

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Policy Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** 05/05/20    **Approx. Start Time:** 1:30 p.m.    **Approx. Length:** 30 mins  
**Presentation Title:** Approval of COVID-19 State and Federal Legislative Principles  
**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 from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adoption of the County's State and Federal Legislative Principles related to COVID-19.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

PGA is returning to the BCC to adopt state and federal legislative principles specific to COVID-19. These principles would serve as an addendum to the existing 2020 State and Federal Legislative Agendas. The Board approved the 2020 State Legislative Agenda on December 17, 2019, and the 2020 Federal Agenda on January 07, 2020.

In response to the ongoing Novel Coronavirus pandemic, PGA is tracking a variety of state and federal actions. Due to the speed and volume at which these actions occur, it is challenging to meet every request. Recent legislation specific to COVID-19 has identified a policy gap in the existing State and Federal Legislative Agendas, which we hope this addendum can resolve.

This agenda broadly covers the need to advocate for the following principles related to COVID-19:

- Predictable and Supplemental Revenue for County Operations
- Equity and Inclusion
- Housing and Social Services Delivery
- Public Health and Safety
- Economic Recovery

### **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 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. Anticipated losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic will require the County to be nimble as state and federal relief/stimulus packages are created.

### **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 four of the five County's Performance Clackamas goals:

- **Build Public Trust Through Good Government** – by advocating on behalf of county residents to ensure vital resources come to Clackamas County.
- **Grow a vibrant economy** – by advocating on behalf of businesses and employees in Clackamas County reliant on a strong recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Build a strong infrastructure** – by advocating for job-creating stimulus funding for shovel ready infrastructure projects.
- **Ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities** – by advocating for the needs of public safety and public health professionals responding to COVID-19 in Clackamas County.

**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 COVID-19 Legislative Principles as drafted
2. Amend the COVID-19 Legislative Principles as drafted

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Accept the COVID-19 Legislative Principles as drafted

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Draft COVID-19 Legislative Principles

**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

# 2020 Clackamas County State & Federal Legislative Policy Agenda

## ADDENDUM

### COVID-19 Legislative Principles

Clackamas County's policy positions and funding priorities relating to the COVID-19 pandemic will be guided by the following legislative principles. Support in these areas from the state and federal government will enable the county and its residents to more effectively respond to, reopen, and recover from the Novel Coronavirus.

#### **Predictable and Supplemental Revenue for County Operations**

The county supports legislation that provides essential service dollars to local governments where state and federal partnerships exist and limits liability to public services related to the pandemic. Successful legislation should maintain existing funding levels, and will also provide direct and flexible funding to local governments in the wake of anticipated revenue loss caused by the pandemic. Legislation also should make local governments eligible for payroll tax credits for employee's emergency paid leave, and honor the up to 75% reimbursement by FEMA for local dollars spent under emergency declarations.

#### **Equity and Inclusion**

The county supports legislation that prioritizes response, reopening, and recovery investments for those most impacted by the pandemic, including historically marginalized communities, communities of color, and poverty-stricken individuals and families. Successful legislation will offer dedicated relief for households, communities, and local businesses with diverse or marginalized representation.

#### **Housing and Social Services Delivery**

The county supports legislation that helps people who are homeless or in need of housing services, including residential needs for mental health patients and justice involved youth. Successful legislation will provide funding for additional shelter beds, increase vouchers for housing, and fund additional capacity for local governments and non-profit agencies to provide supportive housing services. Successful legislation will also increase funding for behavioral health programs to expand crisis services once social distancing measures are lifted and ease barriers of entry for mental health professionals to more readily serve communities.

#### **Public Health and Safety**

The county supports legislation that provides adequate funding and supplies for public health and safety professionals responding to the pandemic. Successful legislation will support testing and contact tracing programs, ensure local agencies have adequate supply of personal

protective equipment and space to provide critical services, and reinforce safe community practices such as social distancing to help flatten the curve. Successful legislation will also meet public safety needs that are amplified by the pandemic, including resources to respond to domestic and family violence.

### **Economic Recovery**

The county supports legislation that enables a return to a healthy and vibrant economy during and after the pandemic. Successful legislation will support individuals suffering from job loss, relieve renters of rent obligations accrued during the pandemic, promote retention of local ownership of rental properties, support independent contractors and self-employed individuals, help small businesses rehire and reopen, and ensure access to construction loans to public agencies. Successful legislation also should stimulate job creation by funding shovel-ready public infrastructure projects including but not limited to transportation, public housing, broadband, wastewater, surface water, and brownfield remediation, with an emphasis on carbon neutrality.