

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-004

Adopting the Multnomah County 2015 State Legislative Agenda

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The actions of the Oregon Legislature have a significant impact on the residents of Multnomah County and on Multnomah County government.
- b. In order to communicate effectively with legislators and improve the County's legislative outcomes, it is necessary for the Board of County Commissioners to identify legislative priorities.
- c. The Multnomah County 2015 State Legislative Agenda has been developed with input from County Commissioners, County Department leadership and community advocates.
- d. The Multnomah County 2015 State Legislative Agenda will serve to guide the actions of County leaders and advocates during the 2015 session of the Oregon Legislature.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. To undertake all activities and wisely use the necessary resources to promote the success of the attached Multnomah County 2015 State Legislative Agenda.
2. To reserve the right to modify any policy position in the 2015 State Legislative Agenda.

ADOPTED this 15th day of January, 2015.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jenny M. Madkour

By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Claudia Black, Director of Government Relations

Multnomah County

2015 State Legislative Agenda



Priorities

Courthouse: Continue the State/County partnership to build a new Multnomah County Courthouse and secure \$17.4 million for final design and pre-construction costs.

Mental Health: Secure full funding for mental health crisis services and community services through Coordinated Care Organizations and the State of Oregon.

Health

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs): Monitor and respond to legislation designed to modify the current structure and/or requirements of CCOs.

E-Cigarettes: Prohibit sales to minors, restrict vaping in enclosed public spaces, and extend tobacco taxation and regulation to e-cigarettes.

Drug Overdose: Reduce deaths due to opioid overdoses by protecting “Good Samaritans” from prosecution for drug possession.

Toxics Disclosure: Require the Oregon Health Authority to identify the “priority chemicals of concern to children” and begin to require phase-out.

Clean Fuels: Protect public health by implementing proposed clean fuel regulations and removing the sunset clause on that program.

Diesel Pollution: Reduce harmful raw diesel exhaust and stop the import of dirty diesel equipment that is now banned in California.

Brownfields: Expand programs to remediate contaminated land to protect public health and promote economic development.

Human Services

Affordable Housing:

- Support proposals for state assistance in financing affordable housing projects.
- Remove the state preemption on inclusionary zoning so that local governments have an additional tool to support affordable housing.

Seniors:

- Expand Senior & Disabled Property Tax Deferral to help county residents stay in their own home if they so choose.
- Authorize area agencies on aging to investigate elder abuse and seek restitution in civil court.

Youth:

- Expand summer jobs programs by supporting the \$15 million youth employment funding proposal from the Higher Education Coordinating Council.

Developmental Disabilities:

- Implement the Developmental Disabilities Workload Study by funding additional workers to reduce caseloads.

Veterans:

- Increase funding to Department of Veterans Affairs to expand outreach and help Oregon veterans receive the federal benefits to which they are entitled.
- Clarify statutes providing veteran's preference in public employment.

Families:

- Support statewide minimum wage increase and paid sick leave including protections for parents who must stay home with children who are ill.
- Invest additional resources in Employment Related Day Care and reinvest in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- Support increased funding for early learning hubs.
- Increase funding for family mediation services and 211 resource and referral.

Workforce Development:

- Support proposals from HECC to increase fund to local Workforce Investment Boards.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Transportation Funding: Support a statewide transportation funding package to include bridge seismic strengthening and attention to "orphan highways." Support funding for pedestrian safety projects.

Levees: Secure funding for required levee assessments and improvements. Assist levee districts in restructuring to meet new funding requirements.

Cornelius Pass Road: Monitor possible legislation.

Public Safety

Justice Reinvestment: Continue efforts to shift public spending from expensive incarceration to more effective prevention strategies.

Community Corrections: Maintain funding for evidence-based community corrections programs and staffing.

Juvenile Justice: Expand funding for innovative programs including prevention.

Gun Safety: Prevent youth access to guns and close loopholes that allow gun buyers to avoid background checks.

County Administration

Local Control: Support lifting state preemptions and oppose any new state preemption that reduces local authority or local revenue sources.

Voters: Support automatic voter registration with driver licensing.

Energy Efficiency: Support the removal of financial barriers to commercial building upgrades.

Tax-Foreclosed Properties: Dedicate tax-title sale proceeds to the purposes for which the properties could be dedicated. Those purposes are social services, childcare services, housing and open space.

Tax Fairness: Reform property tax system in order to reduce inequities between properties of the same value.

Contracting: Simplify vendor tax compliance reporting.