

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.

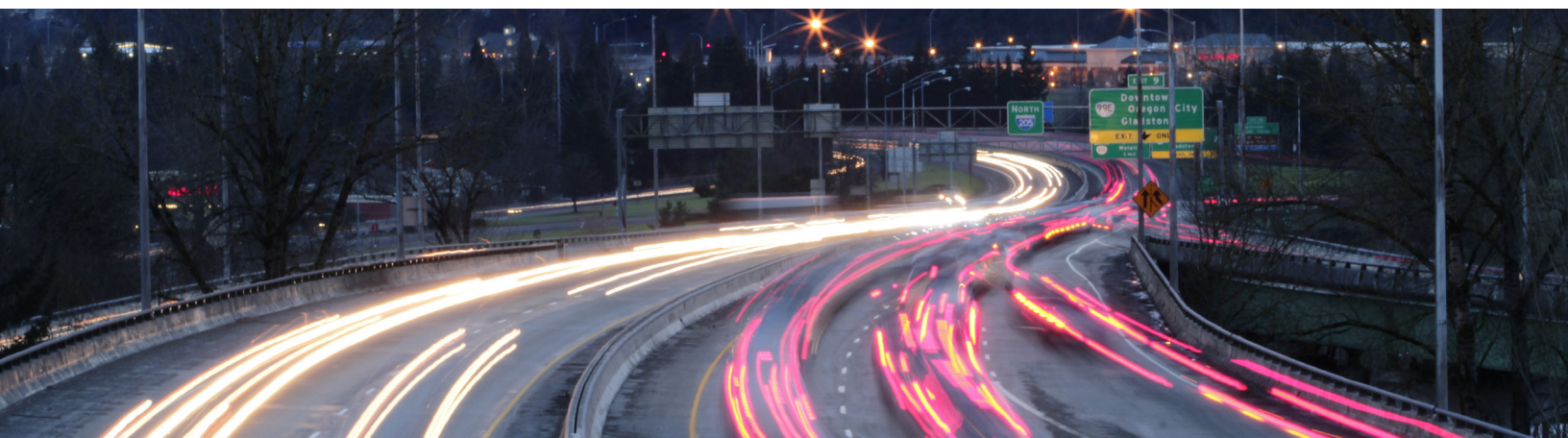
County Initiatives

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.



Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

Jim Bernard – Chair

Sonya Fischer

Ken Humberston

Paul Savas

Martha Schrader

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



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 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



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 the 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

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)