

Multnomah County Oregon

2009 State & Federal Legislative Agenda



Adopted January 22, 2009

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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DEBORAH KAFOURY ● DISTRICT 1
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JUDY SHIPRACK ● DISTRICT 3
DIANE MCKEEL ● DISTRICT 4**

Board of County Commissioners Statement

The Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to present its 2009 state and federal legislative agenda. This agenda is the result of collaboration among commissioners, engaging community members, consulting with our partners within and outside the county, and soliciting technical advice from county professionals.

With the nation in its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, Multnomah County is faced with significant challenges.

- The FY2010 county budget will have a gap of close to \$35 million, roughly 10 percent of the General Fund budget. The gap may grow further due to the unforeseeable depth of the nation's economic crisis.
- Multnomah County is taking steps to institute greater accountability resulting from Cascadia Behavioral Health's financial crisis in 2008. The aftermath revealed a fragile mental health system that is grossly under-funded, lacks capacity and essential services such as alternatives to costly hospitalization.
- The county is confronted with aging infrastructure in dire need of replacement. The Sellwood Bridge Project has no guarantee of financing. The downtown and east county courthouses need to be replaced.
- The passage of Measure 57 creates an unfunded mandate amidst a dramatic revenue shortfall for both the state and the county.
- Preemptions limit the county's ability to use creative local revenue options to address any of the needs above.

In the coming sessions of the Oregon Legislature and the 111th Congress, Multnomah County will press for legislation that strengthen essential public services critical to job creation and protects vulnerable populations. The citizens of Multnomah County expect and deserve essential public services, including services such as health clinics, mental health care, drug and alcohol addiction treatment, senior and disabled services, school based health clinics, disease control, safety of Willamette River bridges, law enforcement/corrections, property tax assessment, elections and many others. Citizens also expect the state of Oregon and the federal government to provide essential public services and to work in partnership on levels of their government.

Multnomah County's 2009 state and federal legislative agenda seeks tools to improve fiscal stability while acquiring the necessary resources to meet the urgent needs of its citizens.

Sincerely,



Ted Wheeler, Chair



Deborah Kafoury, District 1



Jeff Cogen, District 2



Judy Shiprack, District 3



Diane McKeel, District 4

Multnomah County Oregon Economic Snapshot

	<u>Multnomah County</u>	<u>Oregon</u>
Population, 2006 estimate	717,880	3,791,075
Median household income, 2004	\$42,334	\$42,568
Persons below poverty, 2004	14.2%	12.9%
No. of Businesses (non-farm), 2005	24,146	108,571
Size of workforce (non-farm), 2005	391,797	1,409,576
Unemployment Rate (Seasonally adjusted October 2008)	6.7%	8.1%



2009-2011 STATE AGENDA **POLICY AGENDA**



RESTORE LOCAL CONTROL

ISSUE: *State preemptions and other restrictions on local government discourage creative solutions to local problems and undermine local authority. Multnomah County needs to have all the tools in its toolbox to meet the needs of its residents.*

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports lifting current preemptions and ensuring that no new preemptions are adopted.

FUND STATE MANDATES

ISSUE: *Multnomah County is bearing the brunt of underfunded services required by the State in corrections, health and human services, and other areas including court facilities. As a result, Multnomah County has supplemented what it receives from the state with County General Funds in order to meet its legal obligations. Given the economic situation and growing community needs, the General Fund is not able to sustain these services.*

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports adequate funding to cover actual costs of providing state required services. This includes:

- 95 percent funding level of transfer area agencies on aging and disabilities;
- incorporation of workload staffing standards and utilization rates as basis for funding human services;
- funding adequately mental health involuntary commitment investigators and emergency holds in acute care;
- funding implementation of Measure 57 treatment services, sanctions and local corrections options; and
- funding for planning Urban and Rural Reserves;

PUBLIC SAFETY

ISSUE: *The passage of Measure 57 added another unfunded mandate to Multnomah County. The costs of corrections are increasing and without adequate funding or a different approach, the state corrections system will be compromised.*

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports innovative state policies that enable counties to be more effectively utilized in the corrections system. This includes:

- discretionary immunity for juvenile detention directors;
- direct contracting for close custody, secure beds and community based placements,
- local control arrangements to utilize the Wapato Jail facility;
- funding for drug and alcohol addiction treatment services for county jail prisoners; and
- seed funding for the Multnomah County Regional Justice Network.

REINVEST IN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

ISSUE: *Multnomah County lacks the resources to adequately maintain 6 regional bridges and over 300 miles of road.*

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports a state transportation funding package that provides the funding and tools to maintain its roads and bridges on a long term basis. This includes:

- an increase in revenues for operations and maintenance of transportation infrastructure;
- a 50/30/20 revenue formula among state, counties, and cities; and
- an increase of the gas tax;

CLOSE GAPS IN MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

ISSUE 1: *Since the 2001 closure of a Portland mental health triage center operated by Providence, first responders that treat persons suffering a mental health crisis do not have a viable and cost effective alternative to hospital emergency rooms or the County jail to take these persons for proper treatment. This has led to improper care and expense to emergency responders and local area hospitals. The lack of a sub-acute crisis evaluation and treatment facility in Multnomah County is a huge gap in the mental health system.*

PRIORITY: Multnomah County and the City of Portland seek state funding for capital costs and operations of a 16-bed sub-acute mental health crisis evaluation and treatment facility.

REDUCE UNINSURED POPULATION

ISSUE: *Since the 2002 recession, the state has reduced significantly the Oregon Health Plan Standard population, leaving thousands of Oregonians without health care coverage. The consequences have dramatically driven up costs for the county's health clinics and for hospital emergency rooms. Changes to enrollment have resulted in a loss of matching state and federal dollars to Multnomah County to pay for residential treatment services.*

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports:

- steps to increase OHP's Standard and Plus populations including the coverage of single males in need of residential addictions treatment. Increasing OHP enrollment is the key to reducing overall costs in health and human services for the state, counties, and hospitals by increasing federal matching dollars.
- the recommendations of the Oregon Health Fund Board in the Aim Report including the creation of an Oregon Health Authority.

REMOVE BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

ISSUE: *Specific state laws inhibit Multnomah County residents and county operations from being environmentally sound and sustainable. Small changes to state law will allow county operations and residents to promote the local economy, reduce pollution and the carbon footprint, and conserve natural resources.*

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports changes to state law that:

- give local governments the option to prefer local food products in the procurement process; and
- allow local governments to establish local improvement districts (LIDs) for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to property, where property owners could voluntarily participate in a loan program for sustainable energy upgrades; and
- creates a legal definition of "grey" water for non-potable purposes such as irrigation to encourage water conservation.

REFORM PROPERTY TAX LIMITATION

ISSUE: *Measure 50 created a permanent structural deficit for local government in Oregon. Multnomah County cannot afford to provide services with revenues generated by a property tax rate that grows slower than real market inflation. Further, the Measure 50 property tax system is inequitable to homeowners with equal valued homes but taxed unequally.*

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports a legislative referral to voters of a ballot measure that reforms property tax limitation. In particular, Multnomah County favors reform that:

- supports equalizing assessed values to make taxes proportionate to market values;
- provides tax relief for seniors on fixed incomes and low-income renters; and
- provides adequate revenues for essential public services.



**2009-2011 STATE AGENDA
BUDGET AGENDA**



Multnomah County faces \$35 million deficit in its General Fund for FY2010. The cuts in Governor's 2009-2011 Recommended Budget presents an additional \$20 million loss to Multnomah County in human services, public safety, and other core areas.

Multnomah County asks the Governor and Legislature to consider the following principles when making budget decisions:

- 1) **Ensure that services for vulnerable populations are protected.**
- 2) **Ensure that state cuts do not create an additional unfunded mandate for Multnomah County.**

COUNTY PROGRAMS IMPACTED BY THE STATE BUDGET		
<u>DEPT. OF COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES</u>	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Administration and Support	
	DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Services for Children	
	AGING AND DISABILITIES SERVICES Access & Early Intervention Services	
	AGING AND DISABILITIES SERVICES Adult Care Home Program	
	AGING AND DISABILITIES SERVICES Long Term Care	
	AGING AND DISABILITIES SERVICES Adult Protective Services	
	AGING AND DISABILITIES SERVICES Administration	
	Note: for all AGING AND DISABILITIES SERVICES programs receiving Medicaid funding	
	MENTAL HEALTH Quality Management and Protective Services	
	Mental Health Crisis Services	
	MENTAL HEALTH Commitment Services - Waitlist Reduction for State Hospital Admissions	
	MENTAL HEALTH Commitment Services - Involuntary Investigation Services	
	MENTAL HEALTH Commitment Services - Emergency Holds for Uninsured Individuals	
	MENTAL HEALTH Residential Services - Transitional Housing for Adults	
	MENTAL HEALTH Residential Services - Residential Services for Adults	
	Early Psychosis Intervention Services	
	Adult Addictions Treatment Continuum - A/D Residential Treatment	
	Adult Addictions Treatment Continuum - Adult Outpatient A/D Treatment	
	Youth Gang Prevention	
	Housing Stabilization for Vulnerable Populations	
	Runaway Youth Services	
	Social & Support Services for Educational Success	
	Anti-Poverty Services	
	Child Development Services	
	<u>DEPT. OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE</u>	Gang Transition Svcs - GRIT
		Gang Transition Svcs - EMGET
Individualized Svcs - FLEX		
OCCF JCP Prevention		
Juvenile Crime Prevention - Basic		
OYA JCP Diversion		
State Mental Health		
CASA		
Parole Hearing		
DOC 1145		
DOC Measure 57 (new)		
DOC Subsidy		

	DOC AIP
	DOC Sex Offender DepoProvera
	DOC Prisoner Re-Entry
	OYA Timber Backfill
	OYA SRTP
<u>COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT</u>	La Clinica
	Public Health and Regional Health Systems Emergency
	Communicable Disease Prevention & Control
	STD/HIV/Hep C Community Prevention Program
	Services for Persons Living with HIV
	Early Childhood Svcs for First Time Parents
	Early Childhood Svcs for High Risk Prenatal
	Early Childhood Svcs for High Risk Infants and Children
	Immunization
	Lead Poisoning Prevention
	Medicaid/Medicare Eligibility
	Dental Services
	Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
	North Portland Health Clinic
	Northeast Health Clinic
	Westside Health Clinic
	Westside Health Clinic Van and Homeless Outreach
	Mid County Health Clinic
	East County Health Clinic
	School Based Health Centers
	Pharmacy
	Health Planning and Evaluation
	Chronic Disease Prevention
<u>LIBRARY</u>	Early Childhood Resources
<u>SHERIFF'S OFFICE</u>	MCIJ
	River Patrol
	Fac. Security Unit
<u>DEPT. OF COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>	Transportation - Road & Bridge Services and Capital

EMERGING ISSUES

Multnomah County will be tracking the following issues of interest in the 2009 Legislative Session.

- Court Facilities Funding
- Access to Oregon State Police use of the National Fingerprint Database
- Oregon Tort Reform Act
- Tax Conservation and Supervising Commission Cost Sharing
- Oregon Health Fund Board Recommendations
- Expedited Partnership Therapy legislation
- Governor's Climate Change Initiatives
- Recommendations of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team



**111th CONGRESS FEDERAL AGENDA
APPROPRIATIONS/REAUTHORIZATION AGENDA**



PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

SELLWOOD BRIDGE

The Sellwood Bridge is the busiest two-lane bridge in Oregon with over 30,000 daily vehicle crossing. The 90-year old bridge rates very low in federal safety standards as a result of its age and the geological movement of the West Hills buckling the structure. Weight restrictions have been in place since 2004, affecting freight trucks and buses as well as the local economy. Multnomah County has completed the Sellwood Bridge Project DEIS and will select a Locally Preferred Alternative in February 2009. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2012 pending federal and local match. The cost is estimated between \$280 million \$360 million in 2012 YOE.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County seeks an earmark of \$100 Million in SAFE TEA LU. The County is committed to raising the remainder from state and local sources.

BEAVER CREEK CULVERTS

The lower Beaver Creek in Multnomah County is critical habitat to federally endangered species including Lower Columbia River Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Trout, and candidate species including Lower Columbia River Coho Salmon. The existing waterway and wetland are neither conducive to fish passage nor other wildlife.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County seeks \$6 million for the replacement of the 3 downstream-most culverts, (Troutdale Rd., Stark St., and Cochran Rd.) with larger culverts or bridges, opening 4.6 miles of Beaver Creek to fish passage. Included is restoration of natural substrate under bridges and culverts; stabilization of stream bed to ensure no head-cutting occurs; removal of non-native exotic (plant) species and replant with native species along bank; and, enhance a forested wetland adjacent to the Stark St. crossing by removal of non-native species with native species. This would improve habitat for many wildlife species including neotropical migratory birds that use riparian habitat for nesting and cover, small mammals that use riparian areas as migration corridors, and native amphibians and reptiles that would utilize wetland habitats.

SANDY RIVER TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The National Scenic Area Act authorized \$10 million for construction of recreation facilities in the Columbia River Gorge, a national recreational area along the Oregon/Washington border. Only half of the funds have been appropriated and none have been expended in Multnomah County. Consistent with the intent of the Act, the Columbia Gorge Management Plan prioritizes trail construction at the Sandy River Delta, Gorge Gateway area and Lewis and Clark State Park.

PRIORITY: Recognizing increasing public demand for recreational opportunities in this "Gateway to the Gorge", Multnomah County seeks \$5 million to implement the Sandy River Connections Concept Plan was completed in January 2008 and all of the parties have agreed to support its implementation.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The greatest impediment to diverting mentally ill persons from the criminal justice system is the lack of supportive housing. When the Courts sentence mentally ill persons to treatment programs, the defendants often have trouble getting into public housing. Without supportive housing, successful diversion is difficult to attain for this vulnerable population. There is a need for permanent supportive housing with services and rent assistance for difficult to place homeless persons with mental illnesses.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County with the support of Oregon Circuit Court Judge Julie Frantz, District Attorney Michael Schrunck, and the Metropolitan Public Defender Director John Connors seeks \$900,000 to purchase and rehabilitate a 10-unit housing complex to fulfill this critical need. Further, Multnomah County supports federal policies and funding that create alternatives to jail or hospital emergency rooms for the mentally ill.

PUBLIC SAFETY

SECOND CHANCE ACT

Multnomah County is meeting the needs of thousands of people who return from prison and jail to our communities a year. Research has shown that when the issues of employment, housing, mental health, and addiction are addressed for the population of people reentering our communities from jail, the likelihood of the commission of more crime and the consumption of more public resources is greatly reduced.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County is seeking a \$2 million federal allocation to support re-entry services provided by its' Department of Community Justice. These funds will be used to increase the number of people receiving transitional services as they leave prison and jail by a third, to double the number of transitional housing beds available for returning offenders, increase outpatient treatment slots, and retain mentors and an employment specialist.

ELDER ABUSE ACT

While seniors comprise just 13 percent of the general population; they possess 50 percent of the total wealth, making them disproportionately targeted for financial fraud and abuse. As seniors live longer, they become increasingly vulnerable to financial manipulation, abuse and neglect. Those over the age of 85 are the fastest growing demographic Multnomah County. Last year, Multnomah County received 3,244 reports of abuse. Of those complaints reported, 2,486 were perpetrated against those 65 and older. In total, the county experienced a 22 percent increase in elder abuse allegations in just one year, and that number represents only the number of cases actually reported. It is estimated that for every one case of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation, or self-neglect reported to authorities, approximately five go unreported.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County seeks \$625,000 for investigating financial fraud, prosecuting perpetrators, gathering forensic data, providing support services to victims, educating the public and senior care providers, providing forensic nursing, coordinating services among agencies; and providing enhanced referral services.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

WILLAMETTE RIVER BRIDGES HYDRO TURBINE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Willamette River has the potential to produce hydroelectricity, an alternative energy source, for the Portland region. With 5 bridges over the Willamette River under its authority, Multnomah County could place energy producing hydro-turbines on each bridge. This enormous potential merits study. If proven likely to produce significant energy, hydro-turbines could be used throughout the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County seeks an earmark of \$150,000 to conduct a feasibility study on the placement of hydro-turbines on 5 Willamette River bridges in Portland.



111th CONGRESS FEDERAL AGENDA POLICY AGENDA



HEALTH CARE

REINSTATEMENT OF ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY OF DISADVANTAGED YOUTH ACT(REMEDY)

Many disadvantaged youth are enrolled in Medicaid before winding up in the juvenile justice system, but can lose their eligibility once they enter the system. When this happens, harder for communities to pay for critical treatment and rehabilitative services. Various legislative proposals have called for the amendments to title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for the reinstatement of enrollment for medical assistance and child health assistance of certain youth who were enrolled for such assistance immediately before becoming inmates of public institutions upon the release of such youth from such institutions.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports the passage of legislation that ensures that young people maintain their Medicaid coverage, regardless of their delinquency status.

Restoring the Partnership for County Health Care Costs Act of 2008

An estimated 21 percent of persons booked in Multnomah County's jails in pre-trial status have private or public health insurance coverage, i.e. Oregon Health Plan, Medicaid, Medicare, or SSI. Health care costs in county jails could be reimbursed, providing much needed relief for the county's fiscal health.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports the passage of this legislation with an amendment that requires private health insurance to reimburse for health care provided by county jail staff.

STATE CHILDREN HEALTH'S INSURANCE PROGRAM

There are over 117,000 children under the age of 18 years in Oregon that do not have health insurance. Reauthorization of the SCHIP would help close this gap in Oregon. In FY2008, Multnomah County had over 17,000 children under the age of 18 visit its health clinics.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County supports the reauthorization of the State Children Health Insurance Program.

BENEFITS RECOVERY/ SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SSI/SSDI APPLICANTS

National studies estimate that as many as 60 percent of people who are homeless have some level of disability, including mental health or addictions. In many cases, the nature of such disabilities makes it impossible for such a person to successfully complete the benefits eligibility process. Locally, only about 11 percent of those eligible receive benefits, such as SSI and SSDI. Without such benefits, individuals are either without services or have to be served with scarce local (non-federal) community funds. Many end up costing taxpayers more because they wind up in jail, in hospitals or fall through the cracks of other safety net resources.

PRIORITY: Multnomah County seeks help funding the Homeless Benefits Recovery Project as a way to assist chronically homeless individuals with mental illness, addictions or other disabilities in accessing federal benefits and services to which they are entitled but have not been able to receive them. Under the project, services will include eligibility screening, appeals process advocacy, case management, medical and other documentation. Also, the project will bridge services to individuals evaluated to be potentially eligible while the appeals process continues. Benefits Recovery is a key strategy in an ongoing effort by the county and the city of Portland 10-

year Plan to End Homelessness.

EMERGING ISSUES

Multnomah County will be tracking the following issues of interest in the 111th Congress.

- Changes to Medicaid/Extension of Medicaid Waiver
- Juvenile Accountability Block Grants
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
- Federal sex offender probation and parole policies
- Management/Labor policies affecting public employees
- Opportunities for funding early childhood development to prevent criminal behavior
- Youth Promise Act
- Creation of National Commission on Mentally Ill Offenders in Corrections
- Capital grants for court buildings and mental health housing
- Support services for SSI/SSDI applicants



Services Provided By Multnomah County



The People



Commissioner
Deborah Kafoury
District 1



Commissioner
Jeff Cogen
District 2



Chair
Ted Wheeler



Commissioner
Judy Shiprack
District 3



Commissioner
Diane McKeel
District 4

Department of Community Justice

- Adult Probation and Parole
- Felony Field Supervision
- Community Service
- Day Reporting Center: Jail
- Sanctions Alternative
- Domestic Violence Supervision
- GED and Employment Preparation for Adult Offenders
- Adult Pre-Trial Services
- Residential and Outpatient Alcohol and Drug Program
- Juvenile Probation
- Juvenile Detention
- Community-Based Detention Alternatives
- Education Provided in Detention
- Gang Transitional Services

Department of Community Services

- Animal Shelter
- Elections
- Land Use
- Road's and Bridges

Department of County Human Services

- Adult Foster Care Homes
- Alcohol and Drug Treatment
- Assisting Seniors and People with Disabilities
- Case Management for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Domestic Violence Prevention
- Energy Assistance
- Gambling Addiction Treatment
- Homeless Youth
- Mental Health Services
- Oregon Project Independence
- Public Guardianship
- SUN Community Schools
- Weatherization

Department of County Management

- Excise Tax Collection
- Assessment and Taxation
- Budget
- Employee Benefits
- Human Resources
- Labor Relations
- PERS
- Finance/Risk Management
- Facilities and Property Mgmt.
- Diversity and Equity
- Deferred Comp.
- Sustainability
- Emergency Management
- Fleet
- Distribution
- Warehouse
- Records Management

Department of Health

- Early Childhood Services
- Immunizations
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Medicaid Eligibility
- Outreach for Women Infant and Children (WIC)
- Providing Medical and Dental Services in Health Centers
- Restaurant Inspections
- School Based Health Centers
- Surveillance of Communicable Diseases
- Vector Control

Department of Libraries

- Early literacy services
- Scholage services
- Lifelong learning programs
- Reference and information services
- Public access computing
- Community gathering places
- Community gathering
- Lending books and other media
- Outreach programs for at-risk populations

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