



Clackamas County 2015 State Legislative Agenda

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JOHN LUDLOW - CHAIR JIM BERNARD PAUL SAVAS MARTHA SCHRADER TOOTIE SMITH

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.

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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 and 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

Advocate for prohibiting public agencies from subjecting other public agencies to franchise fees in public right-of-ways unless the fees are directly related to administering the right of way program. A proliferation of new franchise fees levied on public agencies has the potential to greatly increase costs to ratepayers.

Public Contracting

Monitor and influence proposed changes to the requirement for public agencies to procure services using Qualified Rehabilitation Facilities (QRFs) as priority vendors.

HEALTH, HOUSING, & HUMAN SERVICES

Funding for Health and Human Services

Preserve state funding levels and maintain investments from FY13-15 for health and human services programs – behavioral health, social services, public health, children, youth & families, community solutions, and 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 and 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 the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP);

- Preserve state funding levels for senior programs, including Oregon Project Independence, Health Promotion activities, abuse prevention activities through the Gatekeeper program, and the Options Counseling program; and
- Increase funding for veterans' housing needs to meet the rise in the number of homeless veterans in Clackamas County.

Electronic Cigarettes

Monitor and influence efforts to update the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act to regulate e-cigarettes, including restricting access to minors.

Recreational Marijuana

Monitor and influence efforts to regulate recreational marijuana, including requiring child-proof containers.



Task Force on the Future of Public Health Services

Support legislation that implements recommendations of the Task Force on the Future of Public Health Services, which was established under HB 2348 in 2013 to modernize Oregon's public health system.

Mental Illness

Monitor and support legislation establishing community-based alternatives to incarceration for the purpose of diverting persons with serious mental illness from entering the criminal justice system, or linking people with serious mental illness to community-based services upon release to prevent further involvement in the criminal justice system.

Payment for Multiple Services

Monitor and support legislation that allows payment through Medicaid for multiple services that were provided to a patient on the same day.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Lands

Support legislation to increase the supply of available land ready for industrial development. Support state financing and incentives to assist local governments in constructing infrastructure and preparing shovel-ready industrial sites.

Enterprise Zones

Support the creation of additional Enterprise Zones in Oregon. Oppose measures that would mandate prevailing wage requirements on private industries within Enterprise Zones.

Brownfields

Support legislation that facilitates redevelopment of vacated industrial sites through measures such as recapitalizing the state Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, creating local land banks, offering property tax abatements, and creating state tax credits.

Infrastructure Investment

Support general fund appropriations and bonding authority dedicated to investing in improvements for the transportation of goods and services and improved infrastructure.

Study of Federal Lands Transfer

Support legislation that establishes a bi-cameral and bi-partisan committee, including two county governing body members, to study the legal, economic, social, and practical benefits and risks associated with the transfer of federal lands to the State.



Urban Lumber Program

Support efforts to establish a pilot Urban Lumber program managed by Clackamas County for the purpose of utilizing urban forests to stimulate economic, carbon capture, and direct job creation.

Vertical Housing

Support legislation to extend the sunset on the state's Vertical Housing Development Zone program, which incentivizes mixed use development in downtown areas.

Transient Lodging Tax

Prevent state "sweeps" of the transient lodging tax.

Farm Liability

Support efforts to resolve the issue of liability threats stemming from visitors to farms for agritourism-related activities.

Willamette Falls Legacy Project

Support efforts to aid in the public access component of the redevelopment of the 23-acre former Blue Heron paper mill site adjacent to Willamette Falls in Oregon City.

Willamette Falls Locks

Support legislation that creates a State Task Force to work with the Corps of Engineers to develop a plan for sustainable operations of Willamette Falls Locks.



PUBLIC SAFETY

9-1-1 Operations and Funding

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

- Support an increase of \$0.50 to the current monthly 9-1-1 tax of \$0.75, which has remained unchanged since 1995, and index the tax for inflation.
- Support new spending authority to allow for the installation of the Next Generation 9-1-1 network.
- Oppose state-mandated consolidation of 9-1-1 centers and preserve local control of consolidation decisions.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding

Advocate for Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding from the Youth Development Council at the highest funding level possible, which provides approximately \$206,000 annually to the County Juvenile Department.

Oregon Juvenile Code

Oppose any statutory change to the Oregon Juvenile Code until adequate exploration of best practices by juvenile justice experts.

Community Corrections Funding

Advocate for adequate and stable funding of the Department of Corrections' Grant-in-Aid Program to counties, which provides key funding for probation and parole services, drug/alcohol treatment, work release, community service, and victim service.

Prohibiting Weapons in Court Facilities

Support legislation to allow the presiding judge of municipal, justice, juvenile, and probate courts to prohibit firearms and other weapons in the court facility – a restriction that already exists in circuit court buildings.

Adjustment to Court Fees

Support legislation that would increase various court fees, including filing fees, trial fees, motion fees, and miscellaneous fees (transcripts, copies of judgment, etc.). Most Justice Court fees have not been increased for years, while the volume of cases and the cost of providing services has increased.

Justice Court Legislation

Monitor and influence proposed legislation relating to Justice Courts becoming courts of record, new Justice Court reporting requirements to the State, and restrictions on the charging of fees.

EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Employee Services Legislation

Monitor and influence proposed legislation that affects Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), workers' compensation, and the definition of supervisor under state law.



Veterans' Preference

Support legislation that clarifies language affecting veterans' preference in public employment.

TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Roadway Policy and Funding

Advocate for state transportation policy and funding that supports 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.



Sunrise Phase II Funding

Advocate for state funding to support extension of the Sunrise System from 122nd Ave. to 172nd Ave. or other operational enhancements that contribute to the entire Sunrise System. The Sunrise Phase II project is the County's top transportation priority and is listed as a Federal Highway Administration Project of National and Regional Significance.

I-205 Expansion Funding

Advocate for state funding to support an additional lane of capacity in each direction of I-205 from Stafford Road to OR 99E. The I-205 expansion project is listed as a Federal Highway Administration Project of National and Regional Significance and is of vital importance to the Portland metropolitan region.

Land Use

Advocate to find solutions to Clackamas County's land use needs.

LAW LIBRARY

Law Library Services

Support funding at current levels for county law libraries, which help preserve county residents' access to justice by providing direct professional legal research assistance and legal materials, resources, and services.

RESOLUTION SERVICES

Mediation Services Funding

Support an increase in funding for mediation services, which has seen a reduction in funds since passage of HB 2710 in 2011.