

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 08-075

Providing Direction for the County's Legislative Activities for the 2009 Session of the Oregon Legislature in Support of Funding for Court Facilities

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Multnomah County is mandated by Oregon Revised Statute 1.185 to provide suitable and sufficient court facilities for the operation of State Courts and to provide maintenance for State Court facilities. Oregon Revised Statute 3.014(3) requires Multnomah County to provide court facilities in the City of Gresham.
- b. The deficiencies of Multnomah County court facilities have been documented in 25 different studies since 1968. The 2003 Courthouse Blue Ribbon Steering Committee study recommended construction of an East County court facility and construction of a new court facility in downtown Portland.
- c. Multnomah County is in the process of constructing the East County Justice Facility. The cost of this project will be paid with the proceeds from sales of County-owned properties and other resources.
- d. The Multnomah County Courthouse, built in 1914, is a seismic hazard, is in poor condition and needs to be replaced as recommended in Resolution 04-028. Multnomah County owns the North Hawthorne Bridgehead Block in downtown Portland, which Resolution 06-203 found to be the preferred site for a new Multnomah County Courthouse.
- e. The cost of a new courthouse is estimated to exceed \$200 million. Multnomah County lacks sufficient revenues to construct a new downtown courthouse. State statutes currently preempt Oregon counties from increasing document recording fees or imposing various other fees locally in order to meet the rising cost of county obligations

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Board directs that the county's legislative activities for the 2009 Session shall promote legislation to lift statutory prohibitions on charging and collecting document recording fees and/or other revenue sources, to change the current or future distribution formula of such fees and to direct portions of the revenue toward construction and maintenance of court facilities.

2. The Board further directs its legislative activities to pursue opportunities to advance the county's long term interests in:
- i. improving and maintaining its court facilities; and
 - ii. removing state preemption laws to enable counties to raise revenues.

ADOPTED this 29th day of May, 2008.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Agnes Sowle, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:

Lisa Naito, Multnomah County Commissioner