

Washington County and  
Clean Water Services

2005  
State Legislative Agenda



**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
OREGON

CleanWater  Services  
*Our commitment is clear*

# **WASHINGTON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2005**

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- To provide services in the most efficient and effective manner.
- To remain accountable and responsive to the citizens.
- To maintain Oregon's quality of life.

## **Meet these principles through adherence to the following policies and practices:**

- Fund programs contributing to a healthy economy and higher quality of life, as expressed in the State's Strategic Vision - Oregon Shines, and the Oregon Benchmarks.
- Supporting local government's ability to design, fund, and implement programs based on locally determined needs and priorities.
- Supporting State funding for programs delivered locally that reward results, efficiency and effectiveness.
- Supporting distribution of the state funds allocated to local programs using a proportional formula that is based on the taxes and fees paid by county residents.
- Funding government programs as an investment strategy, to provide an identifiable return and prevent the need for more costly remedial expenditures.
- Viewing all public agencies as equal partners in providing services to citizens.
- Funding government programs where there is a clear public interest being served and no viable private sector alternative is available.
- Supporting efforts that seek to balance the demands of a healthy economy and environment through prevention driven growth-management strategies, dispute resolution options that facilitate outcome-based community solutions, public and private partnerships, and result oriented investments in public facilities and services.
- Supporting these precepts of local control:
  - No unfunded mandates through assignment of new programs or shifts in service responsibilities.
  - No preemption's, limits or granting of exemptions to local tax sources.
  - Sharing revenue with local governments from sources in which they hold a historic ownership, based on agreements with the state, and preserve their ability to determine how it is used.
  - Preserve local government's ability to opt out of commitments to deliver state program services when funding is reduced.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**2005-2007 State Budget** – Advocate for budget decisions using guidelines giving highest priority to programs that:

- Have records of cost efficiency and effectiveness
- Deliver services to the most vulnerable citizens – the poor , elderly, and mentally or physically handicapped
- Cost more to reconstruct, or will likely cause a lawsuit if reductions are made
- Will cost the state federal matching funds.

**Veterans Service Officer Program** – Support appropriation of funds for county veterans service officers to provide assistance to veterans in obtaining federal and state benefits and aid.

**Low-Income Elderly Renters Program** – Support legislation to include more low-income households. Current program is open to taxpayers over 58 years of age with incomes less the \$10,000 and gross rents that are more than 20% of income.

**Affordable Housing Tax Credit** – Support legislation that expands the annual cap on tax credits for lenders providing rent reductions on new affordable housing units.

### **Community Corrections**

Support appropriation to fund budget for Oregon Department of Corrections' Community Corrections Grant Program in keeping with the spirit of the agreement embodied in House Bill 2432, 1999 Oregon Legislature.

Support a change in building the Community Corrections Budget. Forecast Community Corrections populations using the same populations applied to the allocation formula and the capitated rates used in that formula.

Support use of the same method used by state agencies to build their budgets in building the Community Corrections budget. Automatically include the roll-up costs of certain known personnel costs, including PERS rate changes; collective bargaining agreements; step increases; and medical insurance premium changes.

Support recalculation of rates used to determine the current redistribution formula in 2006 and thereafter in six-year cycles.

**Mental Health Equity** – Support appropriation of “new funds” from state and federal resources, i.e., those that are not capitated as part of the Oregon Health Plan or otherwise designated for named individuals, pilots, specialized or residential programs, and dedicate them to Outpatient Adult, Children and Crises Services. Support Oregon Department of Human Services efforts to dedicate a portion of these “new funds” biannually to those counties that continue below the statewide per-capita average in these three service areas. Support use of the Center for Mental Health Services/Kessler Formula to distribute any “new funds” that become available through the legislature for these three service areas.

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission** – **Introduce** legislation to remove the requirement in ORS 294 for counties with populations over 500,000 to have a Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission. Add statutory language authorizing a county commission representing counties over 500,000 to create a commission.

**State Contracts** – Support statutory revisions to provide immunity for counties from legal action in response to budget cuts to services they deliver under contracts with the state of Oregon.

**PERS Retirees** – Support legislation to increase the flexibility of local governments in employing PERS retirees.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

**Hares Canyon State Park** – Support expenditure authorization for Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission sufficient to complete construction of Hares Canyon State Park.

**Farm Worker Housing** – Support legislation that corrects an inconsistency in law adopted in 2001, adding language to clarify that Oregon’s two marginal lands counties (Lane and Washington) are authorized to permit farm worker housing in exclusive farm use zones.

**Land Use Planning System** – Support legislation to refine the effects of Ballot Measure 37, making it as workable as possible, and minimizing the cost and complications of implementation without undermining voter intent.

**Annexation** – Support legislation directing the creation of a legislative task force that makes recommendations to the 2007 Legislature on methods to integrate the state’s annexation, land use and local government finance laws. Support efforts to clarify whether single or double-majority votes are required to approve annexations in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington County region.

**Regional Growth Fund** – Support legislation that returns a defined percentage of the income tax revenue generated by a region’s economic development efforts for use in annexations and building non-transportation infrastructure.

### **Transportation**

**Multi-modal** – Support legislation that funds freight mobility and a multi-modal agenda that improves rail, public transit, roads (operations, maintenance, modernization) marine, and aviation systems.

**Elderly and Disabled** – Support legislation to continue funding in the ODOT budget for transit service and bus replacement.

Transportation Finance and Needs Study – Support legislative appropriation from Road Fund for use in updating Study and submitting it to the 2007 Legislature.

Commuter Rail – Amend time limit imposed on Oregon Department of Transportation to sell and provide Washington County \$35 million in lottery bonds for paying expenses of South Metro Commuter Rail Project from July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006.

Transportation Demand Management – Support Oregon Department of Transportation Budget recommendation to gain expenditure authorization of \$1.5 million to continue funding of program to reduce vehicle miles traveled in automobiles.

**Transit Supportive Multiple-Unit Housing** – Support legislation extending city and county authority, per ORS 307.600, to provide an exemption to ad valorem property taxes for stimulating the construction of transit supportive multiple-unit housing in transit corridors.

**Regional Investment Program** – Support legislation to restore funding for the Regional Investment Program (RIP) from the current \$7 million appropriation to the 1999-01 level of approximately \$20 million, boosting Multnomah and Washington county's share from \$700,000 to approximately \$1.9 million.

## **CLEAN WATER SERVICES**

**Conservation Easement Authority** – **Introduce** legislation permitting Clean Water Services to secure voluntary conservation easements, enabling the agency to more efficiently and effectively advance the health of the Tualatin River Watershed while providing tax benefits to landowners. Presently, only the state, Metro, counties, cities, park and recreation districts, land trusts, and soil and water conservation districts may acquire conservation easements

**DEQ Funding / Blue Ribbon Committee Recommendations** – Support legislative appropriation of \$420,000 to implement recommendations of State's Blue Ribbon Committee for Water Quality for use in program streamlining, heightened accountability; increased use of performance measures, and reducing permit backlogs.

**Wastewater Reuse** – Support legislation encouraging use of all water resources in Oregon, including reclaimed water, as an element in the State's strategy to meet water quality standards.

**Mixing Zones** – Oppose legislation requiring the wholesale elimination of mixing zones in the State's waterways. Support examination of mixing zones regulations related to persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBT).

**12/22/04**