

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-003

Adopting the Multnomah County 2016 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 2016 State Legislative Agenda has been developed with input from County Commissioners, County Department leadership and community advocates.
- d. The Multnomah County 2016 State Legislative Agenda will serve to guide the actions of County leaders and advocates during the 2016 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 2016 State Legislative Agenda.
2. To reserve the right to modify any policy position in the 2016 State Legislative Agenda.

ADOPTED this 28th day of January, 2016.



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

2016 Legislative Agenda



■ Increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness.

- Develop policies to prioritize, and allocate, affordable housing funds. The Legislature allocated funds in 2015 to support urgently-needed affordable housing. But further Legislative guidance is needed to direct the funds toward the highest priority investments.
- Support actions to increase the supply of affordable housing. Inclusionary housing, improved tax incentives and new funding for development can help communities across the state to quickly address the crisis of homelessness.

■ Fund a new, seismically safe Multnomah County courthouse in part by obtaining authority to tap user fees.

More than \$40 million a year in fines and fees are collected in the obsolete and dangerous Multnomah County Courthouse. Surcharges on some court filing fees and parking and moving violation fines can help finance the construction of a new courthouse.

■ License tobacco retailers.

The State of Oregon has the highest rate of cigarette sales to minors according to the most recent Federal Synar survey results. Retail licensing is an essential tool in protecting teens from tobacco addiction.

■ Reduce opiate abuse and overdose deaths.

- Improve prescriber access to PDMP system to reduce prescription drug abuse. Drug addicts sometimes feed their habits by visiting multiple providers seeking medication for pain. PDMP can help prescribers better care for their patients by helping identify abusers.
- Make opiate overdose medication available over the counter. Increasing availability of the opiate-reversal drug, naloxone, can help save the lives of drug overdose victims.

■ Protect seniors who live alone by fully funding the Gatekeepers Program.

Funding for the Gatekeepers program, which helps mail carriers, clerks and neighbors understand when an elder is in trouble, was cut in 2015. Fully funding this low-cost program will help allow seniors to remain at home safely.

■ **Support rigorous reviews of senior/disabled abuse that result in deaths.**

Oregon law provides for a rigorous review of the death of children. Deaths of other vulnerable Oregonians should receive the same scrutiny.

■ **Protect justice reinvestment funding.**

Oregon has succeeded in reducing the need for expensive prison beds by providing effective community supervision of offenders. But that success is now threatened by unexpected prison cost overruns. Cost-effective community supervision programs must be sustained to hold down incarceration costs long-term.

■ **Support funding for youth summer jobs programs.**

Summer employment opportunities for at-risk youth provide important skill and resume building opportunities. State funding for these programs is a good investment.

■ **Provide new tools for the cleanup of brownfields.**

Hundreds of contaminated brownfield sites exist in Multnomah County. Additional financial tools could help local governments incentivize the cleanup of these sites, protecting public health and promoting economic development.

■ **Clarify veterans' preference in public employee hiring.**

Current statutes that describe how veterans should receive priority in public hiring processes are unclear. Specific guidance will help employers act lawfully and veterans find work.

■ **Support statewide minimum wage increase.**

Wages in Oregon are not adequate for workers to support families and live in dignity. Increases to the minimum wage are needed.

■ **Monitor changes to transient lodging tax.**

A statewide increase in lodging taxes will be proposed to support an international track event in Eugene. Although Multnomah County receives little lodging tax revenue, any increase in the statewide tax should also benefit the local economy.

QUESTIONS?

Claudia Black, Director
Multnomah County Office of Government Relations
claudia.black@multco.us
503-789-3162



Chris Fick, Deputy Director
Multnomah County Office of Government Relations
chris.fick@multco.us
443.564.3402