



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
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FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, May 16, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Deschutes County Attendance:			
	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang		Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
x	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace		Janice Garceau, Director Health Services
x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney		Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development
x	Holly Harris, Director Behavioral Health		Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo
x	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice		Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health
	Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
x	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Scot Langton, Assessor
x	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant		Lee Randall, Director Facilities
	Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel	x	Robert Tindle, Chief Financial Officer
	Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff		Aaron Wells, Undersheriff
x	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
x	Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department		
Others Present:			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates	x	Corey Barber, Outreach Director NW Policy Advocates
	Emma Innes, Associate NW Policy Advocates		

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Adair transitioned the meeting from the Legislative Delegation Update to the Legislative Update at 8:01 a.m.

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Chang emphasized that if an adequate wildfire funding package isn't passed, it will be detrimental to rural rangeland owners who will be forced to pay higher assessments. Additionally, General Fund dollars would likely be impacted.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Riggs said that **HB 3172** is currently sitting in Ways and Means.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs is confident that **SB 83** will move but **SB 75**, which eliminates the connection to wildfire maps for ADUs, is held up. Despite Riggs' optimism, Commissioner Chang remains concerned over an adequate wildfire funding package.

Related to the revenue forecast, the state is faced with multiple big-ticket issues: \$1.6 million in the kicker, the loss of \$1 to \$1.7 million in federal Medicaid funding, and \$1 billion for salary increases for state workers. Additionally, the governor has asked for \$880 million for housing.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Riggs confirmed the Salem Capitol building construction project is substantially over budget. All three phases are currently at \$1.2 billion.

Commissioner Adair noted that despite Oregon's high rate of taxes, Oregon ranks last in areas such as youth education and psychiatric care. Additionally, Oregon ranks at the top for the highest number of state employees per capita.

4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department

Erik Kropp discussed **HB 5011**, which provides \$880 million for affordable housing in Oregon. This breaks down to \$700 million for affordable rental housing, \$100 million for home ownership and \$80 million for permanent supportive housing. The funding mechanism is general obligation bonds, and the bill is currently in Ways and Means. This bill is supported by the League of Oregon Cities (LOC).

Riggs highlighted the related Policy Option Package (**POP 501**), which calls for \$217 million in shelter funding.

Riggs noted that federal housing programs are being cut, which leads to further uncertainty. An example is that J Bar J Youth Services has received substantially lower funding for youth houselessness. Commissioner Chang emphasized that this funding is essential to stabilize or lower the numbers of houseless individuals. Commissioner Adair said that houselessness is a complex issue, correlated with substance use and mental illness. She provided data on affordable apartment rental vacancies in the area. Discussion ensued regarding rental affordability.

For Board Consideration, a letter to Ways and Means for Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) funding for the Law Library was brought forward by Erik Kropp. The request is to add the County's logo onto the letter, which was drafted by Washington County. Law Library funding comes from court filing fees, and Deschutes County contracts with Deschutes Public Library for the Law Library. Neither Commissioner Chang nor Commissioner Adair were supportive and would rather OJD prioritize their funding for other important issues.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Riggs reported that dental care bill **HB 2597** still has life with bipartisan support.

Holly Harris is concerned about IMPACTS grant funding for behavioral health, as well as deflection funding from the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).

Riggs welcomed input in the form of reminder letters to target legislators and committees. It was determined that a high-level one-page letter will be prepared by staff, attached to the County's written testimony related to IMPACTS, CJC, and community corrections. Riggs will work with Patterson on this letter, to be drafted and routed for signatures by Monday.

Riggs added that reminding Ways and Means that strategically spending money saves communities money in the long run. Commissioner Chang concurred, stating it is difficult to advocate for prevention.

Commissioner Adair reminded that she secured \$15 million in state funding for the courthouse expansion project.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 23 at 8:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Vice Chair Adair adjourned the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant