

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 24-10-29-03

In the Matter of Adopting the October 2024
Legislative Principles and Priorities
Document

WHEREAS, the Lane County Legislative Committee's function is to oversee all aspects of legislative and administrative policy making by other deliberative bodies which may affect Lane County's legislative program per Lane Manual 3.670; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Legislative Committee met on October 9, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

Adopts the recommendations of the Lane County Legislative Committee as outlined in Attachment A – Legislative Principles and Priorities Update October 9, 2024

ADOPTED this 29th day of October, 2024.

Laurie Trieger, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

Lane County
Legislative Principles and Priorities
Recommended by the Lane County Legislative Committee, 10/09/2024

The Lane County Legislative Principles and Priorities provide a framework for the Board of Commissioners and the Lane County staff to work within. These documents serve as a reference for legislative positions and objectives while providing direction for the Board of Commissioners and staff throughout the year. The County's Legislative Principles and Priorities are the foundation of a focused advocacy strategy.

Objective

The primary objective is for the Lane County Board of Commissioners to adopt official positions on clearly stated legislative issues at the start of the legislative session and in advance of the annual United Front trip. The legislative approval process is streamlined by receiving clear direction from the Board on pertinent legislative issues at the beginning of the legislative and Congressional sessions and this is accomplished by adoption of the Principles contained in this document.

The Principles are designed to provide guidance to Intergovernmental Relations staff on policy issues that arise during the Legislature and Congress and for which insufficient time exists to fully vet the issue through a formal convening of the Legislative Committee. Priorities are specific legislative initiatives that typically involve the drafting, introduction, and advocacy involved to get a bill passed into law. Legislative Principles and Priorities shall address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of county services.

Federal and state legislative proposals and policies consistent with the Legislative Principles may be supported by the County. Those policies or proposals inconsistent with this agenda may be opposed by the County.

For proposed legislation consistent with the County's Legislative Principles and Priorities, the County Administrator or designee shall be authorized to prepare position letters on behalf of the Board or an individual commissioner, and affix the Board Chair's or the individual commissioner's signature to those letters as appropriate. In both instances, the County Administrator or designee will provide the Board with a copy of the signed letter. Items not addressed in the County's Legislative Principles and Priorities may require further Board direction.

County departments are encouraged to monitor and be knowledgeable of any legislative issues related to their discipline. However, any requests for the County to take positions on a legislative matter must be directed to the Intergovernmental Relations Manager. County departments may not take positions on legislative issues without the Legislative Committee's review and approval, or a clear Principle or Priority to support their work.

Goals and Strategies

Goals:

- Advocate the County's legislative interests at the Federal, State and County levels
- Inform and provide information to our Legislators, Board of Commissioners, and Staff on the legislative process and key issues and legislation that could have a potential impact on the County
- Serve as an active participant with other local governments, the Association of Oregon Counties, regional agencies, and local professional organizations on legislative/regulatory issues that are important to the County and our Region
- Seek grant and funding assistance for County projects, services, and programs to enhance services for our community
- Ensure fidelity to the most recently adopted Strategic Plan when setting Principles and Priorities

Strategies:

- Communicate legislative positions on proposed Federal, State, and County legislation, measures, initiatives and governmental regulations
- Seek Federal, State, and County funding through allocations, grants and other discretionary funding for County projects, services and programs
- Work closely with the Association of Oregon Counties, our legislative advocates and other counties in advocating for the County's Federal, State and County legislative interests
- Share information with the Board of Commissioners, County staff, and the community on legislative issues
- Where appropriate, integrate key staff or elected officials into workgroups, task forces, advisory committees or other bodies that are developing or implementing legislation.

Draft Document Key:

Green Highlighted Text = Addition to Existing Principles and Priorities Document

Yellow Highlighted/Strikethrough Text = Remove from Document

LANE COUNTY PRIORITY BILLS (Oregon Legislature)

- Seek a revenue source to reverse the historical decline in County Assessment Function Funding Assistance.
- Establish a stable funding source for County Emergency Management and support creation of a statewide emergency management cost recovery mechanism for local governments.
- Seek funding for the build out and continued development of the “Four Corners” site to allow for re-entry housing.
- Support weighted effort-based funding allocations for the next biennial appropriation to the Community Corrections Act.
- Amend elections statutes such that local measure standards align with state measure standards for mandatory language and fiscal impact, assign the cost of elections administration to jurisdictions that adopt voting methodologies that deviate from statewide norms, and seek a change to elections dates for recall races.
- Seek a dedicated source of funding for Mobile Crisis Intervention Team services and stabilization center development and operating costs. (HHS)
- Amend County Service District statutes to allow for non-contiguous boundaries.
- Support efforts to establish a product stewardship framework for batteries.
- Support efforts to provide enhanced budgetary flexibility for local transient lodging tax revenue.
- Seek appropriations to support renovations of Lane County Circuit Court facilities.
- Seek additional behavioral health parity enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with federal health parity laws.
- Amend municipal utilities statutes to enhance fiscal reporting to certain tax districts.
- Support appropriate funding for Behavioral Health Deflection services for the biennium.
- Address the outcomes of *Tyler v Hennepin County* such that Oregon law establishes claim timeframes and excess value distributions.
- Seek a dedicated funding source for maintaining historic covered bridges that are no longer eligible for state highway funding due to their off-system status.
- Support efforts to address the erosion of transportation construction, operations, and maintenance funding at the state and county levels.
- Seek weapons restrictions in public buildings that are healthcare settings.
- Support the Oregon Association of County Engineers & Surveyors (OACES)-led effort to increase instrument recording fees to support the County’s Public Land Corner Preservation Fund.

LANE COUNTY FEDERAL PRIORITIES (US Congress)

- Ensure any and all claims tendered by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) are accepted by the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Department of Justice
- Support efforts to secure payment parity for mental health, behavioral health including crisis response and stabilization services, and substance use treatment.
- Follow on funding for wastewater system assistance from the authorities granted in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022
- Seek WRDA feasibility study for Willamette River revetment repairs.
- Support efforts to protect and enhance transportation revenue for local governments as vehicle technologies continue to evolve.
- Support efforts to enable FHA Financing for Manufactured Home mortgages.
- Ensure continued federal support for funding Federally Qualified Health Centers and the 340B program. Oppose legislation that allows further restriction on where patients can access 340B medications.
- Seek Congressionally Directed Funding for:
 - Medically Assisted Treatment facilities for youth and adults in custody
 - Funding to widen the Coburg Interchange overpass.
 - Funding to repair Coast Guard Rd in Florence
 - Resilience investments for rural fire department radio regional network
 - Community Justice & Rehabilitation Services Behavioral Health Unit investments in training, equipment, and staffing
 - Medication-Assisted Treatment satellite facility in Florence

Lane County 2024 Legislative Principles

General

1. Identify and oppose unfunded mandates.
2. Identify and oppose local pre-emptions, particularly those that inhibit opportunities for locally derived revenues.
3. Work to maintain or increase existing revenue streams to counties.
4. Work to ensure revenues exist to local governments to fund any new services.
5. Advocate maintenance of existing local authority.
6. Support issues which provide greater authority to govern more effectively, efficiently and flexibly at the local level.
7. Advocate for county representation on all state boards, commissions and study committees which affect county government and have non-legislative members.
8. Work cooperatively with other groups and associations to support efforts to improve the delivery of services at the local level.
9. Support county efforts toward effective regional cooperation and delivery of county services
10. Support efforts to develop increased communication and greater compatibility among levels of government and within and between agencies in all levels of government.
11. Support legislation that encourages economic growth.
12. Support legislative efforts to address the root causes of inequities.
13. Protect local control of land use decision-making and oppose legislation that would hinder or threaten local control.
14. Monitor state policies to ensure new obligations are funded and contain adequate provisions to address embedded liabilities.
15. Advocate to ensure fiscal health for Assessment and Taxation offices, to maximize revenue for all local taxing districts.
16. Support efforts to mitigate exposure to future PERS liabilities.
17. Protect the quality, accuracy, and completeness of the County's index of property transfer transactions.
18. Ensure all Lane County residents have access to fast, affordable, and reliable broadband in order to maximize their economic, educational, health, and public safety needs.
19. Support elections integrity and the staffing and infrastructure systems necessary to ensure accurate and timely elections.
20. Elevate the importance of robust County Emergency Management functions, including the need for stable and ongoing revenue to address mitigation and preparedness activities.
21. Support funding for local governments for any mandated benefits, or other mandated laws that impact services or benefits to employees and increase administrative workload.
22. Support efforts to ensure employment related laws fully describe and address fiscal impacts to local government operations.

MEASURE 110 REFORM

- Support diversion programming contingent on sufficient systems redesign and investment.
- Support statutory mechanism for the ongoing allocation of resources for specialty courts.
- Oppose simple transfer of existing BHRN administration from OHA to Alcohol & Drug Policy Commission without significant reform to the BHRN model funding and coordination processes.

- Support modeling BHRNs on Governor Kotek’s Executive Order 23-02 declaring an emergency on homelessness and creating the All-In model of multi-agency coordination as a continuum of care. Fundamental to this model must be the Community Mental Health Program as the BHRN anchor given the many duties and responsibilities that CMHPs carry.
- Support legislation that provides an explicit funding priority within BHRN action plans to expand treatment capacity over all other existing BHRN uses.
- Ensure funding eligibility for organizations that solely focus on treatment for justice-involved individuals.
- Support legislation creating “plus up” incentives for the local integration of county level action plans and budgets for state programs delegated to or operated by county governments such as the Community Corrections Act, the OHA County Financial Assistance Agreements (CFAA) for local mental health authorities, intergovernmental agreements for local public health authorities, and other programs.
- Support access for Public Health Administrators and CMHP Directors (and designees) to statewide Emergency Management Systems database for increased insights on drug overdoses.
- Support for better defined peace officer, director, and other hold authority needed in statute to limit liability for local government, non-profits, and other contracted service providers.
- Ensure standardization of municipal court data if drug enforcement misdemeanors may be tried in a municipal court.
- Ensure related policies do not result in racial disparity outcomes.
- Work to support the adoption of primary prevention policies.

Public Safety

- Support efforts to ensure federal Secure Rural Schools payments.
- Support funding for rural patrol.
- Support funding for law enforcement training to provide law enforcement leaders with cutting-edge training on emergency response, crime reduction strategies, and professional standards.
- Maximize grant and contract funding/partnerships.
- Support funding for prosecution services and services for crime victims
- Ensure that local resources for the Office of the District Attorney are not further eroded through Legislative policies that enable cost shifting from the state to counties.
- Support efforts which seek to provide policing agencies with options for in jail mental health treatment, as well as jail diversion strategies aimed at people with mental illness.
- Support efforts to maintain Community Corrections Act, Juvenile Crime Prevention, Specialty Courts, Justice Reinvestment, and IMPACTS funding.
- Support funding for Evidence Based Decision Making Initiatives to reduce recidivism.
- Support adequate funding for specialty courts in both the adult and juvenile systems.
- Support legislation, appropriations, and policy direction that stabilizes County operation of the Law Library.
- Support Medicaid reform such that benefits may accrue to inmates.
- Support efforts which serve to advance diversity and access to services by non-English language speakers
- Ensure that the Oregon Department of Revenue’s Other Agency Collection Unit remains able to efficiently assist with local collections.

- Ensure public safety assets obtained via the US Defense Logistics Agency remain in Lane County ownership.
- Work to ensure that Lane County's regional emergency communications and preparations systems are supported by sustainable funding frameworks.
- Support funding for programs that assist Lane County with efforts aimed at reducing crime and enhancing public safety through community partnerships and multijurisdictional efforts including communications.
- Support funding that would allow counties to individualize services based on need and keep youth offenders in their home communities.
- Support dedicated funding for medium and high-risk juvenile offenders allowing individualized programming at the county level.
- Support funding for additional acute and sub-acute treatment beds for youth with complex needs in Lane County
- Support stable and enhanced funding for Family Mediation services.

Health and Human Services

- Support implementation and full funding of Public Health Modernization, and support for strong local public health authority for the provision of essential public health services
- Support stable Medicaid funding and work with Oregon CCOs to enhance local initiatives and strong partnerships with Counties.
- Support strong local mental health authority and enhanced funding for behavioral health services targeted to local initiatives to improve access to health care and to promote improved health outcomes.
- Support funding for community health centers operations, development, and real property acquisition and improvements
- Support stable funding (100% of workload) to maintain community-based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Support for mandatory state job classifications reviews specific to positions indicated workload model for Community Developmental Disabilities Programs
- Support multi-agency partnership and goals established to reduce veteran homelessness and increase veterans' services.
- Support multi-agency partnership and goals established to reduce elder homelessness and address the unique barriers elders face when they become unhoused.
- Support programs and policies with the goal of preventing and ending homelessness among veterans, persons with disabilities, people with behavioral health diagnosis, families with children, and youth, such as Housing First, supportive housing, and emergency housing.
- Support legislation that eliminates five-month time limits for when local vital records programs can provide birth and death certificates.
- Support funding for evidence-based prevention programs that target behaviors to improve health and reduce health disparities.
- Support efforts aimed at the decreasing use of tobacco, nicotine products and other inhalants (such as local tobacco tax authority, preservation of Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act, retail licensing, and flavored products bans)
- Support efforts to eliminate non-medical exemptions for otherwise mandated preventable disease vaccinations.
- Support strategies to reduce the negative effects of problem/disorder gambling in Lane County
- Support funding for mental health services, detox services, and prevention services
- Support funding for workforce development and career technical education

- Support strategies to increase the pipeline of qualified nurses, mental health specialists, physicians, and psychiatrists to work in Oregon.
- Support multi-system efforts to address opiate overprescribing and addiction, including unifying data to more effectively track overdoses in Oregon.
- Support policies and funding which address the prevention of suicide.
- Oppose exceptions to the Oregon Clean Air Act for recreational marijuana.
- Oppose efforts to legalize the consumption of recreational marijuana outside of the privacy of one's home, for example at special events or within a publicly licensed establishment.
- Support efforts to mitigate wildfire smoke.
- Support efforts to address the impact of localized blue green algal bloom outbreaks.
- Support efforts to increase Oregon's beer and wine tax.
- Protect existing pharmaceutical pricing structures unique to FQHC's (the 340-B structure)
- Support efforts to mitigate the risk arising from restoring defendants to competency in the community in accordance with ORS 161.365 and ORS 161.370.
- Oppose efforts to transition eligibility determinations and licensing of foster homes for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from the Community Developmental Disabilities Programs to the state.

Human Resources

PAY/PAY EQUITY

- Support efforts to treat, evaluate and consider each collectively bargained employee group independently and separately from non-represented employees and other collectively bargained groups for purposes of pay equity under Federal, State, and local government laws.

BENEFITS

- Allow equivalent plans to track and pay for less than a full day for intermittent leave needs.
- Allow employers to auto-enroll employees into deferred compensation programs with a clear opt out regardless of union representation.
- Simplify and clarify two leave banks – paid and unpaid; align federal and state laws as much as possible; facilitate employer tools to consolidate Short Term Disability (STD) plans into paid leave.
- Give employers and employees a tax advantaged savings tool to assist employees in meeting the high cost of childcare.
- Expand opportunities for low wage workers to access the Oregon Health Plan.
- Oregon Paid Medical Leave Insurance, support efforts for greater flexibility in Oregon Employment Department sharing information about employee benefit amounts with employers, and more flexibility in use of intermittent leave.
- Support benefit programs that are designed to reduce absences from work and increase worker productivity.
- Support family and medical leave programs that permit county employees to attend to family and medical matters without the threat of the loss of one's job, benefits, or seniority.
- Oppose efforts which provide equity in benefits between employees regardless of status, e.g. temporary and permanent employees.
- Support efforts for the DOL to issue stronger language under FMLA/OFLA supporting employers' right to enforce call-in procedures.
- Support efforts under FMLA/OFLA to require medical specialists to complete the employee's medical certification such as when there are serious mental conditions and prohibit charging for completion of forms.

- Support greater flexibility under leave laws for leave administration staff to communicate with physicians to determine the extent of serious health conditions and the frequency and duration of absences.

DRUGS

- Support efforts to define impairment in the workplace under situations where medically sanctioned drug use is allowed.

PREVAILING WAGE

- Support clarity in laws and administrative rules regarding applicability of prevailing wages on public improvement projects.
- Oppose any provisions that make counties the enforcement agent for prevailing wage laws.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCUSION

- Support efforts to maintain current equity laws.
- Support efforts to maintain and allow training and programs on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging topics without fear of violating discrimination laws.

TECHNOLOGY

- Support laws that ensure employer oversight of AI use in automated systems such as applicant tracking systems and other critical automated decision systems.

Housing

- Support regional housing analysis and funding to increase supply of housing across housing continuum throughout the County.
- Support changes to land use policies or practices to increase the supply of affordable housing throughout the County.
- Supporting efforts to ensure our most vulnerable community members remain economically stable and housed.
- Support permanent Emergency Rental Assistance Programs for low-income households facing unexpected economic shocks and/or evictions.
- Support the establishment of low-cost housing options, including manufactured home parks, within rural unincorporated communities.

Public Works

- Support funding solutions to support safe roads and bridges.
- Support policies that require producers of materials sold or distributed in Oregon to share disposal and recycling costs through environmentally sound stewardship programs that minimize the unintended consequences of materials across their entire life cycle.
- Support efforts which incentivize public and commercial fleets to transition towards cleaner burning or renewable fuels.
- Support commercial development in unincorporated communities.
- Provide opportunities for healthy activities through parks, open spaces, alternative travel choices and event center activities.
- Maintain regional partnerships to plan and develop a healthy, integrated transportation system.
- Work with non-profits to identify tax foreclosed properties that can be added to available affordable housing.
- Support our regional partners to provide sustainable animal services to the community.
- Support improvement efforts in Land Management to facilitate economic development and

community growth.

- Support efforts to ensure recreational immunity withstands court challenges.
- Support efforts to establish a product stewardship framework for batteries.
- Continue to foster a local, livable community through Transportation, Parks and Lane Event Center functions.
- Support Oregon Fairs Association legislative requests for additional funding to county fairs.
- Maintain the Firewise Communities Wildfire protection project.
- Reduce Lane County's environmental footprint through efficient solid waste management practices to increase resource recovery.
- Continue to re-invest in existing Public Works infrastructure, including parks, to avoid higher future deferred maintenance costs.
- Oppose efforts to implement expedited replacements of diesel engines unless fully funded and evidence of increased public health impacts are documented.
- Support reforms to Oregon's land use laws which:
 - Allow for Farm to Table operations on agricultural lands.
 - Eliminate the 2-acre minimum lot size for a county to allow rural accessory dwelling units.
- Seek additional funding and policies which address Lane County's high rate of roadway fatalities.
- Support efforts to minimize the generation of methane from the solid waste stream during collection and landfilling.
- Seek necessary changes to County Service District statutes to enable future special district transfers when circumstances demand them.
- Extend the deadline created by HB 3197, to mitigate the potential risk of costly appeals and allow resources to be focused on affordable housing work.
- Seek additional funding and resources for counties to carry out mandated long range planning work.
- Seek funding for the planning and infrastructure enhancements of government facilities to support the electrification of government fleets.
- Support the creation of a fee on new RVs that would fund the disposal of old RVs.

Infrastructure

- Support safe infrastructure, roads, bridges, parks and buildings.
- Support efforts to ensure greatest possible flexibility for use of funds to meet local needs.
- Support state funding for improvements and replacement projects for courthouses in Oregon.
- Support policies which clarify county development and ownership authority over fiber networks.
- Support funding of a statewide stormwater permitting infrastructure enhancement and maintenance program.

Economic Development

- Support existing traded sector business recruitment, retention and expansion that complement Lane County's unique natural environment and intellectual capital.
- Support agri-business industries such as food and beverage, and advanced wood products manufacturing.
- Support workforce development efforts including career technical education.
- Support the development of brownfields.
- Support development of critical infrastructure such as high-speed fiber in rural Lane County.
- Support the existing allocation process of county video lottery dollars for economic development or establish a periodic true up procedure if allocations are based on a discreet biennial

appropriation.

Emergency Management

- Support legislation requiring backup power and broadband for liquid fuel dispensing stations.