

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Policy Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** 12/18/18    **Approx. Start Time:** 3:30 p.m.    **Approx. Length:** 30 mins.  
**Presentation Title:** Approval of 2019 State and Federal Legislative Agendas  
**Department:** Public and Government Affairs  
**Presenters:** Gary Schmidt, 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 2019. PGA will also review the County's legislative process and messaging for the 2019 legislative session.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In August and September 2018, PGA worked with each county department to understand anticipated 2019 state and federal policy and funding priorities and build a draft state and federal legislative agenda.

On October 16, 2018, the BCC reviewed a set of draft priorities in a Legislative Agenda Planning Meeting and provided guidance to further refine the issues.

**This December 18, 2018 policy session includes final drafts of the county's state and federal legislative agendas, which have been updated to reflect the BCC and department feedback. Content changes since the 10/16 Planning Meeting are underlined in both documents.**

The 2019 state legislative session will convene on January 22, 2019 and reach constitutional *sine die* on June 30, 2018. The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress convenes on January 3, 2019.

### **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 also pursues additional funding and grants for County programs and priorities.

### **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, who will be instrumental in helping to advance the County's legislative priorities.

**OPTIONS:**

1. Accept the 2019 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted
2. Amend the 2019 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Accept the 2019 State and Federal Legislative Agendas as drafted

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Clackamas County Legislative Process and Messaging
- Draft Summary of Clackamas County 2019 State & Federal Legislative Priorities

**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
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## Clackamas County Legislative Process and Messaging

### Legislative Process

For issues on the County's Legislative Agenda:

- PGA coordinates with departments and affiliates
- BCC updated weekly at a minimum, if not more frequently depending on legislative action.

For issues **NOT** on the County's Legislative Agenda that require County action:

- PGA Director determines if issue is major or minor.
  - If major, PGA Director brings to BCC if time allows. If time does not allow, PGA Director brings to County Chair & Vice Chair to determine next steps.
  - If minor, PGA Director approves County position.
- BCC informed of any new County positions and is updated weekly after that at a minimum.

### Messaging

Policy Statements/Letters:

Per feedback from legislators, PGA is minimizing the use of formal County letters and will instead communicate official County positions through verbal communications and/or concise policy statements that will be delivered by the County lobbyist. These policy statements will be vetted and approved by PGA, in consultation with appropriate county department director or designee, and will adhere to the County's legislative agenda or other board approved positions. Should a letter be written, it will be signed by the Chair on behalf of the entire BCC without need for formal approval from all BCC.

Testimony:

- Testimony will adhere to the county's legislative agenda or other board approved positions
- Testimony will be vetted and approved by PGA, in consultation with appropriate county department director or designee
- Testimony may be given without need for approval from all BCC
- Testimony will be available for review by all BCC

### Individual Commissioner Letters/Testimony

- Individual commissioners may sign letters and/or provide testimony in support or opposition to non-county legislative agenda issues
- 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 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



# 2019 Clackamas County State Legislative Agenda

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

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

## **County Initiatives**

### **Courthouse Replacement Project**

Support the Oregon Judicial Department's budget request of \$31.5 million in bond funding to support the replacement of the 81-year old, structurally-deficient Clackamas County Courthouse. This second installment of funding from the state legislature (\$1.2 million in 2017) will support the design and engineering phase of the project. Clackamas County looks forward to building a new, modern courthouse that serves the needs of all county residents.

### **I-205 Bottleneck Funding**

Advocate for state funding to support a third lane of capacity in each direction of I-205 from Stafford Road to OR 213. The Oregon portion of I-205 is a federally designated High Priority Corridor and is vital to both the Portland metropolitan region and users statewide. Without additional travel lanes, this section of I-205 will be overwhelmed by forecasted traffic volumes and will negatively impact regional freight mobility. This project also will seismically retrofit the Abernethy Bridge to ensure that it can serve the emergency response needs of the region and state in a natural disaster.

## **County Priorities**

### **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 has access to an adequate supply of shovel-ready employment lands to expand economic development opportunities. Specific priorities include:

- Support redevelopment of vacated industrial, commercial, and residential sites, including brownfields
- Support investments in and around large employment areas, like the Sunrise Corridor, to energize redevelopment

### **Build a Strong Infrastructure**

The county supports legislation that encourages long-term investments in major infrastructure improvements to ensure essential county services are available to the public. Successful legislation will ease congestion, spur economic growth, broaden telecommunication access, protect water quality, and enhance seismic resiliency. Specific priorities include:



- Support opportunities to repair and reopen the Willamette Falls Locks
- Advocate for state funding to support a Clackamas County Transportation Futures Study
- Support legislation that expedites permitting and opening of debris management sites after a large-scale disaster

## **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 addictions, behavioral health challenges, and homelessness. Legislation also should help to reduce the crime rate and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, improve emergency communications, and protect survivors of domestic violence. Specific priorities include:

- Support policies and funding to address the housing crisis and improve housing stability for low income households, including tenant protections, supportive housing services, and the ongoing increased funding levels for the Emergency Housing Fund (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP)
- Support an efficient, effective, and integrated model for Coordinated Care Organizations that preserves county's role as the local mental and public health authority toward ensuring a full continuum of public, physical, behavioral, and dental health services for low income residents
- Support funding for public health modernization
- Support tax relief for disabled veterans and surviving spouses
- Support funding for the Justice Reinvestment grant program

## **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 our natural resource-based economy, reduce and sequester carbon emissions, and adhere to the public process of Oregon's land use system. Specific priorities include:

- Protect the county's urban and rural reserves
- Support investments to develop the cross laminated timber (CLT) industry

## **Build Public Trust through Good Government**

The county supports legislation that allocates sufficient resources to enable delivery of effective, reliable, and equitable services to county residents. Successful legislation will maintain the county's financial sustainability, support county efforts to attract and retain qualified employees, preserve state/county shared revenue agreements, and not preempt local tax sources or restrict local government authority. Specific priorities include:

- Support updating public contracting statutes to encourage efficient use of public resources for local agencies
- Oppose legislation that curtails the authority of counties from continuing to seek repayment of unpaid recording fees from lenders and the Mortgage Electronic Registration System (MERS)



# 2019 Federal Legislative Priorities

## Federal Forest Management

- **Federal Forest Management and Oregon & California (O&C) Lands:** Support legislation for responsible management of federal forest lands, including O&C Lands, which will reduce wildfire risk and also improve the financial stability of counties by creating 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 forests are dedicated to the production of forest products in a sustainable manner, while other forests are dedicated to environmental protection.
- **Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act:** Support permanent reauthorization or extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (County Payments) 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.
- **Cross Laminated Timber (CLT):** Support efforts to develop the Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) industry in Clackamas County, in coordination with strategic Pacific Northwest partners. Clackamas County is well positioned to lead the emergence of the mass timber and CLT industry by addressing the supply chain needed to boost Oregon's productivity. CLT has the potential to create 6,100 direct jobs and 17,300 indirect jobs in Oregon over the next 15 years, while supporting efforts to address climate change through the sequestration of carbon.
- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT):** Support reauthorization of PILT, which helps to offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands located within Clackamas County. Clackamas County receives \$700,000 annually from this program.

## Health, Housing & Human Services

- **Funding for Housing Programs:** Support no less than \$3.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula funding, which assists the County with constructing infrastructure improvements in low-income areas; Support no less than \$1.2 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), which is a keystone in the development of any affordable housing projects in the County; Support \$2.6 billion for Homeless Housing Assistance grants, including at least \$270 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program plus an amount to fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; Support full funding for existing Housing Choice Voucher (formerly known as Section 8) project-based and tenant-based rental contracts, full funding for administrative fees under existing administrative fee methodology to cover the cost of administering the program, and \$500 million in



Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority. The Voucher Program provides assistance to 1,531 families in Clackamas County that rent units in the private rental housing market.

- **Veteran Homelessness:** Support continued appropriation of resources through the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant program, and the Grants and Per Diem program to support the goal of ending homelessness among veterans and military families.
- **Public Health Funding:** Support funding for evidence-based public health programs, including: the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Women, Infants, and Children Program; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Program; and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) programs for family planning, opioid abuse, dependence and overdose prevention, infectious disease prevention and control, and chronic disease prevention. These programs are critical to assisting public health departments with prevention activities, as well as efforts to prepare for responding to a range of public health threats.
- **Prevention Funding - Youth Development Funds:** Support current or increased levels of funding for Title 20 programs, which help the Oregon Department of Education fund additional PreventNet school-based sites in Clackamas County.
- **Medicaid Funding and Enrollment:** Support current or expanded levels of Medicaid enrollment. Support maintaining the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- **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 meet the heat and electricity needs of more than 3,000 low-income households in the County.

## Infrastructure

- **I-205 Congestion Relief and Safety Improvement Funding:** Advocate for federal funding to support an additional lane of capacity in each direction of I-205 from Stafford Road to OR 213. The Oregon portion of I-205 is federally designated as a High Priority Corridor and is of vital importance to both the Portland metropolitan region and users statewide. Without additional travel lanes, this section of I-205 will be overwhelmed by forecasted traffic volumes and will negatively impact regional freight mobility.
- **Sunrise Phase II Funding:** Advocate for federal funding to redevelop the Sunrise Corridor, improving opportunities for affordable housing and increasing access to thousands of acres of employment lands. Much of the Sunrise Corridor is a federally designated Opportunity Zone. Phase II would stretch from 122nd Ave. to 172nd Ave.
- **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grants Funding:** Support the continuation of the federal BUILD grant program, which provides capital funding for large transportation projects.
- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF):** Support continued funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program, which is a federal-state partnership that



provides communities a permanent, independent source of low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects.

- **Clean Water Act:** Support efforts to revise EPA administrative rules on the Clean Water Act that increase the ability of NPDES permit holders to address needs related to outdated technology, standards, and operational frameworks while continuing to ensure the cleanest water possible within areas of responsibility.
- **Brownfields:** Support continued funding for brownfields remediation, important for redeveloping key employment lands and revitalizing natural areas that enhance water quality.
- **Net Neutrality:** Support restoration of net neutrality, ensuring that Internet service providers treat all data on the Internet equally.
- **Telecommunications Infrastructure Regulations:** Support legislation or rulemaking that reverses restrictions on local government authority over telecommunications infrastructure in the public right-of-way.

## Public Safety

- **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP):** Support the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), which is a primary source of federal funding for building and sustaining national preparedness programs. HSGP funds activities in planning, organization, equipment purchasing, training, and exercises.
- **Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP):** Support the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), which provides federal funding for disaster preparedness planning for hospitals and health systems within the Portland metropolitan region.
- **9-1-1 Funding:** Support legislation to improve operations, NextGen 9-1-1 development, and funding for 9-1-1 centers.
- **UASI Areas Security Initiative (UASI):** Support funding for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program, which provides grants to assist high-threat, high-density urban areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. These grants are key to enhancing the Portland metropolitan region's preparedness efforts for threats or acts of terrorism.
- **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG):** Support continuation of grant funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program as a stand-alone grant and process, which provides approximately \$160,000 annually to the County's emergency management program. 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.
- **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet):** Support FirstNet, which was created by Congress in 2012 and is working to build, operate, and maintain the first high-speed,



nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. This network will be an essential tool to first responders on life-saving missions.

- **Juvenile Justice Grant Funding:** Support increased federal investment in juvenile justice programs. Federal appropriations to states, localities and tribes for key federal juvenile justice programs have been cut dramatically in the last decade: since 2002, funding for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) Title II State Formula Grants Program has declined by 50%; funding for JJDP Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Grants Programs has been cut by nearly 80%; and funding for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG) has been reduced by 90%. Despite the fiscal climate, federal funds to support state and local juvenile justice standards and improvements must be considered essential investments. These monies support programs that are based in evidence, proven to prevent delinquency, and reduce recidivism and increase public safety - critical investments that are worth the cost.
- **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP):** Support reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), which established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. Reauthorization is critical to providing research, resources, and application of best practices in juvenile justice throughout Clackamas County.

### Willamette Falls Projects

- **Willamette Falls Legacy Project:** Support efforts to aid in the 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 Locks:** Support the repairing and reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks to restore river navigation to the Willamette River. The Locks bridge the upper and lower stretches of the Willamette River, without which the Willamette becomes two disconnected rivers for navigation purposes.
- **Willamette Falls Heritage Area:** Support federal designation of the Willamette Falls National Heritage Area. Designation as a 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 Salmon/Steelhead Migration:** Support efforts to address aggressive sea lions at Willamette Falls, which pose a danger to river users and are threatening endangered salmon and steelhead runs.