

# 2017 Clackamas County

## State Legislative Agenda



### County Initiatives

#### Statewide Transportation Funding Package

Support passage of a robust statewide transportation funding package that meaningfully addresses the County and region's transportation maintenance and capital needs in order to improve the reliability and safety of our transportation system and meet the needs of our interconnected economy. The County currently faces a \$17 million annual shortfall for road maintenance, which is leading to deteriorating roads and decreased safety.

- **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 the Abernathy Bridge. 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 state funding to support extension of the Sunrise Corridor from 122nd Ave. to 172nd Ave. or other operational enhancements that contribute to the entire Sunrise System. This project is vital to improving access to thousands of acres of employment lands, many of which are ready for development.
- **Arndt Road Funding** Advocate for state funding to support extension of Arndt Road over the Molalla River into the City of Canby. This new road segment, between South Barlow Road and SW Berg Parkway at 99E, will improve access to I-5 that is essential to the economic growth of many businesses in Canby and other areas of southwest Clackamas County.

**County Courthouse Replacement Funding** Support the recommendation of the AOC Court Facilities Task Force for \$1.25 million in state funding to continue planning for the replacement of the 80-year old, structurally-deficient Clackamas County Courthouse located in downtown Oregon City.



Photo by ODOT

## Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

Jim Bernard – Chair    Sonya Fischer    Ken Humberston    Paul Savas    Martha Schrader



## Economic Development

**Willamette Falls Locks** Support legislation that establishes and funds a State Commission to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a plan for sustainable operations of the Willamette Falls Locks.

**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.

**Brownfields** Support legislation that facilitates the redevelopment of vacated industrial sites through measures such as recapitalizing the state Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, creating property tax incentives, and creating state tax credits.

**Economic Development Funding** Support continued state funding to counties for economic development programs.

**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.

**Film & Media Production** Support legislation that provides state incentives to help recruit film and media projects to Oregon and keep current projects in the state.

**Urban Lumber** Support the findings of the Clackamas Forestry Product Cooperative Program, which was established by the 2015 Legislature for the purposes of utilizing urban forests to stimulate economic development, create jobs, and sequester carbon. A final feasibility study will be presented to the Legislature during the 2017 session.

## Health, Housing, and Human Services

**Funding for Health and Human Services** Support continuation of existing funding levels for health and human services programs – behavioral health, social services, public health, children, youth & families, community solutions (workforce & weatherization services), 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.

- Support increased state funding levels for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP)
- Monitor legislation that increases rental protection for tenants
- Support level funding for senior programs, including Oregon Project Independence, Health Promotion activities, abuse prevention activities through the Gatekeeper program, and the Options Counseling program
- Support increased funding for veterans' housing needs to meet the rise in the number of homeless veterans in Clackamas County



**Veterans Tax Relief** Support legislation that grants a higher property tax exemption for disabled veterans. The current exemption has failed to keep pace with inflation after remaining relatively unchanged since being established more than 60 years ago.

**Surviving Spouse Tax Relief** Support legislation that grants a partial property tax exemption for surviving spouses of active duty military personnel killed in the line of duty.

**Air Quality** Influence legislation to improve the region's air quality, with an emphasis on securing additional resources for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to administer these activities.



**Behavioral Health Reform** Support legislation to preserve the role of community mental health programs (CMHPs) in providing appropriate and accessible services to meet the behavioral health needs of the county. Support legislation to increase funding and access to Psychiatric Emergency Centers (PEC).

**Cover All Kids** Support legislation to expand the Oregon Health Plan to cover all children in Oregon.

**Public Health Modernization** Support funding that implements recommendations of the Task Force on the Future of Public Health Services, which was established by the Legislature in 2013.

**Youth Tobacco Prevention** Support statewide legislation aimed at reducing youth tobacco use, including establishing tobacco retail licensing, increasing the legal age to 21, closing the e-cigarette loophole, and funding tobacco education and prevention programs.

**Recreational Marijuana** Support efforts to regulate accessibility, marketing, and packaging of cannabis products targeting young consumers. Oppose legislation that would create an exemption to the Indoor Clean Air Act for cannabis cafes.

## Public Safety

**Justice Reinvestment** Support state funding of the Justice Reinvestment grant program, which funds community-based programs that help people succeed outside of prison, such as community corrections, re-entry programs, addiction treatment, and mental health services. These programs have been shown to increase public safety and ultimately reduce the demand for costly prison resources.

**Domestic Violence Resources** Support legislation that promotes increased resources for victims of domestic violence. Support increased funding for family justice centers.

**9-1-1 Centers** Support legislation to improve operations and funding for 9-1-1 centers.

**Juvenile Crime Prevention - Basic & Diversion Funding** Support Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Basic & Diversion funding from the Oregon Youth Authority at the highest level possible, which provides approximately \$910,000 annually to the County Juvenile Department.

**Juvenile Crime Prevention - Prevention Funding** Support Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Prevention 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 Delinquency Code** Oppose statutory changes to the Oregon Juvenile Delinquency Code which do not align with identified best practices, are not developmentally appropriate for adolescents, or run counter to positive youth development.

**Juvenile Crime Prevention Target Population** Oppose any statutory changes to the current targeted population of children and youth who are eligible for services with Juvenile Crime Prevention funds.

**Earthquake Early Warning System for the West Coast** Support additional state funding to establish an earthquake early warning system in the Pacific Northwest that could help reduce risks associated with earthquakes, including a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. The ShakeAlert system is estimated to cost \$38.3 million plus an additional \$16.1 million annually to operate and maintain the system, and would cover the west coast states of California, Oregon, and Washington. To date, the system has received nearly \$20 million from the federal government and a private foundation.

**Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Funding Allocation** Support an increase in local agencies' share of EMPG federal funds from the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Recent sharp reductions in this funding from OEM has greatly impacted all EMPG-funded jurisdictions, which rely heavily on these federal dollars to assist in the development of emergency operations, hazard mitigation, and staff.

## Tourism

**Transient Lodging Tax (TLT)** Support collaborative information sharing between the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR) and local governments to positively affect audit and enforcement efforts across jurisdictions. Ensure that policy adjustments to state and local Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) programs are consistent with their original intentions. Retain local capacity within the TLT to meet countywide tourism needs. Support efforts to compel transient lodging intermediaries/online travel companies to comply with all applicable TLT programs.

**Recreational Immunity** Support legislation to restore recreational immunity to landowners who make their land available without charge for recreational uses by the public. This legislative fix will ensure Oregonians' continued access to land for recreational use and enjoyment.



## Transportation & Development

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**Land Use** Oppose statutory changes to Clackamas County's urban and rural reserves while the County works with Metro and other local partners to finalize the reserves map. Support legislation providing flexibility for Metro to respond to mid-cycle city requests for urban growth boundary (UGB) expansions into urban reserves for needed residential development. A faster, more nimble process for responding to mid-cycle requests for additional land will support Clackamas County's ability to accommodate growth and strike a balance between available housing and jobs.

**Marijuana** Support legislation to merge recreational and medical marijuana regulation and enforcement. Monitor and influence changes to the marijuana offense code and revenue distribution formula.

**Distracted Driving** Support legislation to update Oregon law covering cell phone use while driving. Currently, law enforcement can only issue citations for talking and texting while operating a motor vehicle. New legislation will clarify that a mobile communication device cannot be in the driver's hand for any use, such as checking or listening to voicemail, playing games, watching videos, programming map functions, and any future activities allowed by advances in technology.

## Water Environment Services

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**Franchise Fees** Support efforts 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.



## Finance

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**Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)** Support legislation reducing the volatility of employer contributions while maintaining an adequate and sustainable retirement program for employees. The PERS system is inundated with over \$20 billion in unfunded actuarial liability following the Oregon Supreme Court's ruling on *Moro v. State of Oregon*. To mitigate the growing deficit, public employers will likely incur contribution increases equal to approximately four percent of payroll in each of the next three biennia.

**Financial Sustainability** 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** Support preservation of counties' share of cigarette, 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.

**Public Contracting** Support considerations to the Public Contracting Code (ORS 279) that promote responsible use of public resources for local agencies.

## Employee Services

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**Collective Bargaining** Oppose legislation affecting interim bargaining negotiations that reduces employer flexibility between contract periods and threatens scarce public resources.

**Veterans' Preference** Support legislation that clarifies veterans' preference requirements in the public hiring process while giving veterans meaningful preference in the process.

## Law Library

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**Law Library** 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.

## Clackamas County Public and Government Affairs

### Director

Gary Schmidt  
503-742-5908  
gschmidt@clackamas.us

### Government Affairs Manager

Chris Lyons  
971-202-3007  
clyons@clackamas.us

### Government Affairs Specialist

Trent Wilson  
503-655-8206  
twilson2@clackamas.us