

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: January 22, 2013 **Time:** 10 am **Length:** 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Approval of 2013 State Legislative Agenda

Department: Public and Government Affairs

Presenters: Gary Schmidt, Jared Anderson and Chris Lyons

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Public and Government Affairs is seeking Board approval of the County's 2013 state legislative agenda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each year Clackamas County adopts a state legislative agenda which serves as a blueprint to protect, maintain and support County funding and policy priorities at the state legislature. This agenda is not the final word on the County's legislative priorities. As issues arise during and throughout the legislative session, the Board of Commissioners will be asked to comment and determine support or opposition to developing legislation.

The 2013 Oregon legislative session will focus primarily on PERS reform, funding for the Columbia River Crossing, improving education funding, public safety reform and growing jobs and the economy. Clackamas County's state legislative agenda focuses primarily on maintaining State/County shared revenue agreements and program funding to various county programs and services, including public safety; health, housing and human services; economic development and transportation. Other priorities are outlined in the attached state legislative agenda.

This agenda reflects feedback from the Board of Commissioners, County Administration and department directors. A legislative planning session was held on January 16 to narrow this agenda. Today, the final state legislative agenda is presented for review and approval.

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 major County programs and services. Loss of these revenues would result in potential cuts to County programs and services.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

N/A

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the County's 2013 state legislative agenda.
2. Direct staff to investigate or research additional priorities for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve the County's 2013 state legislative agenda in time for the County's legislative dinner on January 31. The State legislature convenes on February 4. The agenda will be revised and updated throughout the legislative session as issues arise and develop.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attached is the County's 2013 state legislative agenda.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____
Department Director/Head Approval _s/Gary Schmidt_
County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Gary Schmidt @ 503-742-5908

CLACKAMAS COUNTY 2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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.

As with most governments, Clackamas County faces the challenge of providing more and better services within tighter fiscal limits. We are committed to protecting the financial health of both counties and the state to ensure that the vital services communities rely upon are preserved during this difficult economic time.

COUNTY 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 Share 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 & 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 Employee Retirement System (PERS) Reform

Support reforms that increase the stability and sustainability of the PERS system while maintaining a healthy retirement benefit for public employees. Reforms should focus on key cost drivers, spread the burden equitably among members and effectively balance the principles of benefit affordability and benefit adequacy.

COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Law Library Services

Preserve high-quality law library services and materials in Clackamas County and advocate for continued local control of county law libraries. Clackamas County has a robust law library program that helps preserve residents' access to justice by providing direct professional legal research assistance and legal materials, resources and services to everyone.

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Industrial Site Readiness

Support state financing and incentive programs to assist local government in making industrial sites market ready. The availability of market-ready industrial sites is essential to job creation and economic growth. Assistance is needed for due diligence and capital investments for transportation, sewer, water, brownfield cleanup, wetland mitigation and site aggregation.

Employment Land Availability

Support legislation that will increase the ability of local governments to bring needed employment lands into Urban Growth Boundaries (UGB) to support economic growth and job creation. Support efforts to reduce complexity and expense while improving flexibility and efficiency of the land use decision-making process.

Recreational Vehicle (RV) License Fees & County Parks

Support legislation to achieve a more equitable distribution of RV license revenue between counties and the State. Counties provide 49 percent of campsites in Oregon, yet receive only 35 percent of this dedicated funding source for parks. The percentage is scheduled to further drop to 30 percent in 2015.

HEALTH, HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Transformation

Support the continued implementation of Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) as a means to limit sharply rising health care costs and promote access to care for all Oregonians. Maintain or strengthen counties' role in governance of CCOs and their ability to administer and oversee the delivery of mental health, addictions and public health services.

Mental Health Funding

Advocate for additional funds to sustain behavioral health services at the current service level. Services for the prevention and treatment of mental illness and addiction are critical to improving health status and preventing more costly care and interventions.

Junction City Hospital

Oppose the construction of a second state psychiatric hospital in Junction City and direct the project's budget toward effective community-based treatment, including local residential and adult foster care for individuals with behavioral health challenges.

Early Learning Council (ELC) & Youth Development Council (YDC)

Support legislation that ensures a smooth transition of services from local commissions on children and families to the ELC and YDC.

- Secure a role for counties in developing the local service delivery system and continuing proven programs for youth and their families; and
- Ensure continuity of programs and services by extending funding for local commissions on children and families from June 30, 2013 to January 1, 2014 or until local accountability hubs are fully implemented.

Affordable Housing & 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.

- Increase funding to the State Homeless Assistance Program and the Emergency Housing Account;
- Increase funding for veterans' housing needs to meet rise in number of homeless veterans in Clackamas County;
- Support funding for Oregon Project Independence (OPI) to help keep seniors in their homes and avoid unnecessary or premature placement in higher cost care settings;
- Support effort to prohibit discrimination of Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) in the private rental market; and
- Support reauthorization of the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit (FHTC) program.

PUBLIC SAFETY

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 services.

Any cost savings achieved through public safety reform should be reinvested in the criminal justice system and used to increase funding for prevention and rehabilitation programs, including mental health, drug/alcohol treatment and more intensive supervision.

Juvenile Justice Grant Funding

Advocate for maintaining state grants to county juvenile departments at the highest funding level possible. Basic and Diversion funding from the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and Prevention funding from the Youth Development Council (YDP) allow counties to meet the needs of high-risk youth and safely manage juvenile offenders in local communities.

9-1-1 Operations & Funding

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

- Support renewal of the 9-1-1 excise tax;
- Prevent state “sweeps” of the 9-1-1 account;
- Require payment of the 9-1-1 tax by users of prepaid wireless devices and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services;
- Ensure multi-line telephone systems (MLTS) are able to pinpoint caller location; and
- Oppose state-mandated consolidation of 9-1-1 centers and preserve local control of consolidation decisions.

Justice Court Funding

Support a legislative fix to HB 2712 (2011) to minimize negative revenue impacts to county justice courts, including lowering the \$60 priority payment to the state and ensuring payments to counties are an equal priority to payments made to the State.

TOURISM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Winery Events & Activities

Support allowing wineries to hold events and engage in other economic development activities, while maintaining the ability for counties to appropriately regulate the level of activity and associated impacts.

TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Rural Clackamas County Area Commission on Transportation (ACT)

Support efforts to form an ACT for rural Clackamas County – one of the few areas in the state not covered by an ACT or MPO. Ensure that residents and stakeholders in rural Clackamas County have an opportunity to be involved in the state-level transportation project selection and prioritization process.