

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 24-01-30-03

In the Matter of Adopting the January 2024
Legislative Priorities and Principles
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 meeting scheduled for January was cancelled due to the January, 2024 ice storm; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Policy Division has instead prepared the Priority and Principals Document changes it is recommending for adoption.

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 January 24, 2024

ADOPTED this 30th day of January 30, 2024.



Laurie Trieger, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

Lane County
Legislative Principles and Priorities
~~Adopted by the Board of County Commissioners 12/05/2023~~ **Proposed 1/24/2024**

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.

Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

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.
- Partner with the University of Oregon to evolve a policy center that will produce regular forums and whitepapers to advance cutting edge and actionable information for state and federal policy-makers.

LANE COUNTY PRIORITY BILLS (2024 Oregon Legislature)

- ~~Amend the Oregon Tort Claims Act to ensure Community Mental Health Programs are indemnified for the procedures related to ORS 161.365 and ORS 161.370~~
- ~~Seek \$7.5M for a Lane County owned multi-use facility on the site of the Lane County Fairgrounds~~
- Seek operational funding for Behavioral Health Stabilization Centers
- ~~Seek \$20M for the Integrated Material and Energy Recovery Facility (IMERF). Funding would be used to construct the facility and reduce costs that would otherwise be recovered via tipping fee increases~~
- Seek a revenue source to reverse the historical decline in County Assessment Function Funding Assistance.
- Establish a stable funding source for County Emergency Management
- Seek funding for the build out and continued development of the “Four Corners” site to allow for re-entry housing.
- Seek an increase in the 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, and seek a change to elections dates for recall races.
- Seek a dedicated source of funding for Mobile Crisis Intervention Team services.
- ~~Amend County Service District statutes to allow for non-contiguous boundaries.~~

Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

- ~~Amend municipal utilities statutes to enhance fiscal reporting to certain tax districts.~~
- ~~Support MI10 reform efforts~~
- Establish explicit authority for a first responder to transport a person to a stabilization center and define stabilization center in statute.
- 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.
- Seek weapons restrictions in public buildings that are healthcare settings.
- Seek funding to minimize the impacts of the University District hospital closure.
- Seek funding to ensure modernization of Lane County emergency communications infrastructure.

LANE COUNTY UNITED FRONT 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
- Ensure behavioral health services gain parity with physical health services irrespective of payer type.
- ~~Seek funding for the Integrated Material and Energy Recovery Facility~~
- Follow on funding for wastewater system assistance from the authorities granted in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022
- ~~Seek funding for the reconstruction of Blue River Drive, and Local Access Roads in Blue River destroyed in the Holiday Farm Fire~~
- 42nd St Levy
- ~~Interchange Area Management Plan funding for Dillard Rd Overpass~~
- Four Corners site for re-entry housing
- ~~Endorse HR 4851, mobile crisis and stabilization Medicaid and Medicare funding and policy~~
- Seek changes to federal pass-through bonding capacity to pay for local emergency management capacities.
- Wildfire prevention at a landscape level
- Seek WRDA feasibility study for Willamette River revetment repairs
- Seek Congressionally Directed Funding for:
 - Medically Assisted Treatment facilities for youth and adults in custody
 - ~~IMERF~~
 - ~~Interchange Area Management Plan for Dillard Rd.~~
 - Funding to widen the Coburg Interchange overpass.
 - Funding to repair Coast Guard Rd in Florence
 - Local and county road improvements for Blue River
 - RR Crossing at Greenhill Rd.
 - Additional weather forecasting infrastructure
 - Forensic Assertive Community Treatment

Lane County 2023 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.

COVID-19

- ~~● Focus on increasing the volume and turnaround time for COVID-19 test kits and test results.~~
- ~~● Focus on securing the necessary hospital beds and capacity as this pandemic continues to evolve.~~
- ~~● Ensuring Lane County employees have sufficient resources and flexibility to perform and maintain their professional duties.~~
- ~~● Ensuring Lane County businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are provided the necessary resources to recover.~~
- ~~● Ensure public safety resources are sufficient to maintain public order.~~
- ~~● Ensure public health resources are sufficient to provide adequate disease response.~~
- ~~● Ensure mental health resources are sufficient to mitigate disruptions associated with the pandemic.~~
- ~~● Ensure housing resources are sufficient to protect existing property owners, minimize impacts to~~

Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

- ~~renters, and are expanded for those who are now, or become, unsheltered.~~
- ~~• Increasing federal share of cost reimbursement under Stafford Act.~~
- ~~• Ensuring county liability is minimized across all facets of response~~
- ~~• Ensure employers and employees have sufficient and flexible family and child care resources such that businesses and organizations maintain resiliency throughout the duration of the pandemic.~~
- ~~• Ensure that state revenue decreases to local government are minimized and spread equitably across the state.~~
- ~~• Ensure public policy and budgetary decisions do not exacerbate the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on already marginalized groups.~~

HOLIDAY FARM FIRE

- Ensure robust funding exists for the human resources associated with emergency management personnel at all levels of government
- Support efforts to “build back better” infrastructure, economic development, and housing
- Seek funding for the continued build out and development of the McKenzie River Discovery Center
- Seek special land use treatment for the “Seneca donation” such that increased density and shared septic systems may be deployed on that property
- Support efforts to increase the local add on fee to support the Public Land Corner Preservation Fund (ORS 203.148) at least for fire impacted counties
- Seek funding for a transportation funding package to repair post-fire related damages to state and local roadways and bridges
- Support efforts to centralize recovery efforts

MEASURE 110 REFORM

- Support reform rather than repeal of Measure 110 as amended by SB 755 (2021 Session).
- Support generally the revisions in sanctions outlined by the “Comprehensive Approach to Addressing Oregon’s Addiction and Community Livability Crisis” (adopted by the League of Oregon Cities, the Oregon District Attorneys Association, the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Oregon State Sheriff’s Association), provided that the overarching reform legislation attends to needed systems integration and funding supports to accommodate more high acuity misdemeanants coming into existing systems.
- 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

Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

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 office, director, and other hold authority needed in statute to limit liability for local government, non-profits, and other contracted service providers.

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.

Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

Emergency Preparedness & Resilience

- Support efforts that seek Building Oregon’s Local Emergency Management Capacity at the County Level.
- Support funding for programs that address disaster response and preparedness and homeland security-related needs, including efforts aimed at achieving communications interoperability.
- Support funding for programs that assist the County with building resilience to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, including wildfires and floods.
- Support funding for climate resiliency and emergency disaster preparedness and response programs, such as FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program; Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG); and emergency disaster preparedness and infrastructure damage recovery programs, particularly as it pertains to areas where governmental and municipal buildings play a role in local emergency response.
- Support legislation and policy that streamlines local agency’s recovery to disasters within the FEMA reimbursement process to allow rapid recovery efforts.
- Support additional funding to build out a Multi-Use Facility at the Lane County Fairgrounds or other location that will be an immediate use facility in the event of local emergencies.

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 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 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 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

Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

- programming at the county level
- Support funding for additional acute and sub-acute treatment beds for youth with complex needs in Lane County
- 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 stable and enhanced funding for Family Mediation services
- 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
- Ensure that marijuana tax revenues are allocated for drug treatment and prevention
- 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 gain state funding for the non-federal match required for the Medicaid billing of Nurse Family Partnership services.
- Seek additional immunity, indemnification, or additional insurance resources to mitigate risk exposure in the delivery of physical, mental, and behavioral health services.

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.

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

Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

- Support improvement efforts in Land Management to facilitate economic development and community growth
- Continue to foster a local, livable community through Transportation, Parks and Lane Event Center functions
- Support the continued State of Oregon Department of Agriculture payments to County Fairs that qualify to support and promote agriculture.
- 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 polices 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.
- Seek a source of funding to maintain Lane County’s historic covered bridges.

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

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 of county video lottery dollars for economic development and oppose efforts to base that allocation on projected revenue.