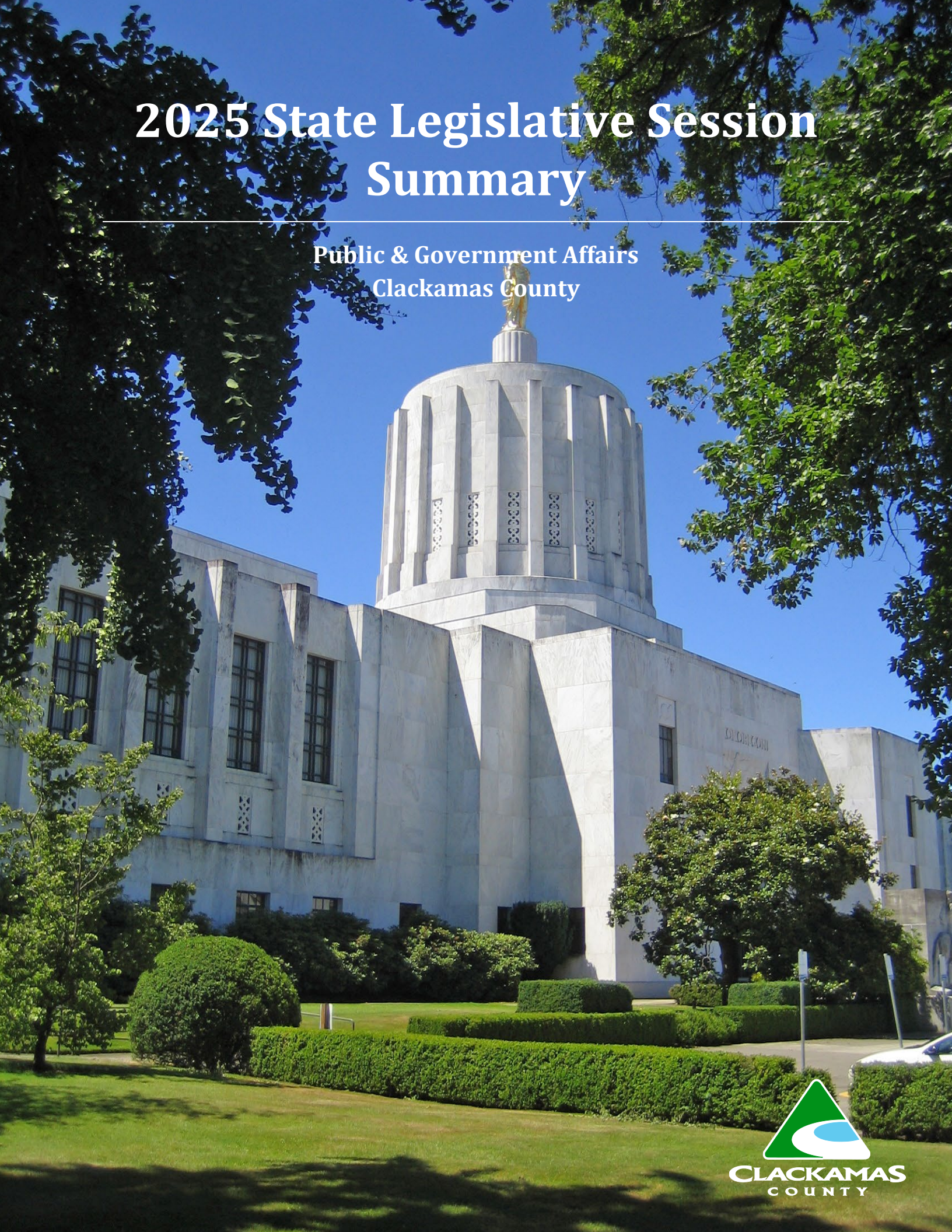


2025 State Legislative Session Summary

Public & Government Affairs
Clackamas County



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Executive Summary of 2025 State Legislative Session

The following chart represents key legislation that Clackamas County tracked during the 2025 State Legislative Session. The 2025 State Legislative Session Summary provides greater detail on the bills, their impacts, and associated advocacy work.

Recovery Campus	<i>Recovery Campus Funding</i>	
	<i>Capital Funding</i>	
	<i>Treatment Facility Workforce</i>	
Transportation Funding	<i>Transportation Package</i>	
	<i>Sunrise Corridor</i>	
Ensuring Full-Cost, Predictable Revenue, and Reasonable Liability Protection	<i>CAFFA – County Assessment Funds</i>	
	<i>Civil Penalties for Public Employers</i>	
	<i>Local Revenue Authority</i>	
	<i>Marriage License Fees Increases</i>	
	<i>Prevailing Wage in Public Works</i>	
	<i>Unemployment Benefits for Striking Workers</i>	
Housing and Homelessness Crisis	<i>Scattered Sites Affordable Housing</i>	
	<i>Statewide Shelter Program</i>	
Land Use, Housing Regulations, and Recreational Policy	<i>Housing Infrastructure Project Fund</i>	
	<i>Middle Housing Expansion</i>	
	<i>Recreational Immunity</i>	
	<i>Residential Development Timelines</i>	
	<i>Public Land Corners</i>	
	<i>Streamlining Housing Permit Process</i>	
Behavioral Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Community Health	<i>Aid & Assist and Civil Commitment</i>	
	<i>Behavioral Health Workforce Incentives</i>	
	<i>Gap Funding for Aid & Assist</i>	
	<i>Expanding 340B Pharmacies and Prior Authorization</i>	
	<i>Victims of Crime Act Funding (VOCA)</i>	
Public Safety, Juvenile, Deflection, and Measure 110	<i>CJC Oversight of Deflection Funding</i>	
	<i>Deflection Formula Adjustments</i>	
	<i>Deflection Funding</i>	

	<i>Juvenile Crime Prevention Program</i>	
	<i>M110 Oversight and Accountability Council Duty and Composition Modification</i>	
PFAS, Utilities, and Environmental Policy	<i>PFAS Biosolids Study</i>	
	<i>State Policy on Water Reuse</i>	
Wildfire Prevention, Disaster, and Forest Management	<i>Office of Resiliency and Emergency Management</i>	
	<i>Geo Diversity of Fuel Storage Sites</i>	
	<i>Revenue for Wildfire</i>	
Foreclosure Surplus Claims	<i>Tax Foreclosure Surplus Process</i>	
Other Significant Legislation	<i>Funding for County Fairs</i>	
	<i>Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs) for Transmission Lines</i>	
	<i>Willamette Locks Authority Funding</i>	
	<i>Urban Renewal Plan</i>	
	<i>Telemedicine</i>	
	<i>Public Meeting Requirement Adjustments</i>	
	<i>Defines “work session” for public meetings</i>	
	<i>Public Health Workforce Incentives</i>	
	<i>Building Codes Structures Board membership</i>	
LEGEND		 <i>Goal Achieved</i>  <i>Mixed Results</i>  <i>Goal Not Achieved</i>  <i>No Position/Impact</i>

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2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

2025 Session Review and Look Ahead

Introduction

Clackamas County entered the 2025 regular legislative session with two primary initiatives: (1) secure funding for the county's recovery campus and (2) engage in the transportation package to advance the I-205 bottleneck project while supporting alternative funding strategies to fund operations, maintenance and preservation efforts.

The session began on January 21 and adjourned on June 27, just 2 days ahead of the constitutional sine die. Of the 3,466 bills introduced, 702 passed. Of those, county staff in every department tracked and reviewed over 2,302 bills. PGA monitored or actively engaged in roughly 68 high-priority bills by the end of the session.

2025 Session Issues

Session Dynamics

The 2025 session will be known for (1) a record number of bill introductions, (2) the leveling off and reduction of available revenue from state and federal sources for local services, and (3) the year a transportation package failed.

A Record Number of Bills

The number of bills introduced forced the conversation about how many bills the legislature can reasonably handle. This led to 12 chief sponsors, including the presiding officers, who introduced [HB 2006](#) to limit how many bills could be introduced in a single session, in particular, how many bills any single legislator could introduce. While HB 2006 failed, it was a firm acknowledgment that bill limits are on the table. However, that did not prevent stakeholders or opponents from needing to pay attention to a volume of legislation that was both overwhelming and unmanageable.

State and Federal Revenue

For the first time in about a decade, legislators faced a level revenue forecast. It meant more conservative spending on state agencies, programs, and priorities, especially with the current federal government's positioning to cut spending on programs and grants that fund services at the state and local levels. Legislators were wise to reserve some of their spending capacity as Congress passed the reconciliation package just days after sine die, an action that is reported to increase costs to Oregon to address cuts in SNAP and Medicaid.

Spending from the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is also winding down. ARPA dollars had to be obligated by December 2024, and spent by December 2026. Most of the ARPA funds sent to Oregon were put into housing and treatment programming. Housing saw dramatic reductions in funding during the session because of diminishing ARPA funds and decreased state revenue.

Transportation Package

During the summer of 2024, the Joint Committee on Transportation embarked on a 13-stop listening tour where legislators held round table discussions with local leaders, site tours and public hearings in preparation for the much-anticipated transportation package introduced in the 2025 session. The Governor's Recommended Budget set an early tone on her desire to avoid cutting jobs at ODOT, projected at between 600 and 800 positions if a package did not pass. Within a week of the session closing without a transportation package, nearly 500 notices were sent to ODOT employees preparing for layoffs, and a message that more notices were on the way.

Legislators will need to figure out how to address transportation funding moving forward. Calling a special session, waiting until the short session in 2026, or waiting until the 2027 regular session are all on the table.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- **September 29 – October 1:** September Legislative Days
- **October 17 – October 19:** October Legislative Days
- **October 21, 2025:** Legislative Concept Request Deadline for 2026 Session
- **January 9, 2025:** Legislative Concept Draft Return
- **January 13 – January 15:** January Legislative Days
- **January 16, 2026:** Bill Filing Deadline for 2026 Session
- **February 2, 2026:** First day of the 2026 Session

Clackamas Caucus

With the support of PGA, Clackamas County's state legislative delegation formed a legislative caucus in 2019 to represent diverse communities and address key issues affecting county residents. Caucus members met twice during the 2025 session to discuss the transportation package and strategies to fund the recovery campus.

In May, PGA drafted a joint letter garnering 11 signatures in support of funding the recovery campus. This letter was shared with legislators and championed a regionally aligned strategy for the recovery campus.

Department Support and Bill Tracking

PGA both supports and relies on county departments to be successful during the legislative session. PGA works collaboratively with each department to designate a primary legislative liaison to work closely with department directors and ensure subject matter experts review each bill relevant to their respective department. This activity requires many hours to review legislation and amendments, craft and implement legislative strategy, and develop written and spoken testimony. Legislators introduced 3,466 bills, of which Clackamas County Government Affairs actively tracked 2,302 (67%) related to local government. Of those bills, 68 were considered high-priority legislation that PGA tracked closely.

In addition to providing legislative support to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and county departments, PGA worked with numerous external partners during the short session to advance the county's legislative agenda. These groups included state legislators and their staff; legislative committee staff; state agency officials; various state lobby associations, including the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) and League of Oregon Cities (LOC); and other regional and local government partners.

Looking Ahead

Summer 2025: PGA will work with county departments to review bills that have passed and discuss best practices during the legislative session. PGA will also work with local and regional partners to debrief on the 2025 session and prepare for the 2026 session. Additionally, PGA will engage with federal and state legislators to build relationships that will promote collaboration on key issues for the county.

Fall 2025: PGA will begin meeting with commissioners and departments to develop a priority list and begin drafting the early stages of the county's 2026 legislative agenda.

Winter 2025: PGA will work with the BCC to finalize the 2026 state legislative agenda. PGA will continue meetings with legislators and coordinate with the BCC and departments to prepare for the short session.

COUNTY INITIATIVES

Initiatives are policy objectives that lead Clackamas County’s state advocacy efforts. They will directly affect Clackamas County in a meaningful way, or otherwise might not advance if not for Clackamas County.

The county adopted two initiatives for the 2025 legislative session, including funding for the recovery campus and advocating for a reasonable Transportation Package. Details of the work and outcomes related to these initiatives are below.

Recovery Campus			
BILL	SUMMARY	POSITION	OUTCOME
HB 2059	State Funding for the Recovery Campus	SUPPORT	PASSED
Aligns with the county’s plans for the recovery campus in Clackamas County, which will provide 70 treatment beds in the area. Early in the session, HB 2059 was identified as the Governor’s programmatic funding for SUD treatment facilities, allocating \$90 million for these projects. Our project, while not named in the bill, was prioritized by HealthShare as a top treatment bed project and identified on an additional list as a key regional need. To strengthen our funding prospect, PGA submitted a capital request form through Senator Meek’s office as a backup plan for \$20 million. Unfortunately, the recovery campus was not funded through the capital request, leaving HB 2059 as the primary path to receive funds for the project. The county is on the record supporting HB 2059, and held multiple meetings with legislators, the Governor’s office, and regional partners to ensure the programmatic funds remained eligible for projects like the one in Clackamas. Staff drafted a support letter for the Clackamas delegation to send a project support letter to the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Senator Meek and Representative Dobson were the leading signatures, and 11 Clackamas members signed in support. The Governor’s office pushed very hard for the \$90m in HB 2059. However, some legislators aimed to use this funding to help the state remain in compliance with the Mink-Bowman Order (see the Aid and Assist notes for more details), and therefore worked to dedicate this funding to secure residential treatment facilities (SRTF). Our efforts were focused on educating legislators about the benefits of keeping the bill broad – which gives the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) the ability to fund programs like the recovery campus.			

Additionally, the state's budget fell \$750 million short of its expected projections, and legislators struggled to make cuts given the opportunity costs. HB 2059 was reduced to \$65 million, and county staff learned that although it was likely the recovery campus would get funding, it would be at a reduced amount.

County staff are working now with the Governor's office and OHA to secure funds from this bill.

N/A	Capital Construction	SUPPORT	FAILED
Provides funding for capital construction projects. Recognizing the challenges with the Governor's funding option, PGA redoubled efforts to fund the recovery campus through the capital construction process. - We drafted a sign-on letter for the Clackamas Caucus to sign as a follow-up from our caucus meeting last week - We met with Sen. Meek and Rep. Dobson to ask them to circulate the letter with the Caucus - Cindy Becker testified in front of the Capital Construction Subcommittee. Despite these efforts, Clackamas County was not given funding through this stream. Less than \$500 million was awarded in capital construction projects, and over \$2 billion was requested.			

Transportation Package

BILL	SUMMARY	POSITION	OUTCOME
HB 2025	I-205 Improvement Project / Add sunrise and TRIP	SUPPORT	FAILED
Seeks transportation funding to meet the growing needs for operations and maintenance statewide, including transit services. Clackamas County joined many other agencies in acknowledging that a transportation funding package was timely for the 2025 session to address major projects with non-tolled revenue. The legislature was motivated to pass a package, with the Senate President and Speaker of the House reminding everyone that a package must pass in 2025. The session was marred by several articles that shone a negative light on ODOT, as well as constant delays in releasing the bill. These two factors created a challenging environment for legislators to advance a package. Many legislators wanted increased accountability at ODOT to repair trust gaps and to answer for cost escalation on major projects. Additionally, the first draft of the Transportation ReInvestment Package (TRIP) was not introduced until June 9, almost 5 months into the session and leaving very little time for legislators to digest what would be included in such a major tax vote. This came after months of waiting, with rumors that the bill was drafted but working through			

negotiations. The initial TRIP framework was introduced in early April, but was incomplete and many legislators communicated they felt uninformed about the package and what would be in the bill.

HB 2025, as drafted, largely included many of the priorities Clackamas County was seeking in a package. It preserved a share of revenue dedicated to counties that goes into the state highway fund, and in its final form would have increased the county's revenue for transportation projects by almost \$25 million per year. It included non-tolled revenue for parts of the I-205 project and increased funding for transit.

The Board approved inclusion of language in the package that asked for ***“the state to convene a transit workgroup that includes local stakeholders to resolve and improve interagency partnerships and service, and address transit gaps and unmet needs in the region.”*** Based on our request, this concept was included in the bill, but as a study that might yield results for future legislation.

The package failed to get the votes by the end of the session, forcing legislative leadership and the governor to introduce an amendment to HB 3402 (see below) to save ODOT jobs through the biennium. This was opposed by stakeholders across the state who clarified that any transportation funding should be for the system and include funds for cities and counties, not just ODOT.

Legislators will examine the reasons why the package failed, so as not to find themselves in the same predicament in future sessions.

<u>HB 3402</u>	Stop-Gap Funding for ODOT	OPPOSE	FAILED
Creates stop-gap funding for ODOT in lieu of a more robust transportation package. The goal was to increase the gas tax by three cents, along with additional registration increases; however, the bill did not maintain the traditional cost-sharing mechanism for local governments to receive funding. The county did not formally oppose this bill, but expressed concerns to legislators and stakeholders about the precedent of only funding part of the road system and the potential danger of deviating from traditional cost-sharing formulas, even in unique circumstances.			
<u>HCR 42</u>	Phase Out HB 2025 Taxes	WATCH	FAILED
Expresses the intent of the Legislative Assembly to reduce or phase out HB 2025 taxes when new funding sources, including but not limited to a cap-and-invest program, are enacted and operative.			
<u>HB 3925</u>	\$30 Million for Sunrise Corridor	SUPPORT	FAILED
Provides \$30M for Sunrise Corridor transportation infrastructure. It was introduced mid-session to			

coincide with the finalization of the county's Sunrise Community Visioning efforts. The chair of the House Committee on Economic Development, Rep. Daniel Nguyen, visited the corridor, joined by Rep. April Dobson and staff from Rep. Hoa Nguyen, as well as many stakeholders, to learn about the visioning work. The adjacent transportation package and a constrained state revenue forecast created challenges for the bill's success. Although the bill did not pass this session, Sunrise is expected to receive an informational hearing during the legislative interim, assuming the time is not consumed by efforts to resurrect the transportation package.

COUNTY PRIORITIES

Priorities are policy objectives that are elevated because of their impact to Clackamas County, or that directly affect the work, residents, or businesses of Clackamas County. Priorities are often (not always) different from initiatives because of their scale or broader inclusion of other stakeholders impacted by the policies, yet still affecting Clackamas County.

For the 2025 long legislative session, the county has identified seven key priorities: (1) ensuring full cost, predictable revenue, and reasonable liability protection a; (2) addressing the housing and homelessness crisis, including a balanced approach to land use; (3) pursuing funds to advance a recovery oriented system of care; (4) clarifying the threshold for civil commitment for essential mental health treatment; (5) Reducing PFAS chemical and liabilities to water service providers; (6) supporting the management of forestlands for wildfire prevention and predictable revenue for counties; and (7) creating a standard statewide process for county foreclosure surplus claims.

Ensuring Full-Cost, Predictable Revenue, and Reasonable Liability Protection			
BILL	SUMMARY	POSITION	OUTCOME
HB 2110	Local Revenue Authority	OPPOSE	FAILED
Requires a political subdivision that imposes an income tax to conform to statutory provisions governing the determination of net income. The county joined an oppositional logo letter with regional partners and submitted a policy statement opposing this bill.			
HB 2688	Prevailing Wage in Public Works	OPPOSE	PASSED
Applies the prevailing rate of wage to certain off-site bespoke work fabricated, preconstructed, assembled or constructed in accordance with specifications for a particular public works project. Specifies examples of such bespoke work. The county submitted a policy statement opposing the -3 amendment, and later signed onto a logo letter in opposition to this bill.			
HB 2944	Civil Penalties for Public Employers	OPPOSE	PASSED
Directs the Employment Relations Board to impose civil penalties against a public employer that has a history of failing to comply with certain requirements under the Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act.			

<u>HB 3518</u>	Increased County Recording Fee for Assessment (CAFFA)	WATCH	FAILED
Funds county assessment functions. Increases the county recording fee from \$10 to \$19, which is credited to the County Assessment and Taxation Fund and indexed to inflation. Also called CAFFA (County Assessment Function Funding Assistance), this was a major priority for Assessors across the state, and included efforts by AOC to support. The bill failed to convince special districts and schools, who are also facing revenue challenges in the upcoming biennium, that increased funding to assessment offices would return financial benefits to them in the long term. PGA expects this legislation to be reintroduced in the short session.			
<u>SB 97</u>	Ability to Increase Marriage License Fees	SUPPORT	PASSED
Authorizes a county governing body to increase fees for the issuance of marriage licenses and registrations of Declarations of Domestic Partnership by up to \$35. The county submitted a policy statement in support of a narrow component of this bill, which would fund mandated mediation services for domestic relations.			
<u>SB 916</u>	Unemployment Benefits for Striking Workers	OPPOSE	PASSED
Allows employees actively on strike to qualify for unemployment insurance benefits. Benefits are eligible after one week of the active strike, and capped at 10 weeks.			

Addressing the Housing and Homelessness Crisis: Advancing the recovery-oriented system of care

BILL	SUMMARY	PRIORITY	OUTCOME
<u>HB 3054</u>	Limiting Rent Increases for Mobile Homes	WATCH	PASSED
Establishes a six percent maximum rent increase, or cap, for mobile/manufactured housing in larger housing sites. Limits the maximum increase in rent paid by the purchaser of a dwelling or home in a facility to 10 percent.			
<u>HB 3503</u>	Scattered Sites Affordable Housing	SUPPORT	FAILED
Provides \$4.2 million in state funding to the Housing and Community Services Department, in collaboration with Community Lending Works and non-profit developers, to convert roughly 70 homes from the county's scattered-site public housing portfolio into permanent affordable housing			

units for low-income and moderate-income families. PGA coordinated testimony during the public hearing. Commissioner Savas testified in support of this bill. Additional supporters of this bill include Representatives Hoa Nguyen, Annessa Hartman, and Wilsonville Mayor Shawn O’Neil, who provided written testimony, as well as Representative Dobson, who testified in person. This bill received significant support throughout the session; however, it did not pass.

[HB 3144](#)

Mobile, Middle, and Prefabricated Home Siting

WATCH

PASSED

Stops private bans on mobile homes and extends a program to fix conflicts in marinas and mobile home parks, including adding potential work to mediation services.

[HB 3644](#)

Statewide Shelter Program

SUPPORT

PASSED

Creates a statewide shelter response, investing \$204.9 million to keep all open shelters operating. It also offers coordination and planning that takes the pressure off localities, such as those in the metro region, that provide shelter services and those with few or no shelter options. -1 was adopted, emphasizing consultation with local planning partners and amending the language on system capacity to 24 hours per day and seven days a week. The county submitted a policy statement in support of this bill. AOC submitted a letter of support.

[HB 5011](#)

Oregon Housing and Community Services Budget Bill

WATCH

PASSED

The Oregon Housing and Community Services budget bill continues to invest in affordable housing and reduce homelessness. The 2025-27 proposal was shaped through consultation with local governments, service providers, and community stakeholders across Oregon. Informed by public feedback and on-the-ground data, the budget focuses on strategic, high-impact investments:

- \$204.9 million to support homeless and emergency shelters across Oregon
- \$50.3 million to help households move from homelessness to permanent, stable, safe housing
- \$87.4 million for long-term rental assistance, providing up to 24 months of support to help families stay housed
- \$33.6 million to fund eviction prevention services, helping keep Oregonians safely in their homes
- \$10 million to support housing initiatives led by Oregon’s nine federally recognized Native American tribes

Land Use, Housing Regulations, and Recreational Policy

BILL	SUMMARY	PRIORITY	OUTCOME
HB 2138	Middle Housing Expansion	WATCH	PASSED
Expands the allowable middle housing and expands the middle housing requirements to include urban, unincorporated areas.			
HB 2258	Pre-Approved Building Plans	WATCH	PASSED
Authorizes the DLCD to establish a series of pre-approved building plans to streamline the approval process and eliminate barriers to housing options.			
HB 2411	Financial Assistance to Industrial Land Projects	WATCH	PASSED
Authorizes Oregon Business Development Department to provide financial assistance to industrial land projects. Establishes Industrial Site Loan Fund in State Treasury (Funded at \$10m via HB 5531).			
HB 2968	System Development Charges Guarantee	WATCH	FAILED
Requires the Housing and Community Services Department to guarantee a housing developer's payment of system development charges (SDCs) that the local government has agreed to defer until after occupancy. Allows the department to assess a civil penalty and interest against developers who default. Allows the Department of Revenue to pursue collections against developers.			
HB 3031	Housing Infrastructure Project Fund	WATCH	PASSED
Establishes a program through which the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority may provide financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, or forgivable loans for infrastructure to support housing development. Eligibility favors developments advancing affordable housing.			
HB 3175	Public Land Corners	SUPPORT	PASSED
Removes the cap (\$10) on fees a county may charge to fund the state-mandated activities related to public land survey corners. The county submitted a policy statement in support of this bill to modernize public land corners policy.			
SB 6	Streamlining Housing Permit Process	OPPOSE	FAILED
Requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services, a municipality, a building official or any other agency or official responsible for administering and enforcing the state building code to approve and issue, or disapprove and deny, any application for a building permit for middle housing or			

conventional single-family residential housing in a residential subdivision with more than six lots not later than 45 business days after the date on which the applicant submits a complete application.			
SB 179	Recreational Immunity	SUPPORT	PASSED
Makes permanent the temporary changes made to the landowner immunity laws by chapter 64, Oregon Laws 2024. The county submitted a policy statement in support of this bill.			
SB 974	Residential Development Timelines	OPPOSE	PASSED
Requires local governments and special districts to complete the final review of final engineering plans for residential development within 120 days of submission. The county submitted a policy statement opposing this bill unless it was amended. The 45-day window was amended to 120 days.			

Behavioral Health, SUD, & Community Health: Advancing the recovery-oriented system of care

BILL	SUMMARY	POSITION	OUTCOME
HB 2005	Aid & Assist and Civil Commitment	SUPPORT	PASSED
Aims to implement major reforms to the state’s civil commitment and Aid & Assist systems, with several bills introduced to modernize statutory language, improve treatment access, and reduce bottlenecks in hospital admissions. In response to mounting federal pressure over compliance with Aid and Assist timelines, OHA also sponsored legislation to limit the length of community-based restoration services and clarify qualifications for certified evaluators. These efforts are aimed at avoiding legal liability, improving flow through the forensic system, and preserving capacity for individuals with the highest needs. The Aid and Assist reform package also included efforts to modernize terminology and standardize evaluation processes, which could impact local court coordination, community mental health program delivery, and hospital partnerships. Additional legislation introduced this session included: HB 2467, NAMI Aid & Assist bill; HB 2488, civil commitment retention policy study; HB 3715, structural changes at OSH; HB 3051, OHA study on fitness to proceed; HB 2470, mandates OHA to expand capacity at OSH; and HB 2481, OR public guardian and conservatorship. Many of these bills were wrapped into HB 2005. County staff collaborated with county departments and the Association of Counties (AOC) to address			

concerns about the consolidated bill, ensuring that both the county's needs and the public's needs are met, and that there are no unfunded mandates.			
<u>HB 2024</u>	Behavioral Health Workforce Incentives	WATCH	PASSED
Directs the Oregon Health Authority to award grants to eligible entities to foster the recruitment and retention of behavioral health care providers at the entities. Specifies the way an entity may use a grant.			
<u>HB 2056</u>	Gap Funding for Aid & Assist	SUPPORT	FAILED
Appropriates \$64.8 million to bolster community mental health infrastructure. Staff submitted a policy statement and testified to support gap funding for the aid and assist population. The county submitted a policy statement in support of this bill.			
<u>HB 2057</u>	Streamlining Compliance for 340B	SUPPORT	FAILED
Prohibits insurers offering policies or certificates of health insurance and pharmacy benefit managers from requiring that a claim for reimbursement of a prescription drug include a modifier or other indicator that the drug is a 340B drug. The county submitted a policy statement in support of this bill.			
<u>HB 2385</u>	Expanding 340B Pharmacies	SUPPORT	PASSED
Prohibits drug manufacturers from interfering directly or indirectly with a pharmacy or drug outlet acquiring 340B drugs, delivering 340B drugs to certain health care providers or dispensing 340B drugs. The county signed onto a logo letter in support of this bill.			
<u>HB 3134</u>	Prior Authorization 340B	SUPPORT	PASSED
Creates a process that exempts certain health care providers from prior authorization requirements under certain circumstances.			
<u>HB 3196</u>	Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	SUPPORT	FAILED
Appropriates \$21.5 million to the Department of Justice to backfill anticipated reductions in federal funding for purposes related to federal Victims of Crime Act grants. The bill died in Ways and Means, though it was largely supported throughout the Capitol and is likely to return if the federal funding for VOCA is reduced.			

Public Safety, Juvenile, Deflection, and Measure 110

BILL	SUMMARY	PRIORITY	OUTCOME
HB 3069	CJC Oversight of Deflection Funding	WATCH	PASSED
Brings the deflection formula oversight under the purview of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). Creates a single application for a multitude of CJC grants. Will adjust the existing formula for deflection. The working amendment for HB 3069 was not introduced until May 21, with roughly 24 hours to review sweeping changes to how the CJC will implement future grants, including for deflection funds. The county's efforts were focused on the bill's adjustments to deflection funds. While HB 3069 largely accomplishes the county's goal of removing the deflection formula from the M110 Oversight and Accountability Council, it establishes a funding distribution method that merits careful attention moving forward.			
HB 3576	Deflection Formula Adjustments	SUPPORT	FAILED
Removes the deflection formula from the M110 Oversight and Accountability Council and gives the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) the authority to develop a new formula, with recommendations on what the CJC may consider in a new formula.			
HB 5004	Department of Corrections Budget Bill	SUPPORT	PASSED
Appropriates money from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections for certain biennial expenses. The funding fell short of the recommended cost study and instead proposed maintaining current community corrections service funding levels. The county joined a letter to fully fund community corrections and raise the rate to \$18.18 per day per person. Local agencies will make a short session effort to bridge the funding gap between what was funded and what is needed.			
HB 5005	CJC Deflection Funding	SUPPORT	PASSED
Deflection funding for the recommended \$40 million was in this bill. The county advocated for additional funding to bring the total to \$46.9 million. While funding was not increased in this bill, additional funding for defection to support work with CMHPs is in the OHA budget bill.			
HB 5012	Judicial Department Budget Bill	SUPPORT	PASSED
Appropriates money from the General Fund (GF) to the Judicial Department for certain biennial expenses. The county identified two items within this budget bill that needed additional support and were not supported in other forums and submitted a statement in support of \$11.9 million GF to			

support mandated mediation by Resolution Services and \$11.5 million to fund county law libraries. While the total amount was not funded, this budget did include these items at \$8.7 million each.

[HB 5515](#)

Juvenile Crime Prevention Program

SUPPORT

PASSED

The county submitted a policy statement in support of fully funding the Juvenile Crime Prevention program at \$6.9 million through the Department of Education budget. Youth Development was funded at the recommended \$6.9 million.

[SB 610](#)

Modifies the Duties and the Composition of the M110 Accountability Oversight Council

WATCH

PASSED

Makes the Oversight and Accountability Council advisory to the Oregon Health Authority. Creates a process for a new formula for the next grant cycle. The county provided a logo in a support letter for this bill.

PFAS, Utilities, and ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

BILL

SUMMARY

POSITION

OUTCOME

[HB 2169](#)

State Policy on Water Reuse

SUPPORT

PASSED

Establishes state policy on water reuse. Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to establish an interagency water reuse team.

[HB 2947](#)

PFAS Biosolids Study

SUPPORT

PASSED

Directs the Oregon State University Extension Service and the College of Agricultural Sciences of Oregon State University to study the distribution and occurrence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) found in biosolids applied to agricultural fields that do not produce crops intended for human consumption. The county signed onto a coalition letter and submitted a policy statement in support of this bill.

Wildfire Prevention, Disaster, & Forest Management

BILL	SUMMARY	PRIORITY	OUTCOME
HB 2152	Geo Diversity of Fuel Storage Sites	WATCH	FAILED
Directs the State Department of Energy to develop and implement a Statewide Geographic Diversity of Fueling Stations for Disaster Reserves Priority Action Plan.			
HB 2346	Office of Resiliency and Emergency Management	SUPPORT	FAILED
Creates the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management within the Department of Human Services. Sets forth the powers and duties of the office. The county submitted a policy statement in support of this bill.			
HB 3940	Tax Revenues for Wildfire	WATCH	PASSED
Imposes a \$0.65 tax on oral nicotine products in packages of up to 20 and an additional 3.25 cents for each unit above 20. Requires the transfer of 20% of the interest earned by the Rainy Day Fund and the Landscape Resiliency Fund (6.7%), and the Community Risk Reduction Fund (13.3%). Increases the Forest Products Harvest Tax used for the payment of benefits related to fire suppression from 62.5 cents to \$1 (per thousand board feet) and indexes the rate to inflation in subsequent years. Creates the State Forestry Department Large Wildfire Fund for wildfire mitigation and suppression.			
SB 83	Repeals the Wildfire Hazard Map	WATCH	PASSED
Eliminates certain building code standards and mapping requirements for wildfire hazard mitigation.			

County Foreclosure Surplus Claims

BILL	SUMMARY	PRIORITY	OUTCOME
HB 2089	Tax Foreclosure Surplus Process Following Tyler v. Hennepin County	SUPPORT	PASSED
Provides a process by which former owners of real property deeded to the county for delinquent property taxes may claim the surplus value after the property has been disposed of by the county. The county submitted a policy statement in support of a standardized statewide process for county foreclosure surplus policy.			
HB 2088, 2096, and SB 517 were also introduced early in the session, some having nearly identical			

language. Ultimately, HB 2089 was the bill that received the amendments to proceed.

It was intended to amend one of these bills to establish lookback funding for surplus that has already been sold but may yet be eligible to past owners, but that failed to get traction.

Distributions following Tyler v. Hennepin, [SB 517](#), distribute the balance of the proceeds from county sales of real property to the county general funds. This bill did not pass.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION

Clackamas County tracks other relevant legislation based on a set of principles approved in the county's legislative agenda. Principles inform the county's positioning on issues that might not be captured by the above initiatives or priorities, but still affect the communities or operations of the county.

Bill	Summary	Position	Outcome
HB 2145 , HB 2304	Removes the requirement that the amount of net proceeds from the Oregon State Lottery allocated to the County Fair Account does not exceed \$1.53 million annually and adjusts the percentage of net lottery proceeds.	WATCH	FAILED
HB 2574	Authorizes the issuance of \$11.4 million in lottery bonds to the Willamette Falls Locks Authority.	SUPPORT	FAILED
HB 2795	Modifies the definition of qualified entity for purposes of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund distributions for public transit. Allows counties to opt for designation as a qualified entity.	WATCH	FAILED
HB 2957	Prohibits employers from entering into agreements that shorten the statute of limitations with respect to violations over which the Bureau of Labor and Industries has enforcement authority.	WATCH	PASSED
HB 3133	Amends conditions under which a county must approve a farm stand on land zoned for exclusive farm use.	WATCH	FAILED
HB 3336	Streamlines grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) to advance the development of transmission lines. Allows providers to make limited updates to existing transmission lines (not distribution lines) without land use approval. County staff participated in a multi-meeting workgroup during the session to ensure there was no erosion of local control.	WATCH	PASSED
HB 3499	Requires the approval of an urban renewal plan by the electors of a municipality proposing a plan or a substantial amendment to a plan. The county submitted a policy statement opposing this bill unless it is amended to make countywide votes optional.	OPPOSE	FAILED
HB 3669	Expands the goals and purposes of the Prosperity 10,000 Program. The county submitted a policy statement supporting the program as a tool to attract and develop a highly skilled local workforce.	SUPPORT	FAILED

HB 3727	Authorizes a physician or physician associate to use telemedicine or provide health care services under specified circumstances to a patient located out of state.	SUPPORT	PASSED
HB 3883	Requires public meetings to include a time for public comments at the start of each public meeting. The county submitted testimony asking for amendments.	OPPOSED	FAILED
HB 3887	Defines a work session for purposes of public meetings. Requires a governing body of a public body to include time for public comment and requires notice of the public comment period if the body votes. The county submitted testimony asking for amendments.	OPPOSED	FAILED
HB 3916	Public health workforce incentives. The county signed onto a logo letter in support of \$5 million for public health workforce incentives.	SUPPORT	FAILED
SB 49	Adds two members to the Building Codes Structures Board (BCSB). The county submitted a policy statement opposing the –1 amendment, which would have modified housing production strategy, local requirements for housing production and affordable housing development, and BCSB membership. The -2 amendments were ultimately adopted, constraining changes to the BCSB.	OPPOSE	PASSED W/ AMENDMENTS
SB 56	Requires the state medical assistance program and health insurance policies and certificates to cover computerized tomography coronary calcium score scans for individuals 40 years and over.	WATCH	FAILED
SB 58	Directs the Housing and Community Services Department to establish and administer a pilot program to award grants to counties for a program that funds homeowners to modify a section of their home to rent auxiliary dwelling units.	WATCH	FAILED
SB 160	Repeals the state payroll tax on wages imposed to finance transportation investments and improvements and maintain existing public transportation services (STIF program).	WATCH	FAILED
SB 592	Requires the Department of Land Conservation and Development to study the formation of a new city in the Stafford triangle area in Clackamas County.	WATCH	FAILED

Appendix A

Clackamas County 2025 State Legislative Agenda

2025 Clackamas County

State Legislative Policy Agenda



Clackamas County is 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

Craig Roberts – Chair

Diana Helm

Paul Savas

Martha Schrader

Ben West

COUNTY INITIATIVES



Clackamas County Recovery Campus

Secure \$20 million in additional funding to support the development and construction of the Clackamas County recovery campus, which will increase the number of beds available for substance abuse treatment. In line with our planned recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC), the recovery campus will offer person-centered support, treatment, and resources to help achieve and sustain long-term recovery for individuals overcoming substance use disorders. The county purchased a property for the campus in 2024, and community engagement is underway.



2025 Transportation Package

Advocate for long-term transportation funding that protects the 50/30/20 distribution in the State Highway Fund, funds the projects committed by the state legislature in 2017 without burdening local communities, addresses safety and deferred maintenance projects, and supports housing and job growth. Transportation priorities in 2025 include:

- Completing the HB 2017 commitments, including the entire I-205 Improvements Project
- Supporting infrastructure investments like the Sunrise Corridor to promote housing and job growth for our fastest-growing cities
- Improving transit ridership and rider connections between urban and rural providers
- Advancing safety improvements in rural communities, including Mt. Hood

COUNTY PRIORITIES

- Advocate for legislation that provides **full cost, predictable revenue, and reasonable liability protection** for local governments providing state-mandated and contracted services. Oppose unfunded or partially funded mandates from the state.
- Advance policies and funding to **address the housing and homelessness crisis** and to meet housing and employment growth goals. Ensure a **balanced approach to land use planning** and oppose legislation that limits or erodes local land use authority. Prioritize infrastructure investments that **rapidly advance housing production goals**.
- Support action to address Measure 110's impact on public safety, homelessness, and our communities and pursue funding for a **recovery-oriented system of care**, including legislation that separates the deflection program formula from the M110 Oversight and Accountability Council and reconfigures the formula to meet the needs and size of the communities being served.
- Support legislation to clarify **the thresholds for civil commitment** for essential mental health treatment and provide **adequate funding** for such care.
- Support legislation and funding to **reduce PFAS* in the environment and water systems and protect the county from undue liability from pass-through chemicals**. Clackamas County is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment.
* Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Support policies and funding to make homes, businesses, communities more resilient to natural hazards and disasters. Ensure the responsible and sustainable **management of forestlands** for **wildfire prevention and predictable revenue to counties**.
- Support legislation that creates a **standard statewide process** for county foreclosure surplus claims in response to the Supreme Court decision Tyler v. Hennepin County.



LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Clackamas County's policy positions will be guided by the five strategic goals below.



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 and climate resiliency, spur economic growth, stimulate employment opportunities, increase housing inventory, broaden telecommunication access, and promote science-based and ratepayer-minded water quality protections.



Ensure Safe, Healthy, and Secure Communities

The county supports legislation that improves the health, safety, and well-being 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 rate of crime and recidivism, promote and sustain best practices for justice-involved individuals, improve emergency communications and disaster preparedness, and protect survivors of domestic violence and child abuse.



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



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 enhance wildfire and natural hazard resiliency.



Build Public Trust through Good Government

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

Appendix B

Policy Statements, Letters, and Factsheets

Oppose HB 2110

Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

We ask you to oppose HB 2110 which poses significant challenges to local and regional governments' ability to effectively address critical regional issues. Hindering the ability of local and regional government to implement income taxes would undermine voter-approved efforts to target regional challenges.

In May 2020, voters in greater Portland approved a Supportive Housing Services (SHS) measure to fund services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The measure creates a 1% marginal tax on high-income earners and a 1% tax on net income from businesses within Metro's jurisdiction who have over \$5 million in gross receipts from both within and outside the Metro jurisdiction. The tax sunsets after 10 years. According to the data provided by counties, interventions through September 2024 include 6,680 households placed in housing, 15,854 eviction preventions, and 1,810 shelter units created or sustained across Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties via SHS measure funds.

As currently drafted, HB 2110 takes decision-making power away from local entities and stakeholders best equipped to address regional issues such as the SHS measure. Centralizing control at the state level and risking a one-size-fits-all approach that may not work for the local communities. HB 2110 disregards this democratic mandate by hampering local and regional governments' ability to levy income taxes in alignment with voter-approved priorities. A local income tax is an important tool in the limited toolkit to address local issues. We ask that you join us in opposing HB 2110.



Metro





January 30, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Income Tax Authority**

Clackamas County opposes House Bill 2110: As proposed, this legislation restricts local government tax authority and potentially destabilizes existing public service programs.

In 2020, voters in the greater Portland Metro area approved a 10-year income tax to fund Supportive Housing Services (SHS) for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. With these dollars, Clackamas County has built a recovery-oriented system of care, housed over 2,000 people, created 210 shelter beds, and prevented 3,300 evictions.

HB 2110 has the potential to change how much is collected in the existing SHS measure. Clackamas County has built out our programming based on projected revenue of the measure as currently defined. As we know from recent efforts to lower the tax, any reduction in revenue will necessarily require cuts to programs and services – which is a non-starter for the county.

Moreover, restricting local and regional revenue tools and removing local discretion in the tax development process is inconsistent with Oregon’s system of local responsibility and control. Successful legislation should maintain the financial sustainability of local programs. Legislation should not preempt local tax sources or restrict local government authority.

We urge a “no” vote on HB 2110.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



January 30, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Tax Foreclosure Surplus Process Following Tyler v. Hennepin County**

Clackamas County supports a standard statewide process for county foreclosure surplus claims in response to the Supreme Court decision Tyler v. Hennepin County.

In 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on a case called Tyler versus Hennepin County, changing how the surplus funds from tax foreclosed properties are managed by counties. Most U.S. states have a mechanism in place to allow a delinquent owner to make a claim for surplus funds (funds that exceed owed taxes, interest, penalties, and reasonable fees for maintaining and selling the property). Oregon does not have a mechanism to repay surplus funds to previous owners of record. Absent a statewide solution, all 36 counties must create their own processes to achieve compliance.

Clackamas County works to prevent property foreclosures, facilitating process interventions and wraparound services for people in crisis. Currently, the county holds title to a number of tax-foreclosed properties. All properties presently in the county's inventory are undeveloped parcels, and many sites cannot be developed due to unique site characteristics. The county has attempted to sell many of these properties but has been unsuccessful. Pursuant to Tyler v. Hennepin, the county has received surplus claims, primarily from corporations that have acquired rights to a surplus claim from the former property owner or their heirs. The county has also incurred lawsuits.

Clackamas County urges meaningful improvements to the introduced legislation to create a simple and statewide process that all counties can follow. Successful legislation should:

- Comply with the basic requirements of Tyler v. Hennepin County;
- Recover the taxes, interest, penalties and costs incurred to maintain the foreclosed properties until the property is sold;
- Limit administrative processes; and
- Protect counties from lawsuits.

Further, the county supports legislation that would establish a one-time fund to support counties repaying claimants for sales that have occurred in the last six years. Counties have spent those funds in compliance with state statute that existed before the Tyler v. Hennepin decision.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



HB 2947—For Healthy Farmland and Safe, Sustainable Biosolids Management Practices in Oregon

HB 2947 will fund the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension/College of Agricultural Sciences of OSU to study the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in land applied biosolids on soil, water, and agricultural crops at select sites across the state. Selected agricultural sites in different regions of the state will be studied to represent different soils, climate, and other ecosystem conditions. HB 2947 will provide \$200,000 in general funds for this study to augment approximately \$800,000 in grant funds awarded to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Columbia River Basin Act toxics reduction grant program. ***The study will be conducted with voluntary participation by farmers and the wastewater treatment utilities that provide biosolids to the farms, and data collection and reporting will maintain the anonymity of the farmers, field locations, and contributing wastewater utilities to the extent allowed by law.***

Sustainable Biosolids Management Makes Healthy Soil, Fights Climate Change, and Benefits Farms

Biosolids are the organic materials collected and processed at municipal wastewater treatment facilities. Treated to meet strict EPA and DEQ standards for safe handling and use, nutrient-rich biosolids are applied on land as fertilizers and soil conditioners for crops and land reclamation. Some utilities turn biosolids into compost that is beneficially used for a variety of agricultural, urban landscape, and restoration purposes. Biosolids have been proven to help improve soil health, retain soil moisture, and sequester carbon, which often makes them a preferred alternative to commercial fertilizers.¹ ***Land application of biosolids is a sustainable cost-effective practice that benefits farmers by offsetting demands for commercial fertilizers, increasing crop productivity, improving soil conditions over time, and helping their economic bottom line.***

Why Study Biosolids/PFAS Impacts to Oregon Farms?

Growing scientific evidence shows that exposure to PFAS can lead to a range of human health problems. PFAS do not breakdown easily, they are difficult to treat, and they are found just about everywhere in the air, water, and on land. They have been dubbed “forever chemicals” because of their strong molecular bonds. They are found in thousands of common consumer products and are used in some commercial and industrial processes, which makes PFAS sources and concentrations highly variable across the US. They are released directly to the air, land, and water in a variety of ways.

PFAS cannot be eliminated with current wastewater treatment technologies, so PFAS received at treatment plants are passed through to water and biosolids. As businesses and industries work to phase out sources of PFAS in manufacturing and consumer products, PFAS concentrations found in biosolids are expected to decline. This is the case with perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), the two most common and toxic types of PFAS

¹ [Long Term Biosolids Land Application Influences Soil Health; University of Colorado, USDA](#)

chemicals, which were phased out of domestic production and use in the US in 2015. However, the persistence of legacy PFOS and PFOA and the pervasive use of other PFAS in society makes it important to understand how or if PFAS found at low levels in Oregon biosolids impact crops, soil, and water quality.

Oregon ACWA completed a PFAS Wastewater Monitoring Project and published the PFAS Monitoring Data Report in December, 2024. This work helps wastewater utilities, regulators, and the public better understand the magnitude and nature of PFAS in Oregon wastewater treatment systems and supports their ability to effectively target source reduction actions. This report combines monitoring data from 21 Oregon wastewater treatment facilities' effluent and influent, 18 facilities' biosolids, and several targeted industries. For both the small and large utilities, the average concentrations of PFOS and PFOA in biosolids (even excluding sample results that were below lab detection limits) were significantly below the national averages cited in a 2022 national study² and the median concentrations were below threshold screening values set in Michigan³ and Minnesota⁴ for any type of follow-up evaluation or management actions. Additionally, based on Oregon DEQ calculations, Oregon's average biosolids land application rates (1.2 dry tons/acre) are far less than rates evaluated by EPA (4.46 dry tons/acre) in conducting its draft risk assessment. These findings combine to indicate that Oregon does not have either PFAS concentrations or biosolids loading to farm fields that rise to the level of concern or risk indication that has been found in states with significant industrial PFAS contributions. ***The question that needs to be answered for Oregon farmers, utilities, and regulators is how PFAS compounds found in biosolids, even at low levels, impact farm soils, crops, and water quality.***

Why is the Proposed Study of PFAS in Biosolids Important to Oregonians?

The US EPA is assessing health and environmental risks and implementing methods and requirements for PFAS monitoring and source reduction actions that will be implemented by states and local governments. In the meantime, state and local agencies in Oregon have undertaken proactive, voluntary efforts to identify sources and levels of PFAS in Oregon's drinking water sources, municipal wastewater, biosolids, and waterways. Information produced from these efforts to date has indicated PFAS sources and concentrations are relatively low compared to states with significant industrial sources. This gives Oregon the time to move forward responsibly and strategically to generate sound science and data-based approaches to locating and reducing PFAS exposure at the source while preserving sustainable and economical farming and wastewater management services. Changing farming practices to replace biosolids with commercial fertilizers also poses PFAS risks, and commercial fertilizer manufacturers are not currently required to disclose PFAS or other toxic material contents of their products.

Maintaining sustainable biosolids management practices as a partnership between wastewater utilities and agricultural communities has multiple environmental and economic benefits. HB 2947 will fund OSU researchers to work in collaboration with DEQ, the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA), local wastewater utilities, and participating farmers, to conduct studies that will help inform local and state decision makers and farmers about biosolids land application safety and risks related to PFAS. ***While biosolids are regulated to meet standards that protect public health and the environment, the EPA and DEQ have not yet established standards for PFAS in biosolids. This study will deliver information needed for Oregon leaders, municipal wastewater utilities, and farmers to make sound decisions about the future of these practices.***

² Thompson, Kyle A. et al; Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances in Wastewater Treatment Plants in the United States: Seasonal Patterns and Meta-Analysis of Long-Term Trends and Average Concentrations; ACS EST Water; 2022; 2; 690-700

³ <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/biosolids/pfas-related>

⁴ <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-wwprm2-113b.pdf>



CLACKAMAS
WATER
ENVIRONMENT
SERVICES

February 10, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to a Study of PFAS in Land-Applied Biosolids**

Clackamas County supports HB 2947 to fund Oregon State University to study the effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in land-applied biosolids on soil, water, and agricultural crops in select sites in Oregon. Municipalities and farmers have shared a long-standing partnership using treated organic materials collected and processed at municipal wastewater facilities as nutrient-rich fertilizers and soil conditioners. Biosolids contribute proven benefits to soil and crops and reduce the use of synthetic fertilizers. Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) currently recycles biosolids for use on approximately 8,500 acres of dryland wheat farms in Eastern Oregon. . Year to year, WES applies about 2,050 dry tons of biosolids on fields authorized by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. If not land applied WES would dispose of biosolids in landfills at a greater cost to our ratepayers.

This biosolids PFAS study is needed because there is growing scientific evidence that exposure to PFAS substances may lead to a range of human health problems. This presents a significant challenge for wastewater treatment facilities that receive PFAS pollution from industries, businesses, and households. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to treat complex chemicals like PFAS, which pass through to water and biosolids. Data collected in Oregon to date reflects that Oregon does not have the types of PFAS generating industries or the highly concerning levels of PFAS that have been found in other parts of the country. It is important, however, that cities, farmers, and regulators develop a better science-based understanding of the presence of PFAS in municipal biosolids and their impacts in the environment and on crops. HB 2947 will provide the funding needed to develop the science to inform future biosolids management practices in Oregon.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 2947.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



February 24, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Related to a statewide shelter program.**

Clackamas County supports House Bill 3644: Creating a statewide shelter response, coordination, and plan takes the pressure off localities like those in the Metro region that offer shelter and those with few or no shelter options.

Clackamas County achieved a 65% reduction in homelessness from 2019 to 2023, exceeding the county's annual goal. The county aims to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring by utilizing the Continuum of Care model and meeting people where they are, supporting their journey toward permanent housing.

Having regional coordination and a plan for shelter operations throughout the state means that people can shelter in their local community, stabilize, and retain their connections in the community as they work to return to a home.

We urge a "yes" vote on HB 3644.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.

**Joint Values and Outcomes
for the 2025 State Legislative Transportation Package
by the Communities of Clackamas County**

Approved on February 6, 2025

The jurisdictions named here support a seamless, functional transportation system that prioritizes safety and the reliable movement of people and goods.

We acknowledge that without adequate transportation funding to address maintenance and capital projects in our communities, our collective transportation system will continue to struggle, maintenance projects will become capital projects, and our transportation systems will fail to meet public expectations and uses. As the state legislature considers funding solutions to address state and local needs, the values and outcomes named here will be the foundation of our advocacy.

These values are not an endorsement of any collective or particular funding proposal.

To ensure an equitable, balanced, and seamless system for all, a transportation package should...

- Develop in collaboration with local voices and jurisdictions
- Protect and retain the 50/30/20 revenue formula from the State Highway Fund
- Secure operations and maintenance funding for state and local partners
- Increase safety for all travel modes and reduce diversion from highways onto local roads

To ensure maximum and efficient utilization of public dollars, a transportation package should...

- Provide local jurisdictions with the resources to implement state requirements
- Build trust through budget transparency, implement cost saving measures, and limit administrative costs
- Maximize our opportunity to leverage federal funds for local and state projects of significance
- Secure varied revenue sources to diversify funding tools for local and state agencies

To advance projects that build public trust and accountability, a transportation package should...

- Finish what was promised in HB 2017 and HB 3055, including the I-205 widening and bridge improvements between Stafford Rd and Abernethy Bridge.
- Formulate a list of additional, high-priority projects for future funding, such as Sunrise Corridor and other investments addressing growth in urban, suburban, and rural communities

To provide accessibility and funding to multimodal facilities and services, a transportation package should...

- Complete gaps in transit service, sidewalks, and bike lanes
- Improve transit operations, including regional coordination and equitable access to transit
- Invest in transit and paratransit so that it is a convenient, reliable, and safe travel option
- Provide sustainable long-term funding for first- and last-mile transit solutions
- Consider investments that improve safety for commuters reliant on bicycles, scooters, and other non-traditional transportation options

To support housing production and economic opportunities, a transportation package should...

- Accelerate transportation networks supporting developing areas
- Improve the operations of regional freight routes, bridges and arterials
- Improve safety and reduce congestion on roads that connect urban and rural communities

Supporting Logos for the Clackamas Joint Values and Outcomes





February 28, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to the financial administration of the Judicial Department**

Clackamas County supports HB 5012 to include mediation and law library services.

Clackamas County Resolution Services provides vital domestic relations mediation services for families navigating divorce, offering critical support to when it is most needed, especially for low-income families. POP 129 appropriates \$11.9M GF, including a \$3.2M increase to better align funding with actual mediation costs. This adjustment expands access to services, ensures courts meet statutory requirements, and helps reduce co-parenting conflicts. By fostering longer lasting agreements between parents, the program ultimately benefits children. Additionally, it improves judicial efficiency, reducing the number of cases that require court intervention.

Clackamas County Law Library also provides essential public legal resources that enhance equal access to justice. These resources, including legal information, tools, and support, are available to everyone, with a particular focus on low-income individuals. County law libraries are facing significant challenges, with funding sources nearly depleted. Clackamas County supports increasing funding to \$11.5 million through the next biennium and the formation of a workgroup to establish a long-term solution to funding these programs, ensure continued access to these services, and prevent further strain on vulnerable communities.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 5012 with amendments.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 4, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management**

Clackamas County supports HB 2346, which officially creates the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) within the Oregon Department of Human Services as a necessary resource to support disaster survivors.

The OREM was established during the 2020 wildfires to address mass care, emergency evacuation, and other critical needs in Oregon's impacted communities. Pursuant to the fires, OREM provided long-term Disaster Case Managers to access and coordinate services on behalf of survivors in Clackamas County. Building on this success, OREM has supported Clackamas County on several other occasions:

- In 2022, OREM assisted with disaster case management for individuals who lost structures in the McIver Fire and Public Safety Power Shut Off. It also assisted county staff with information and outreach to vulnerable individuals dependent on medical devices.
- In 2023, OREM activated 211 information during three county fires.
- In 2024, OREM provided dynamic support during a major ice event, staffing warming shelters, delivering food and water to people without power on Mt. Hood, and providing a generator to an assisted living facility in Sandy to prevent the displacement of 60 residents.
- In 2024, OREM provided a ride share program and shelter staffing during an excessive heat event.
- In 2025, OREM activated 211 to address community inquiries regarding extended fire activity at the former Blue Heron Paper Mill in Oregon City.

Formalizing the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management under the Department of Human Services will ensure continued care and recovery for individuals impacted by a disaster. Successful recovery ensures that we will emerge from any threat or hazard stronger and positioned to meet the needs of the future.

We urge a “YES” vote on HB 2346.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 6, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to the Prosperity 10,000 Program**

Clackamas County supports HB 3669 to expand the work of the Prosperity 10,000 Program and create living wage employment opportunities.

Clackamas County has a vibrant and growing economy, with industry leaders in metals, machinery, healthcare, high-tech, forestry, food and beverage processing, renewable energy, nursery and agriculture, and software development. To continue growing, local businesses require adequate labor resources.

The Prosperity 10,000 Program has proven to be an effective tool to attract and develop a highly skilled local workforce to support business growth. As a past recipient of Prosperity 10,000 funding in FY 22/23, Clackamas County was able to serve 61 individuals, connecting 47 of those people to a job with an average hourly wage of \$23.96 in under 12 months. Where employment barriers exist, funding has also enabled the county to work with a wide range of community partners to provide wrap-around and educational/training services to ensure individuals are stabilized, prepared, and employed in their desired careers. Partnerships include the business community, Health, Housing and Human Services (H3S) programs including Health Centers, Behavioral Health Division, Housing (HCDD) and Social Services. Non-profits included recovery programs and re-entry housing such as Bridges to Change to provide stability.

As Clackamas County continues to incentivize business growth and communitywide prosperity, we look forward to future partnerships through the Prosperity 10,000 Program.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 3669.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 6, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Land Use Zoning Statutes for Housing**

Clackamas County opposes SB 49-1: Though well intended, this bill will functionally reduce local authority in the development process and introduce new barriers to housing production. While we understand that refinements are being considered to the -1 amendments, successful legislation must:

- Preserve local authority to guide development. Clackamas County is urban, suburban, rural, and wild. Land use planning must remain flexible and adaptive to address the unique challenges and opportunities within these contexts. Minimum density requirements and zoning codes tailored to local conditions are important tools to balance the goal of increasing housing production and choice with what is feasible on a particular property.
- Contemplate housing-supportive infrastructure. As proposed, SB 49-1 would allow cities or counties to delay Goal 10 (housing), Goal 11 (public facilities and services), and Goal 12 (transportation) analysis when increasing density. This approach will not work in Clackamas County where the county sometimes acts as the sewer or transportation provider to some cities. Adding density where there is insufficient sewer capacity or failing intersections may produce life safety hazards and more expensive infrastructure requirements later.

Additionally, Clackamas County is very concerned by the frequency with which the state is modifying land use and community development requirements. It is very expensive for the county to repeatedly amend codes, particularly when new requirements override what was done in prior legislative sessions. Clackamas County recently completed code amendments to implement state requirements regarding middle housing, and it is important that the county has time to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of code changes in accelerating housing production before revising rules that were so recently adopted. Please allow time for previous adjustments to prove outcomes before making more changes.

We urge a “NO” vote on SB 49-1.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 12, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Land Use Application Timelines**

Clackamas County opposes SB 974 unless amended. As proposed, SB 974 would require counties to take final action on a land use application for the development of a single-family dwelling within 45 days, including the resolution of any appeals under ORS 215.422.

Most single-family dwelling projects in Clackamas County do not require a land use application. When one *is* required, applicants are afforded a state-mandated opportunity to appeal a staff decision to a hearings officer, including a 12-day appeal filing period, 20-day public notice period before the hearing, 7-day mandatory open record period for any requesting party, and 7-day mandatory response period for any requesting party. In the rare event of an appeal, this two-level process necessitates the current 120-day time limit. Even if the county amended its code to require all applications to go directly to a public hearing, thereby bypassing the staff-level review that is more straightforward for most applicants, the minimum statutory requirements would eat up 34 of the 45 days, leaving only 11 days for a hearings officer to write and issue a decision, assuming no weekends, holidays, or hearing wait-times delayed any step of the process. The combined impact of these requirements prevents Clackamas County from reliably processing a land use application within the desired 45 days. To mitigate some of the timing uncertainty and prevent applicants from facing mandatory public hearings, successful legislation must:

- Apply only within Urban Growth Boundaries, channeling development into places designed to accommodate growth.
- Exclude environmentally protected lands or lands mapped as prone to hazard (Goal 5 protected lands, floodplains) from the 45-day time limit.
- Exclude applications that a developer opts into as part of an alternative review process (e.g., variances) from the 45-day time limit.
- Specify that – notwithstanding local code provisions to the contrary – applications that are subject to the new requirements must be processed as ministerial decisions and are neither “permits” as defined by ORS 215.416 (and the city analog to that statute) nor “land use decisions” to minimize conflicts with other state statutes and local zoning codes.

We urge a “NO” vote on SB 974 unless amended.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



Fully Fund Community Corrections

Safer Communities, Lower Costs.

Since SB 1145 (1995), Counties have operated the Community Corrections system, funded by state grant in aid dollars through the Department of Corrections (DOC) budget. DOC is required to conduct an Actual Cost Study every 6 years to identify the costs to counties for providing this service. The state has not fully funded community corrections to actual costs since 2006.

The 2024 study shows that the rate is **\$18.18 per person, per day**. The base DOC budget funds counties at \$15.09 per person, per day. Full funding requires an additional \$68 million, as requested in DOC POP 102. Community supervision is 10% of the cost of a DOC bed.

Probation, Parole, and Post-prison supervision keep individuals in their communities, where they are connected to family and services, able to be employed, and still be held accountable for crimes they committed, with the goal of transitioning them off supervision and desisting from crime. There are currently 22,000 people under community supervision, 45% are considered medium or high risk to reoffend. 15.3% were convicted of sex crimes or homicide. An additional 29.2% were convicted of person crimes. Probation Officers can have 50-60 people under supervision at one time, juggling high risk and high need cases.

Caseloads have become increasingly complex, with many individuals facing significant behavioral challenges, substance use disorders, and housing issues. Treatment and housing are proven techniques to reduce recidivism and improve community safety. Fully funded community corrections enables more individuals to access them.

What does full funding allow?

- Reduced Probation Officer (PO) caseloads to better supervise offenders, ensure accountability, and improve community safety
- Expanded access to treatment, housing, and services like drug courts
- An opportunity for counties to reestablish programs that have been cut due to a lack of funding, such as work release centers, specialty courts, and restoring PO positions that were eliminated in prior years



March 13, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to behavioral health aid and assist gap funding**

Clackamas County supports HB 2056. Every person accused of a crime yet is unable to aid in their defense due to a mental illness deserves access to the full range of restoration services.

Clackamas County is committed to ensuring that individuals in this situation receive the care and support they need. As the Community Mental Health Program (CMHP), we provide aid and assist, civil commitment, and crisis services to people who meet the legal criteria. These services include care coordination, housing, legal skills training, and peer support. They are designed to empower individuals and ensure they can navigate the legal system effectively, despite the barriers posed by mental illness.

However, there is a significant gap in our system. The Oregon Health Authority has identified a critical funding shortfall between available funds and the services needed to support adequate community mental health programs. At the same time, caseloads continue to grow, costs to provide these essential services are rising and statewide workforce shortages remain. HB 2056 allocates \$64,800,000 to community mental health programs to provide these services, ensuring individuals receive the support they need when they need it most.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 2056.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.

Incentives to recruit a more diverse public health workforce

HB 3916 -- \$5M



Workforce challenges

In the four years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly half of public health workers left their jobs. The pandemic exacerbated burnout and exhaustion, causing more workers to retire or leave—with surveys predicting a total 50% workforce reduction by 2025. The challenge of finding a qualified workforce is especially difficult in rural Oregon where salaries are lower, public health departments are smaller and workers often have to do more than one job.

Across Oregon, there is also a need for culturally and linguistically qualified staff to serve communities of color and those who speak languages other than English. But there are many barriers for people in these communities who want to pursue a career in public health, including training and travel costs, and for higher level jobs like nursing and epidemiology, paying back student loans.

Why offer training incentives?

Healthy Rural Oregon, a federal grant program administered by CLHO, addresses many of these barriers by paying for training and partnering with over 50 organizations to support and expand the allied health professional workforce. The grant has supported training for nearly 300 people in 34 Oregon counties, but the grant ends in 2025. Without a new funding source many students will be unable to cover the cost of training and Oregon will lose the progress it has made in growing a diverse public health workforce.

That's why CLHO is asking for \$5 million (per biennium), split among two organizations, to continue this important work:



Oregon Community Health Workers Association (ORCHWA)



Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH)

\$1.5M

\$3.5M

= \$ 5M



ORCHWA is the professional organization for community health workers (CHWs) in Oregon. CHWs are trusted members of their community who understand the culture, language and experiences of that community. They work to reduce health and social disparities by providing education, direct services and care coordination. ORCHWA will use this money to expand access to training programs and to support more culturally- and linguistically-specific trainings. They will also offer assistance to employers to help them understand the role of CHWs.



Jennine Smart is the Executive Director of ORCHWA.



The Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) serves as the primary coordinating body for rural and frontier health in Oregon, working to improve the quality, availability, and accessibility of health care for rural Oregonians. ORH provides critical resources, develops innovative strategies, and fosters collaborative partnerships to strengthen rural health care systems. ORH will use this funding to support workforce development in mobile integrated health professions (\$1.5m) and in local public health (\$2m) in partnership with the Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO).

Robert Duehmig is the Director of the Oregon Office of Rural Health at OHSU.

Incentives to recruit a more diverse public health workforce

HB 3916 -- \$5M



HB 3916 has been endorsed by the following organizations:



Training incentives make dream job possible for Madras woman



When Jessica Mendoza started her entry-level job at Jefferson County Public Health in 2018, she had no idea that six years later she would be assisting patients in the county's medical clinic.

"I started as a receptionist at the front desk. I became a community health worker after that and my most recent success was completing my medical assistant certificate, so I've kind of worked my way up," said Mendoza who lives in Madras, a town of about 8,000 people an hour north of Bend.

Mendoza made a living wage, but couldn't afford to pay for the additional training she needed to progress in her career. That's when she heard about a federal grant that could help.

"Jessica was already a great employee who consistently took on new responsibilities. Unfortunately, we didn't have money to pay for professional development, so when we heard about the CLHO grant we encouraged her to apply," said Michael Baker, Jefferson County public health administrator.

In addition to the community health worker and medical assistant trainings, the grant also paid for a medical interpretation course and training-related expenses like the gas Mendoza needed to travel to Bend several times a week. The total cost was nearly \$14,000.

"I'm sure there are a lot of people who can't afford to continue their education, so it would be a huge benefit if CLHO could continue paying for these trainings," said Mendoza, whose newly acquired skills are helping the county build better connections with patients.



A paramedic who makes house calls

Nina Kerr-Bryant started her day with a disturbing phone call. One of her long-time patients with congestive heart failure had died. Later in the day, she found out that another of the nearly 35 patients on her case load, a woman who suffered with a chronic leg wound, had also died.

"I manage complex, chronically ill patients," said Kerr-Bryant who is one of 24 certified community paramedics in Oregon. She knows that some of her patients are going to die, but it is still upsetting when they do.

Unlike paramedics who respond when you call 9-1-1, community paramedics make house calls to prevent illness and coordinate care. Kerr-Bryant works for the Scappoose fire district and covers nearly all of Columbia County's 646 square miles, from Vernonia to St. Helens to Clatskanie and most of the rural towns between.



She describes her job as the county's chief roller-skater and cheerleader.

"I do a lot of medical stuff, blood draws, EKG and other tests, but a lot of what I do would be considered social work, like helping patients get signed up at the food pantry, or enrolling patients in a sharps container exchange program, or picking up and delivering medications to patients," said Kerr-Bryant.

And because her patients know they can count on her, they call 9-1-1 less often.

"She's been very helpful. If I have a problem now, I usually call Nina," says 89-year-old Kenny Lang who sometimes struggles to get enough oxygen because of his chronic lung disease.

Today, Kerr-Bryant visits Lang to make sure he's drinking enough water, taking his antibiotic, and that he's coughing up the sputum in his lungs.

This community paramedic says her mission includes improving patients' health and well-being as well as reducing the burden on the emergency response system.

One stark example she says is her "patient zero," a woman who struggles with health problems and anxiety.

"Over the four years I've been working with her, her transports to the hospital were reduced from 33 times a year to one time a year," says Kerr-Bryant who started her career as an emergency paramedic more than 40 years ago.

Although the community paramedic model is in its infancy in Oregon, more organizations are beginning to see its value. Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization, the Medicaid health plan that has funded Kerr-Bryant's position for the last six years, is adding a second community paramedic position.

To find out more about community paramedics in Oregon, read this [OPB story](#).



March 13, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to prescription drugs.**

Clackamas County supports House Bill 2057. Ensuring continued and reliable access to medications is critical for patient health and wellbeing, yet many of our most vulnerable patients – especially those with chronic conditions, behavioral health needs, or disabilities – face significant challenges due to limited pharmacy capacity that undermines access to affordable medications.

Clackamas County Health Centers provide comprehensive services, treating everything from minor injuries to serious health issues, while offering low-cost, high-quality care to all members of our community. Our mission is to reduce healthcare barriers, ensuring that everyone has access to the care they need to improve their lives and well-being.

HB 2057 is a step toward improving access to affordable medications by streamlining the billing process for 340B drugs. This bill eliminates unnecessary administrative burdens by prohibiting health insurers and pharmacy benefits managers from requiring prescription drug reimbursement claims to include a modifier or indicator identifying a drug as 340B. Further it streamlines compliance by allowing Federally Qualified Health Centers to share essential information through a clearinghouse. This legislation not only simplifies the process for pharmacies but also helps prevent double payments on prescription drugs, ensuring that vital medications remain accessible and affordable for patients.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 2057.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 19, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Land Corners**

Clackamas County supports HB 3175 to modernize the Public Land Corner Preservation (PLCP) Program. Counties are mandated by state law to maintain public land corners, the physical markers used to distinguish the boundary between properties. Forty years ago, the state legislature capped fees to support this work at \$10. Since then, costs have exceeded available resources, requiring the Clackamas County Surveyor to reduce staff and preservation activities. As proposed, HB 3175 will remove the outdated fee cap, allowing Clackamas County the ability to set fees based on local need.

Many public land corners in Clackamas County were laid with stones or wood posts in 1865. These markers must be rehabilitated with bronze caps and iron pipes for longevity. Whereas the Clackamas County Surveyor previously rehabilitated 65 corners per year, this number will erode in 2025 to accommodate a smaller workforce without the ability to increase fees.

Deferring the rehabilitation of land corners will create new barriers to housing production. Public land corners provide the basis for land surveys, a necessary step before establishing a land division, subdivision, or parcel. When land corners are not maintained, surveyors may be unable to establish property ownership, delaying housing development.

HB 3175 restores local authority to counties to determine the appropriate costs to deliver state mandated services.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 3175.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 24, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to involuntary civil commitment and mental illness.**

Clackamas County supports HB 2467 & SB 171.

Clackamas County supports legislation that reduces confusion around criteria for involuntary mental health services for individuals who are a danger to self or others or unable to meet their basic needs secondary to mental illness. Clarifying terminology and processes related to these services is essential for improving outcomes for those with the greatest need. The county is dedicated to supporting initiatives that more effectively meet the needs of these vulnerable populations.

The proposed amendments clarify processes to aid the courts and practitioners when they are evaluating individuals for civil commitment, ensuring more consistent and effective decision-making.

- It creates a separate definition for danger to self and danger to others with specific factors helpful for evaluation.
- It defines serious physical harm as it pertains to danger to self and to basic personal needs to protect people from catastrophic outcomes.
- It adds definition of “near future” to clarify how far into the future a court and clinicians may look when evaluating an individual for civil commitment.
- It adds factors the court may consider specific to danger to self and specific to danger to others.

Clarity and standardization in mental health investigations are essential for promoting safety, efficiency and the preservation of civil rights. By ensuring consistent transparent protocols, we eliminate confusion and variability of practice, leading to more accurate assessments and equitable outcomes. This approach is a vital step toward clarifying and standardizing civil commitment evaluation and investigation processes while ensuring that people suffering from mental illness receive the appropriate treatment and support.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 2467 & SB 171.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 27, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to “Bespoke” Public Improvements**

Clackamas County opposes HB 2688-3: As proposed, the -3 amendment would apply the prevailing wage rate to bespoke, off-site fabrication, preconstruction, assembly or construction work performed for public works projects. Though well-intended, it is unclear what constitutes “bespoke” work, and increasing the cost of labor erodes our ability to provide affordable housing and similar public improvements during a period of historic inflation.

Clackamas County is undertaking several housing initiatives using finite proceeds from regional funding measures. Most recently, construction began on the Clackamas Village, a recovery-oriented transitional shelter community for people experiencing homelessness. The Clackamas Village will provide 13 modular building structures, including a kitchen module, two office modules, two bathroom modules, and eight three-bedroom sleeping modules.

The Clackamas Village is a prevailing wage rate project. Moreover, the modules were built *off-site* and included custom modifications to function as a transitional shelter space. It’s unclear whether the Clackamas Village would have triggered the criteria of HB 2688-3, causing unpredictable cost increases and service delays.

Moving forward, the county has 356 affordable housing units under construction, and another 299 units in pre-construction. Projects are also underway to provide the necessary public infrastructure to support growth, such as wastewater capacity and safe roads. As public agencies partner with the state to address housing affordability, it is imperative that local governments maintain the ability to adapt to novel and cost-effective construction methodologies.

We urge a “no” vote on HB 2688-3.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 26, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Related to the financial administration of the Department of Education.**

Clackamas County supports Senate Bill 5515: We support legislation that funds vital services to prevent at-risk youth from entering or becoming further involved in the juvenile justice system and provides the support needed for children facing barriers to succeed. All children, whether they face significant challenges or not, should be provided with the resources they need to succeed and realize their full potential.

The Clackamas County Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) program aims to prevent youth at imminent risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system from engaging in delinquency, prevent delinquent youth from continuing to offend, and improve resiliency factors for youth in the JCP program.

In the most recent statewide evaluation of Justice Crime Prevention services, a survey of 1,647 justice involved youths from 31 counties found that:

- 91% had no criminal referrals for 12 months after starting in a local JCP program
- 69% of youth who had at least one criminal referral had no criminal referral 12 months after the start of service
- 41% decreased in risk factors for all JCP youth
- 68% decreased in risk factors for youth assessed as high risk
- 62% decreased in school dropout
- 39% increased in significant school attendance
- 57% reduction in aggressive behavior at school in the past 30 days
- 48% decreased in chronic school truancy

The agency recommended budget for the 2025-2027 biennium is \$6.91 million. Funding this in full will enable JCPs in the state to reach more youth who need services, preventing youth from entering the justice system, improving education outcomes and giving kids the chance at success that they deserve.

We urge a “yes” vote on SB 5515.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



March 25, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Related to adult behavioral health facilities.**

Clackamas County supports House Bill 2059-2: We support legislation that advances improved access to timely, person-centered care and resources for Oregonians struggling with substance use disorder (SUD), bridging the gap between crisis and long-term recovery.

The \$90 million identified in the Governor's Recommended Budget to expand residential treatment capacity is a critical, and HB 2059 can support that initiative. This will help decrease the gap in adult substance use treatment beds, reduce wait times during a crisis, and expand access to treatment for SUD, mental illness, or both.

In partnership, Clackamas County aims to add 70-beds through our recovery campus project, serving 1,000 people annually with SUD and co-occurring disorders. This project is shovel ready and centrally located on a county-owned 6.2-acre property. The recovery campus is an integral part of our recovery-oriented system of care that meets people where they are in their recovery journey and stays with them to ensure their path to success.

We support our regional partners in requesting \$60 million for projects aimed at increasing substance use disorder treatment, recovery housing, clinical withdrawal management, and mental health residential capacity. This investment is a commitment to strengthening behavioral health infrastructure and building on the foundation for a thriving, healthier future for communities across Oregon.

The recovery campus project materials are submitted jointly with this policy statement.

We urge a "yes" vote on HB 2059-2.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



April 3, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Related to the deflection funding through the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.**

Clackamas County supports House Bill 5005: We support legislation that fully funds deflection programs to ensure that people who are suffering from substance use challenges are connected with the treatment and support they need rather than entering the justice system.

In response to HB 4002, counties were tasked with coordinating behavioral health services and public safety partners by standing up deflection programs. This program utilizes multiple services and ensures that people in possession of certain controlled substances are connected to substance abuse treatment instead of a citation. The resources needed to connect people to the appropriate treatment exceed the current funding. For this reason, we support the \$46.9 million request for county deflection programs.

This funding will enable counties to continue to run deflection programs in the next biennium and fund essential structural components, including:

- coordination of local partners, including the District Attorney, multiple law enforcement agencies, regional behavioral health providers, and peer supports
- case management and data tracking
- equipment, supplies and administration
- training and communications
- connections to wrap-around supports

Additionally, a key element of this program's success is the warm handoff between individuals facing substance use and peers who can connect them to treatment at their moment of need. Without the additional ~ \$7 million in funding, many will lack access to deflection services and essential treatment. As a result, they may become trapped in a cycle of substance use and justice system involvement, leading to worse outcomes for people and higher costs for both counties and the state.

We urge a "yes" vote on HB 5005.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.

Support HB 2385 to hold drug companies accountable so Oregonians can keep accessing the medications they need.

The 340B program allows safety-net hospitals and federally qualified health centers to purchase outpatient medications at discounted prices from pharmaceutical manufacturers, enabling them to expand access to care and provide affordable medications to low-income and underinsured patients by stretching scarce federal resources to reach more people. High deductible plans, high co-pays, and Medicare prescription drug costs, and pharmacy access often restrict patients' access to lifesaving medications. The 340B program provides eligible patients with these medications at a much lower cost. For Medicaid patients who pay nothing out of pocket for prescription drugs, the very providers they see are often funded with savings from the 340B program.

Oregonians rely on contract pharmacies to get the medications they need, especially in rural areas

These pharmacies eliminate the need for patients to travel long distances by offering local or mail-order options. Even facilities with in-house pharmacies depend on contract pharmacies to provide specialty medications they cannot stock, helping provide high-quality care for their communities.

The problem

Drug companies are restricting which pharmacies can fill prescriptions for patients under the 340B drug pricing program.

How HB 2385 helps

Passage of HB 2385 restores the 340B program to operating as it has for more than 30 years, before drug companies imposed arbitrary restrictions via contract on which pharmacies safety-net hospitals and federally qualified health centers can contract with. It restores funding that critical access hospitals and health centers rely on to improve access to necessary health care for low-income Oregonians – at no cost to Oregon's taxpayers.

Supported by:





Outside In





April 9, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Related to the deflection formula**

Clackamas County supports House Bill 3576: We requested this legislation to ensure that the work of deflection has funding formula that matches the intent of the work.

In response to HB 4002, counties were tasked with coordinating behavioral health services and public safety partners by standing up a deflection program. This program utilizes multiple services and ensures that people in possession of certain controlled substances are connected to substance abuse treatment instead of a citation. The deflection funding was based on the M110 formula to expedite funding distribution. However, the variables were not meant to address the costs of the deflection program and need to be adjusted so that county deflection programs are fully funded and can be successful.

Separating the deflection formula from the M110 Council and giving it to the Criminal Justice Commission for oversight can help to ensure there is continuity so that the same agency is both managing the formula and also issuing the grant. The current formula has room for improvement, and we would encourage the CJC to consider other metrics that are presently considered to better align with the work of deflection. Those criteria could include:

- **Rightsizing the weight of homelessness counts**
- **Adding a rurality variable**
- **Adding a law enforcement agency coordination variable**
- **Considers Medicaid, arrest data, and overdose (ER visits)**

Clackamas County is working hard to ensure the deflection program is successful. We believe a streamlined process between grant formula and distribution is essential and will allow the program to be more nimble as deflection programs evolve and balance the funding for deflection programs so that communities have the funding they need to serve the communities they represent and where needs are evident.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 3576.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

July 22, 2025

Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Kropf, and members of the Joint Committee.

Thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 881 and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this item.

There was a theme in the bills considered during the hearing on April 9. That theme is a lack of confidence in the M110 Oversight and Accountability Council to manage the formulas related to curbing substance use in Oregon.

HB 3576 is trying to remove the deflection formula from the M110 OAC. SB 610 is trying to correct the process, increase transparency, and improve the formula so that BHRNs (Behavioral Health Resource Networks) can have predictability and be effective. SB 881 is an interesting bill because it tries to do both those things one bill. I applaud the simplicity of that effort.

I do believe that there are good ideas in all three bills. And I am very encouraged by the work the counties are doing behind the scenes to help SB 610 find a path forward.

The addictions crisis is real. This Joint Committee took action last year with HB 4002, adding resources and connections to bridge the work happening across Oregon. And I appreciate the creative approach to let counties pilot various deflection programs based on their community needs and available funds.

SB 881 brings a fresh perspective to the addiction crisis work, in a comprehensive package. As you hear from experts and constituents, consider the several bills in front of you, and determine the appropriate course forward for Oregon, I want to leave you with my clear support to take action. I think we can all agree, regardless of party or geographic area, that we need to get Oregonians suffering from addictions the help they need, as fast as we can get it to them.

In that, you have Clackamas County's support.



Sincerely,
Ben West, Commissioner
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners



Testimony on HB 3883 and HB 3887

April 14, 2025

House Committee on Rules
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 3883 and HB 3887, which propose changes to how local governments conduct public meetings.

Our governments strongly support open and transparent public meetings and we appreciate the intent behind these two measures to encourage additional participation from community members. However, we want to clearly communicate our concerns about local control of local government processes as well as suggestions for potential improvements to these policies.

Local jurisdictions and their community members should retain the ability to determine how to facilitate public comment as well as the best way to manage their time in public meetings to ensure business can be completed. While business meetings of our Boards of Commissioners include regular opportunities for public comment, our counties also conduct myriad advisory boards and committees which depend on volunteers to serve. We have concerns that applying required public comment periods on the agendas of advisory committees will make it more difficult for them to schedule meetings and efficiently complete their work.

We encourage the committee to amend the bills to achieve the following goals:

- Allow local governments to determine the order of meeting agendas for the inclusion of public comment periods
- Remove the reference to 'reasonable duration'

- Exclude work sessions, briefings, and meetings where votes are not being taken from the requirement to include public comment periods

Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate your attention to our testimony.

Submitted by Tom Powers

tom.powers@multco.us

(503) 348-2021



April 16, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Urban Renewal Amendments**

Clackamas County opposes HB 3499 unless amended: As proposed, this bill requires a new, countywide vote any time an urban renewal plan undergoes a major amendment. Although well intended, this extra step creates unintentional consequences for Clackamas County where best practices are already incorporated into urban renewal planning.

Clackamas County currently administers three urban renewal areas. A fourth urban renewal area, Government Camp, was retired in 2015 after all projects were completed and funds were expended. Each urban renewal plan was developed with extensive involvement from the residents within the boundary of the proposed urban renewal area. Notably, Clackamas County also requires a countywide vote on any new urban renewal plan since 2013.

Although Clackamas County made a local choice to send all new plans to a countywide vote, it would be cumbersome and expensive to send the same plan back to voters for every major amendment, such as refining a planning-level project to include state or federal requirements. Repeated countywide votes also diminish the voice of residents of the affected community, as well as the county's ability to adjust plans to meet a neighborhood's changing priorities.

In pursuit of a solution, we urge the state to consider making countywide votes optional, recognizing that each community may have different needs.

We urge a "NO" vote on HB 3499 unless amended.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



April 24, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to Recreational Immunity**

Clackamas County supports legislation to codify recreational immunity for landowners who allow Oregonians access to their lands for recreational use and enjoyment and for local governments, special districts, and their officers, employees, and agents who act within the scope of their employment or duties to provide and maintain public trail systems.

Clackamas County has a rich tourism economy built around access to recreation venues like community parks, rivers, trails, and agritourism locations. The county also hosts 570,000 acres of federal forest land (52% of the land in Clackamas County), including Oregon's tallest mountain. These abundant natural resources attract visitors from across the globe.

Recreational immunity allows Clackamas County and its special districts to provide unrestricted access to public lands and nature areas. Without secure recreational immunity, park providers, like the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD), will see higher insurance premiums due to the increased risk of lawsuits. Clackamas County and NCPRD would be required to decrease services and close certain amenities to the public if recreational immunity under SB 1576 (2024) is allowed to sunset. The County's other public lands and nature areas, such as County Parks and forestlands, rely on the protection of recreational immunity when granting recreational access to the public.

We urge a “yes” vote on SB 179.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



April 29, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to funding for services in domestic relations cases.**

Clackamas County supports HB 97A, which allows counties to improve access to essential mediation services for their communities.

Clackamas County Resolution Services provides vital domestic relations mediation services for families navigating divorce, offering critical support when it is most needed, especially for low-income families. Mediation provides short- and long-term benefits to children and families, reducing co-parenting conflict, which is a factor associated with adverse childhood experiences.

Currently, there is a funding gap to provide these statutorily required services. SB 97A will provide the OJD with critical information to address this gap and allow counties to increase the maximum fee authorized under ORS 107.615 by up to \$35. This fee was first enacted in 1977 and has never been increased. If adjusted for inflation, it would be approximately \$54 today. This tool will enable counties to determine the appropriate funding level in their communities and work closely with courts to provide needed mediation services that are increasing in demand.

In 2023, 86% of family law cases had at least one self-represented party at final judgment. Mediation provides parents with an accessible out-of-court pathway to resolve their disputes and work with a facilitator to make critical family decisions that last longer than those decided by the court. By fostering longer-lasting agreements between parents, the program ultimately benefits children. Additionally, it improves judicial efficiency, reducing the number of cases that require court intervention.

We urge a “yes” vote on SB 97A.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH PROGRAMS

AOC
ASSOCIATION OF
OREGON COUNTIES



Increase Stability and Accountability for Behavioral Health Resource Network Funding Across Oregon

Oregon is experiencing a significant decline in M110 revenue, which adds instability to already strained behavioral and public health services provided across Oregon. Therefore, it's critical that the Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) grant distribution process be equitable, transparent and collaborative. This will result in stable and consistent support to those in need in our communities.

SB 610A provides the accountability that's needed by making the Oversight and Accountability Council (OAC) advisory to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and putting the responsibility for funding formula development, granting, and appeals in OHA's hands. As an agency, OHA is better able to coordinate across other agencies and its other behavioral health programs. It also must adhere to administrative processes and rulemaking in the grant application process and appeals.

Shifting the funding distribution decision-making and appeals authority to OHA makes sense; its mission is to ensure that all people and communities in Oregon have access to behavioral health care.

This reform is important, as the current process has proven anything but equitable and consistent. The 2025-29 funding cycle was marked by a flawed distribution process lacking transparency, public comment and community engagement. This resulted in disproportionate funding reductions that didn't meet the needs of communities, with little rationale. In fact, under the current funding formula, eighteen counties initially lost an average of 26% of their BHRN funding, with some losses as high as 52%.

In its advisory role to OHA, the breadth of expertise and lived experience in the OAC will still inform the BHRN funding process. SB 610A revises the makeup of the OAC and includes improvements that should lead to more data-driven, consistent recommendations to OHA so the agency can make equitable decisions in the face of reduced M110 revenues.

We believe the changes proposed in SB 610A will support much needed stability for providers across Oregon offering the critical and under-funded services and give our communities timelier access to care, improved health conditions and decreased overdoses.

Please Vote YES on SB 610A



To: Co-Chair Anthony Broadman, Co-Chair Paul Evans
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety

From: Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors, Association of Oregon Counties, Federation of Oregon Parole and Probation Officers, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, Oregon AFSCME, Oregon District Attorneys Association, League of Oregon Cities, Ironworkers Local 29

Date: June 5, 2025

Re: Investment in Community Corrections

We respectfully urge the Legislature to increase investment in Oregon's community corrections system for the 2025–2027 biennium.

Community corrections professionals play a vital role within Oregon's public safety system. These professionals supervise individuals on probation, parole, and post-prison supervision, while also connecting them with evidence-based services that reduce recidivism and promote successful reentry. However, the proposed funding for the upcoming biennium falls short of what is required to carry out these responsibilities effectively.

The state's 2024 **Actual Cost Study (ACS)** established the true cost of community supervision—known as the *capitated rate*—at **\$18.18 per client per day**. This comprehensive, data-driven analysis completed by the Department of Corrections highlights the importance of aligning state appropriations with the actual cost of delivering safe, accountable, and rehabilitative supervision and supports.

Despite these findings, the current legislative budget proposal allocates only **\$279 million**, resulting in a reduced capitated rate of **\$15.09**—which is **\$61 million less than the actual cost that counties incur**, as shown by the ACS. This gap will force counties across Oregon to make significant reductions. Based on a recent OACCD member survey, this could result in the loss of over **50 full-time equivalent (FTE)** positions (including sworn officers and professional staff), a reduction in available jail beds for sanctions and local control sentences, and significant cuts to treatment programs, housing support, peer mentorship, and reentry services.

Failing to fund the cost study jeopardizes Oregon's justice reinvestment and deflection strategies and increases reliance on more expensive and less effective prison settings instead of supervising offenders in the community where they have access to family and employment. The loss of staff and programming will diminish the ability to meet our statutory requirements to follow evidence-based practices, which have demonstrated a decrease in recidivism, an increase in community safety, and overall positive outcomes for justice involved individuals. Agencies also will struggle to meet current supervision expectations and contact standards outlined in Oregon Administrative Rules.

We urge the Legislature to act on the findings of the ACS and fund community corrections in keeping with the recommendations of the cost study. We stand ready to work with the Legislature to build a more sustainable, effective, and equitable public safety system—and we appreciate your continued partnership and support of community-based solutions.

Don't Cut Proven Programs that Prevent and Alleviate Homelessness



The above organizations jointly prioritize continued funding for baseline homelessness prevention and response programs. Oregon is currently experiencing record levels of cost-burden, eviction and homelessness. Cutting prevention and response services will lead to even more people forced to live outside. We know what works to keep people from entering homelessness, and we can't stop now.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS



\$173.2M to Avoid Cuts in Homelessness Prevention Services (OHCS POP 504 and 505)

Emergency rent assistance immediately stops families from falling into homelessness. Typically, households need help just once to regain stability. But as housing costs rise, more families are being pushed into crisis. We cannot afford to rip up our tenant safety net as the crisis worsens. We can shut off the spigot of high-rent homelessness by ensuring the continuation of this safety net.



\$217M to Avoid Cuts to Shelter and Services (OHCS POP 501)

Oregon has one of the nation's highest rates of unsheltered homelessness, and the highest number of children in unsheltered homelessness. Access to shelter is crucial for keeping people safe and connecting them with services. Shelters provide the gateway to stable housing, connecting people with services necessary to transition into housing.

This funding sustains critical emergency shelter capacity created in the 2023-25 biennium, including Project Turnkey and other beds, and will continue access to housing-focused services to transition individuals from shelters into permanent housing.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT

Providing shelter to people experiencing homelessness is a data-backed, humane, and cost-effective strategy. It improves health, reduces public expenditures, enhances community safety, and creates pathways to stable housing and self-sufficiency.

Every day we delay means more Oregon families at risk of losing their housing, more communities at risk of homelessness. Lawmakers must act now to protect our communities, support our providers, and ensure every Oregonian has a stable framework to build their future.

Prevention is far cheaper than re-housing efforts.

Investing in rent assistance pays for itself with lower shelter costs, lower costs of other public services, and better health and educational outcomes.

Prevention helps people stay housed long-term.

People offered emergency financial assistance when facing eviction are:

81% less likely to become homeless within six months, and

73% less likely within 12 months.

Providing financial assistance to those at imminent risk of homelessness decreases the chance of a recipient needing to enter a shelter and decreases homelessness over time rather than just delaying it.

CONTACTS

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Kim McCarty

Community Alliance of Tenants
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June 12, 2025 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts on reverse

Legislature's massive cut to homelessness prevention budget must be reversed

The Oregon Legislature's proposed state budget slashes emergency rent assistance and homelessness prevention services. By cutting 80% of the funding that is needed to maintain existing statewide services, legislators are opening the floodgate for families who will be evicted into homelessness. The Oregon Housing Alliance and its 110 member organizations call on lawmakers to immediately restore funding for these vital, proven, cost-effective services.

Rent assistance, legal aid and homelessness prevention services stabilize families who are one emergency expense away from losing their homes. Eviction cases are at a record high, but thanks to investments made by the legislature in the previous budget, approximately 70% of people in eviction court currently receive rent assistance and services in order to keep their homes.

That will all change if the budget proposed by legislators for 2025-2027 is adopted: rent assistance and homelessness prevention funding will be gutted, from the \$173.2M needed to continue existing services down to \$33.6M. As a result, programs that have prevented 27,713 households from losing their homes over the last two years will serve just 4,331 households in the next two years – leaving over 23,000 households without protection from eviction when facing financial challenges such as losing a job or getting sick. Thousands of those families – children, elders, and people with disabilities included – will face the threat of homelessness.

In addition to avoiding needless suffering for thousands of people, eviction prevention is cost-effective in the long run. A Portland State study found evictions could cost Oregon \$720 million to \$4.7 billion annually in downstream expenses for shelters, medical care, foster care, and juvenile justice. Lawmakers must maintain critical homelessness prevention services now, to avoid a massive price tag for more costly services later.

Oregon has nearly \$2 billion in 'rainy day' funds set aside for emergencies, and the legislature is planning to add hundreds of millions more to those emergency reserves this year. But the emergency is here now. We can afford to prevent the traumatic and destabilizing experience of eviction and homelessness for tens of thousands of our neighbors. The need to act now could not be more clear.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of housing providers, tenant organizations, homeless service agencies, local governments, and housing advocates. We believe every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. oregonhousingalliance.org

Contacts

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Jimmy Jones, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

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Data & Resources

[Legislative Fiscal Office recommended budget for Oregon Housing and Community Services](#)

	Homelessness prevention services	Emergency rent assistance	Combined
2023-2025 budget	<i>These items were combined in the '23-'25 budget</i>		\$130.2M
2025-2027 Governor's Recommended Budget (to continue current service level)	\$63.5M	\$109.7M	\$173.2M
HB 5011 adopted by Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development	\$12.4M	\$21.2M	\$33.6M <i>25.8% of 23-25 biennium investment; 19.4% of what would be required to continue the existing level of services</i>

In the 2023-25 biennium [there was funding to serve 27,713 households](#). Funding included in HB 5011 for the 2025-2027 biennium [will serve an estimated 4,331 households](#).



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

June 18, 2025

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain
Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Via email

Dear Senator Gorsek and Representative McLain:

We appreciate seeing language in the draft transportation package (HB 2025) that directs ODOT to review the funding methodology for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF), including the qualified entity process. However, there are broader, structural issues not currently captured in HB 2025.

Clackamas County is the third most populous county in Oregon, with 16 incorporated cities fully or partially in the county and the largest rural population in the state. As our region continues to grow and housing prices rise, many people are looking to suburban and rural areas for more affordable housing, thereby expanding our region's commute shed—the distance an employee travels from home to work. A larger commute shed increases congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Accessible, reliable, and safe transit service is one tool to mitigate those impacts.

Six different transit providers help residents, workers, and visitors travel to and through Clackamas County. Although we have many transit providers, much of Clackamas County is a transit desert with service levels far below those experienced in nearby Multnomah and Washington counties. For example, of the approximately 284,000 Clackamas County residents who live within the TriMet district, 113,000 (40%) of them live farther than ¼ mile from a transit route, an industry standard measure of transit accessibility. These people are contributing to STIF through their paycheck for a service that they cannot reasonably access. Older adults, children, and people with a disability are particularly disadvantaged by distance from transit.

To identify and address those gaps and inequities, as well as to begin improving transit service or adding it where there is none today, we propose including in the transportation package the following language: "The state to convene a transit workgroup that includes local stakeholders to resolve and improve interagency partnerships and service, and address transit gaps and unmet needs in the region."

Investing in transit is investing in our communities. It connects people to jobs, enhances economic opportunities, and fosters an environment where all neighbors can thrive, regardless of where they live. We believe this is a first step toward improving service and access for all our constituents.

Sincerely,

Craig Roberts, Clackamas County Chair
On Behalf of the Board of Commissioners

Lisa Batey, Mayor of Milwaukie
Rory Bialostosky, Mayor of West Linn
Joe Buck, Mayor of Lake Oswego
Tom Ellis, Mayor of Happy Valley
Brian Hodson, Mayor of Canby
Scott Keyser, Mayor of Molalla
Michael Milch, Mayor of Gladstone
Denyse McGriff, Mayor of Oregon City
Shawn O'Neill, Mayor of Wilsonville
Kathleen Walker, Mayor of Sandy

CC: Senate President Wagner
Speaker of the House Fahey
Clackamas Caucus

Reject Unfeasible Expansion of Prevailing Wage and Disadvantages to Oregon Manufacturers:

Oppose HB 2688A

HB 2688A proposes a significant expansion of Oregon's prevailing wage law, extending it from construction work performed on the job site to materials utilized for public works projects that are fabricated, assembled, preconstructed or constructed offsite. This unprecedented change would impose construction wage standards on the construction materials manufacturing processes, creating logistical, financial, and legal challenges that would harm Oregon's economy and public works projects. We urge opposition to this bill in its current form.

Key Concerns with HB 2688A

- **Misapplication of Construction Wages to Manufacturing**

Manufacturing is distinct from construction, and applying construction prevailing wage standards to manufacturing is impractical. Manufacturers, unfamiliar with these complex regulations, would face significant compliance burdens, potentially deterring them from supplying materials for Oregon's public works projects.

- **Reduced Availability of Materials**

The increased costs and administrative complexity of complying with prevailing wage laws would likely discourage both in-state and out-of-state manufacturers, including international suppliers, from participating in Oregon's public works projects. This could lead to shortages of critical materials or eliminate access to necessary goods entirely.

- **Increased Costs for Public Works**

Manufacturers who continue to supply Oregon projects would be required to raise prices to cover compliance costs, increasing the overall cost of public works projects and straining public budgets.

- **Out of State Enforcement Challenges**

Extending Oregon's prevailing wage law to out-of-state and international manufacturers raises significant jurisdictional questions. It is unclear whether the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) has the authority to enforce Oregon wage laws outside the state. If it does, enforcement would require substantial resources, further burdening BOLI at a time when it is already seeking additional funding to maintain current operations.

Fiscal and Administrative Impacts

The Fiscal Impact Statement (FIS) for the -A8 amendment to HB 2688A highlights significant administrative challenges:

- **Inadequate Staffing**

The FIS allocates only 1 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position for the 2027-29

biennium and 2 FTEs for the following biennium, despite a projected 59% increase in covered projects.

- **Increased Workload**

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) predicts:

- An estimated 53% increase in calls to the prevailing wage hotline (from 2,141 to 3,295 calls per year).
- An estimated 53% increase in determination requests (from 101 to 155 per year)
- An estimated 53% increase in complaint investigations (from 129 to 198 per year), with an average resolution time of 206 days, which is expected to remain unchanged.

- **Unaddressed Needs for Other Agencies:**

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), a major public contracting agency reliant on off-site manufactured products, has indicated a need for additional staff to comply with the bill. However, neither the -A8 nor the -A10 amendments allocate resources to meet this need, risking project delays and compliance issues.

The expansion of prevailing wage requirements to manufacturing under HB 2688A is impractical, costly, and administratively unfeasible. It risks reducing the supply of materials, increasing project costs, and overextending BOLI's enforcement capacity, while potentially inviting legal challenges. We strongly urge policymakers to oppose HB 2688A to protect Oregon's public works projects and economic vitality.

