

2023 Clackamas County

State Legislative Policy Agenda



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

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



Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

Tootie Smith – Chair Paul Savas Martha Schrader Mark Shull Ben West

COUNTY INITIATIVES



Courthouse Replacement Project

Secure additional state bond funds to support the replacement of the 85-year old, structurally-deficient Clackamas County Courthouse. These state matching funds will complete the state's contribution toward this project. Clackamas County has already committed to bearing the increased costs for its share of the project, and construction began in October 2022.



I-205 Improvements Project

Advocate for state action to ensure timely completion and diversified funding for the I-205 Improvements Project. As ODOT's primary funding mechanism, tolling must be developed and implemented in a transparent manner that mitigates all impacts of diversion into local communities, ensures equity for the most burdened users and communities, and is turned on at the same time as the regional toll program to eliminate any economic disadvantages across the region.

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Pursue policies and other solutions to **rebuild the critical partnership between the state and counties**, exemplifying governments working together to deliver sufficiently funded and high quality services to the public.
- Support legislation that ensures a **regionally balanced approach to land availability and readiness**, and advances the housing and employment land needs of Clackamas County.
- Support policies and funding to address the **housing crisis** and improve housing stability for low income households, including supportive housing services.
- Support legislation that provides **sufficient and predictable revenue** and **state indemnification** of local governments in cases where the county contracts with the State to provide services, such as Aid and Assist contracts for mental health programs.
- Support **funding for local public safety diversion programs** tied to drug addiction, such as crisis stabilization and detox centers, mental health facilities and services, and juvenile prevention programs.



LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Clackamas County's policy positions will be guided by the five strategic goals below. Priority consideration will be given to policies that advance equity and inclusion, and support the county's goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.



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 workforce, and has access to an adequate supply of shovel-ready employment lands to expand economic development opportunities.



Build a Strong Infrastructure

The county supports legislation that encourages long-term investments in major infrastructure projects to improve the quality of life of county residents. Successful legislation will ease congestion, expand travel options, enhance seismic resiliency, spur economic growth in employment areas including the Sunrise Gateway Corridor, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.



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 and preserve the integrity of our natural resource-based economy, reduce and sequester carbon emissions, and adhere to the public process of Oregon's land use system.



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 homelessness, substance abuse and addictions, behavioral health challenges, and public health threats. Legislation also should help to reduce the crime rate and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, improve emergency communications and disaster preparedness, and protect survivors of domestic violence.



Build Public Trust through Good Government

The county supports legislation that enhances the county's ability to deliver effective, reliable, and equitable services to county residents. Successful legislation will maintain the county's financial sustainability, allocate sufficient resources for county programs, preserve state and county shared revenue agreements, support county efforts to attract and retain qualified employees, and ensure adequate community engagement. Legislation also should not impose unfunded mandates, preempt local tax sources, or restrict local government authority.