



**JEFF COZEN**

Chair  
Multnomah County

February 2013

Dear Friends,

On Feb. 1, I had the honor of delivering my [2013 State of the County address](#) at the City Club of Portland to a room filled with family, friends, colleagues and fellow county residents. Giving this speech was especially important to me, because this time around I decided to do something different.

Armed only with a few note cards of highlights I wanted to touch on and a passion for the work we do at Multnomah County, I gave an unscripted talk. My reason for doing this was a simple one. I wanted to walk my talk and echo the theme of my speech: taking measured risks and encouraging others to do the same.



[Click here to view the 2013 State of the County address.](#)

Now that the speech is behind me, I can say with certainty that while taking measured risks carries a risk of possible failure, the benefit can be substantial.

Taking that risk at the City Club of Portland gave me the opportunity to speak from the heart and communicate to county residents exactly who I am as Multnomah County Chair. It also gave me the chance to share my stance on tough issues like tobacco taxes, mortgage fraud, gun laws and mental health in our region, as well as the path I believe we should take in addressing them.

If you would like to hear first-hand what my stances are, in addition to the innovations and accomplishments we've made at the county as a result of taking measured risks, I invite you to [click here](#) and view the 2013 State of the County address.

Thanks,