

## 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."

**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.

## 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.