

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

PRIORITIES

Local Control: Support legislation to lift preemptions and other restrictions on local government, including the preemption on local tobacco taxes.

Courthouse: Create a State/County partnership to rebuild the Multnomah County Courthouse.

Public Safety Reform: Support strategies for improving public safety and reducing the cost of corrections in Oregon.

KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

COUNTY FINANCE

State/County Shared Revenue: Preserve counties' share of state liquor, lottery and tobacco revenues which help fund local public safety, health and other essential services.

Property Tax Administration:

- Support renewal of the manufactured home tax cancellation statute.
- Allow assessors to correct errors with maximum assessed values.
- Support legislation to improve the Senior Property Tax Deferral Program.

Employee Benefits: Explore opportunities to improve the health and well-being of employees while reducing overall costs.

PERS: Support reforms that increase the stability and sustainability of the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) while maintaining a healthy retirement benefit for public employees.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Gain-Share/Strategic Investment Program (SIP): Support legislation that clarifies the Department of Administrative Services process to distribute a 50% of income tax funds to taxing districts that have abated property taxes to attract and retain companies through the Strategic Investment Program.

Industrial Lands: Support state financing and incentive programs to assist local governments in making industrial sites ready for development.

Seismic Upgrades to Public Buildings and Infrastructure: Support state funding for critical seismic upgrades to schools, bridges, emergency buildings and other state and local infrastructure at risk of collapse in a major earthquake.

HEALTH, HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care:

- Assure that any modifications to the health care transformation statutes are consistent with county goals of improving health and health care and reducing costs.
- Support cultural competency training for health professionals and improved racial, ethnic and language data collection and analysis to reduce racial health disparities.
- Support extending the “provider tax” which helps fund clients on the Oregon Health Plan.
- Support policies that allow counties to bill for private health insurance coverage while a person is incarcerated.

Early Learning: Support appropriate guidelines for the development of local early learning council hubs and ensure there is adequate funding to implement system changes in each community. Ensure counties have a meaningful role in the work of the Youth Development Council.

Mental Health Services and Funding: Support additional funding for community mental health programs and services. Support legislation that strengthens the community mental health system, but does not create new unfunded mandates for counties.

Public Health:

- Support legislation that helps reduce the number of deaths due to opiate overdoses.
- Support legislation that allows public health officials to keep information confidential when exterminators report bed bug infestations.

Housing: Support legislation that removes barriers and increases choice and stability for low-income Oregonians seeking affordable housing. Support funding for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) to help keep at-risk families in their homes and homeless families in stable housing.

Family Stability: Support Employment Related Day Care (ERDC), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), unemployment services and other policies that strengthen and support families.

Veterans: Support efforts to assist veterans in accessing the benefits they have earned through their service, including assistance in the areas of health care, employment and housing.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety Reforms: Support the package of reforms produced by the 2012 Commission on Public Safety. Ensure any budget savings are reinvested into programs and practices proven to reduce recidivism and improve public safety.

Community Corrections: Support cost-effective programs that provide accountability for offenders and reduce recidivism.

Juvenile Services: Support funding for services to safely manage juvenile offenders in the local community and increasing access to residential placements.

Gang Intervention: Preserve and enhance funding for critical gang intervention programs, including the East Multnomah County Gang Enforcement Program in order to protect public safety.

Human Trafficking. Support efforts to prevent victimization of children and provide support services for children who have been victimized.

Prevent Gun Violence: Support statewide legislation to protect public safety by prohibiting the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Allow local jurisdictions to regulate weapons in public facilities.

Wapato Jail: Explore local, state and federal opportunities for the sale or lease of Wapato Jail.

TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE

Transportation Funding: Support funding for transportation infrastructure in the Portland metro region, including the I-5 Bridge. Ensure funding sources do not preempt local authority to raise fees and taxes.

Land Use: Support legislation transferring Area 93 from Multnomah County to Washington County.