



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 2, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

Deschutes County Attendance:

x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
	Commissioner Phil Chang		Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
x	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace	x	Janice Garceau, Director Health Services
x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney	x	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
x	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor	x	Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

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

1. Welcome

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Adair highlighted a dental healthcare bill, **HB 2597**, and suggested the Board take a position of support on the bill. Last week in Klamath County, she reported testifying in support of juniper removal bill **HB 3135**. \$5.2 million in total funding towards juniper removal would be available to seven counties.

Commissioner DeBone reported that Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) is meeting weekly to discuss legislation. Recently discussed was **SB 974** which relates to the timeline for reviewing land use applications for housing, and a condominium liability bill.

3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs provided a brief update. The Ways and Means full committee and subcommittee on Capital Construction meet this morning. The Behavioral Health Task Force meets today at 1:00. Holly Harris noted that she is on this task force.

The revenue forecast will be announced on/about May 14. Economists are concerned over the long-term impacts of federal funding cuts. In the interim, Ways and Means is crafting various budget scenarios.

Transportation is an important topic, and no accountability package has yet been released. The House Republicans' proposal cuts ODOT funding, including STIF funding. This would be highly concerning for local governments.

Housing infrastructure and System Development Charges (SDCs) are other important topics.

SB 916, which would allow public employees on strike to receive unemployment benefits, has become contentious. Commissioner Adair highlighted the economic impact **SB 916** would have on county budgets. Riggs noted that a current complicating factor is that there is no supermajority in the Senate, nor in the House for floor votes. For tax votes, this complicates any efforts to increase taxes on a variety of issues.

Commissioner DeBone will attend a State Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) radio conference at the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) building in Salem on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, Riggs said there are currently 502 bills in Ways and Means.

4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department

Jen Patterson shared that **HB 2597** directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and coordinated care organizations to reimburse dental care organizations for dental services provided to medical assistance recipients at a rate no less than 59.8% of the average rate paid by insurers nationwide. Commissioner DeBone accepted that dental care is important for overall health. Jen Patterson and Commissioner Adair will coordinate with the Health Council on drafting a letter of support for this bill. Board position: support.

HB 3135 is the juniper management bill discussed earlier in the meeting by Commissioner Adair. Board position: priority 2 / support.

DA Gunnels discussed **HB 3069**, which requires the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) to study public safety and report findings. With this bill, Representative Kropf wishes to streamline the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) grant application process. The goal of CJC grants is to reduce prison utilization and recidivism. Each biennium, counties would apply for CJC grants and request grant funding.

Of concern is that it reduces the acceptable administrative cost for grant administration to 3%, which is substantially less than what is currently spent (8-9%). Robert Tintle noted in the chat that the federally approved rate for administrative overhead reimbursement is 15%. DA Gunnels added that **HB 3069** eliminates grant review committees.

Deevy Holcomb said that as written, **HB 3069** doesn't fully utilize the role of local Public Safety Coordinating Councils. She appreciates the streamlining of multiple grant applications into one but noted that the administrative burden is lightened for CJC but not for counties.

Riggs said that counties cannot operate with a 3% administrative rate of reimbursement. Additionally, the timing may not be optimal for streamlining. **HB 3069** creates an 11-member commission to review grant applications. The commission would include a county representative, but the League of Oregon Cities is concerned about a lack of city representation. Riggs believes this bill will move in some form.

DA Gunnels said that Deschutes County's criminal justice organizations have good collaboration, and it would be constructive to engage with Rep. Kropf to suggest adjustments to the bill. Patterson will draft a letter and reach out to Rep. Kropf to schedule a Zoom call. Board position: priority 1 / watch.

Paul Partridge spoke about the Ways and Means budget for Human Services. A proposal shifts the funding for Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs) to develop licensing activities for foster homes (38 FTE statewide) over to the Office of Developmental Disabilities (20 FTE statewide). He expressed concern over the shift from local control over to the state which could impact their relationships with local providers. He is also skeptical that this will result in cost savings.

Harris said that local control results in better services. Historically, the state hasn't done a quality, efficient job of overseeing these types of programs.

Chris Doty said that counties are almost exclusively funded through their share of the state highway fund. When legislators take aim at ODOT, it is detrimental for county and city funding. He urged legislators to take aim at mega projects, not operations and maintenance. Riggs doesn't believe the House Republicans' package has legs as it cuts funding to cities and counties, but there is an opportunity for increased efficiency. Riggs believes they should have started with accountability measures, then funding, in that order.

Commissioner Adair reported attending a transportation meeting last week and believes that ODOT needs to clean up their finances.

Riggs reported that the ADU fix bill, **SB 75**, recently had a hearing and looks like it will pass. **SB 83**, which repeals the wildfire hazard maps, is also expected to pass.

Next Meeting: The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 9 at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant