and benefit clients. Over the past 3 years, funding to the County to administer these programs has been reduced, yet the administrative rules, regulations, and processes have not lessened commensurately. Many housing authorities are at risk of not meeting compliance standards simply because staff levels needed to complete the required documentation have been reduced to bare minimums.

#### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & HOME Funding**

Restore Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funding to 2011 levels, allocating no less than \$3.3 billion for CDBG and no less than \$1.6 billion for HOME. These programs have experienced drastic funding cuts since fiscal year 2011, representing a 25% reduction to CDBG and a 48% reduction to HOME. CDBG funds are the only funds available to the County to construct infrastructure improvements in low income areas, while the HOME

program is a keystone in the development of any affordable housing project in the County. In addition to the social impacts, there is a significant economic impact from the expenditure of these funds in the County. It is estimated that in 2013, through a combination of CDBG, HOME and leveraged funds, the County was able to create/maintain 125 jobs.

**Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS)**

Support continued funding for the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), which provides key information for local communities to plan investments and services. This information is crucial to the administration of the CDBG program. Without this data identifying eligible low income areas, the County will be required to expend significant amounts of limited administrative funds to conduct area surveys.

**Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**

Support reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). In Clackamas County, the WIA funds education and job training for adults, dislocated workers, and youth. Job seekers receive services ranging from job search assistance to intensive occupational training. Community Solutions for Clackamas County utilizes WIA funds to serve vulnerable populations with significant barriers to employment, such as public assistance recipients, offenders, veterans, and individuals utilizing public housing resources.

**Older Americans Act (OAA)**

Support reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The OAA is considered to be the major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to seniors. In Fiscal Year 12/13, over 228,000 meals were provided to seniors by the 10 senior centers operating in Clackamas County.

**Weatherization and Energy Assistance Programs**

Oppose funding reductions to the Department of Health & Human Services' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Department of Energy's Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program. Clackamas County receives approximately \$1 million per year in federal energy assistance to help over 3,000 low income households in Clackamas County keep their heat and lights on.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

Oppose reductions to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp program. The SNAP program has grown significantly in Clackamas County, from 19,330 recipients in 06/07 to 42,100 as of October, 2013. It is an essential benefit to many individuals and families.

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**TRANSPORTATION**

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**I-205 Expansion**

Advocate for funding to support an additional lane of capacity in each direction of I-205 from Stafford Road to OR 99E. Without additional travel lanes, this section of I-205 will be overwhelmed by forecasted traffic volumes and will negatively impact regional freight mobility.

### **Transportation Reauthorization**

Advocate for passage of a surface transportation authorization bill that adequately funds 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.

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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### **Juvenile Justice Funding**

Support increased federal funding for juvenile justice. Federal allocations for juvenile justice services have dropped significantly in the past decade. Since 2002, funding for the State Formula Grants Program has declined 55%, the Delinquency Prevention Program has declined 79%, and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant has declined 88%. These reductions result in more youth incarcerated in adult jails; erode and jeopardize nationwide progress on juvenile justice improvements that have led to historic low rates in youth-offending across all U.S. states; and eliminate support for cost-effective delinquency prevention programs and alternatives to incarceration shown to increase public safety and decrease recidivism, while producing cost savings to the public.

### **Emergency Management**

Support continuation of grant funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program as a stand-alone grant and process. EMPG is the backbone of the nation's emergency management system and provides key assistance in building and implementing the county's emergency management capabilities. The grant includes funding for staff and program materials for emergency management plan updates, relationship building, response, and recovery. It is important that funding continue in order to support local emergency management as the number and frequency of natural disasters in the United States continue to rise.

### **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**

Support reauthorization and continued appropriations for COPS grants to local governments. The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), which advances the practice of community policing in law enforcement agencies, has awarded more than \$2.7 million in grant funding to Clackamas County since 1999. The County's Interagency Methamphetamine Initiative has been funded multiple times, including funds for enforcement teams, technology upgrades, youth outreach, and improved juvenile detention efforts. The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office has been a leader in creating and implementing innovative community policing strategies, as well as developing regional and interagency partnerships, which exemplify the types of investments the COPS program seeks to make.

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## **WILLAMETTE FALLS**

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### **Willamette Falls Locks**

Support continued operation and restoration of the Willamette Falls Locks so that they may continue to be an economic, recreational, and historic driver to the region. The Locks bridge the upper and lower stretches of the Willamette River, without which the Willamette becomes two disconnected rivers for navigation purposes. The Locks were operated safely under a reduced schedule until November 2011, when an inspection discovered the gates were in danger of



fracture and could not be safely operated. Clackamas County remains a member of the One Willamette River Coalition and seeks federal support to repair and reopen the Willamette Falls Locks.

**Willamette Falls Legacy Project**

Secure funding to support redevelopment of the 23-acre former Blue Heron paper mill site adjacent to Willamette Falls in Oregon City. Clackamas County has been working in partnership with Oregon City, Metro, and the State of Oregon to explore the feasibility of redeveloping the site, which presents significant structural and environmental challenges. The site's location provides a rare opportunity for a unique economic redevelopment project that would complement and strengthen Oregon City's downtown and create a regionally-significant visitor amenity and historic tourist attraction to benefit the local economy.

**Willamette Falls Heritage Area**

Support designation of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area. Designation as an historic area will strengthen the identity of the historic working communities of Oregon City and West Linn by preserving and promoting their distinctive natural, cultural, scenic, recreational, and industrial resources. Clackamas County remains an active partner in the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition and fully supports federal designation of the Willamette Falls as a National Heritage Area.

**Willamette Falls Sea Lions**

Support legislation that provides the state with more local control to address problem sea lions at Willamette Falls. Populations of California and Stellar sea lions continue to increase annually at the falls, leading to increased mortality of already endangered salmon and steelhead populations.