

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 21-12-01-04

In the Matter of Adopting Recommendations  
of the Lane County Legislative Committee

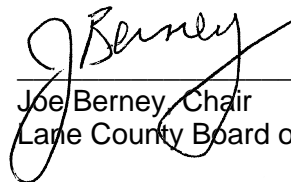
**WHEREAS**, the Lane County Legislative Committee's function is to oversee all aspects of legislative and administrative policy making by other deliberative bodies which may affect Lane County's legislative program per Lane Manual 3.670; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lane County Legislative Committee met on December 10, 2020.

**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 12, 2021

**ADOPTED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.



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Joe Berney, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners

**Lane County**  
**Legislative Principles and Priorities**  
**UPDATED by Board of Commissioners ~~October 6, 2020~~ January 12, 2021**

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.

The Legislative Priorities are developed and maintained using the goals and objectives of the Board of Commissioners, the priorities of the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board, a review of legislative priorities from the Association of Oregon Counties, input from the Legislative Committee which includes Board members, department directors and staff, research of current law and pending legislation, as well as discussions with local legislative and Congressional staff and the County’s legislative advocates.

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 Priorities may require further Board direction. Legislative priorities shall address issues directly relevant to or impacting the provision of county services.

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.

## 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

#### **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 into workgroups, task forces, or other bodies that are developing legislative proposals.

## Lane County 2020 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.

### COVID-19

- Focus on increasing the volume and turnaround time for COVID-19 test kits and test results.
- Focus on increasing the supply of personal protective equipment for first responders and medical professionals.
- 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 renters, and are expanded for those who are now, or become, un-sheltered.
- 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

## Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

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

- Lengthen the existing 12 month window for post-fire reconstruction to at least 36 months
- Extend mandatory plan review timelines such that fire related properties are less delayed
- Ensure robust funding exists for the human resources associated with emergency management personnel at all levels of government
- Provide for a more efficient way for existing special districts to add additional services than exists under current law
- Support funding for emergency property acquisition
- Support property tax relief efforts and removal of structural inequities in existing law for owners of property impacted by Fire/Acts of God
- Support efforts to “build back better” infrastructure, economic development, and housing

### 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
- 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, **and** 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 funding the early build out for Shake Alert **and Fire Alert** 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

### 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

## Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

- 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 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 prevention and education programs aimed at the decreasing use of tobacco and nicotine products (such as local tobacco tax authority, preservation of Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act, and retail licensing)
- 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 funding for long term care and treatment facilities, address needed health regulations for assisted living facilities
- 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 local and state efforts to promote availability and purchase of local fruits and vegetables (Farm to School, Farm to Institution, School Gardens Nutrition Programs)
- Support funding for workforce development and career technical education
- ~~Support the development of medical residency and other programs to enhance recruitment of physicians, primary care providers, and mental health specialists.~~
- 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 efforts to combat opiate overdoses by increasing the availability and access to Naloxone
- Increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for individuals working in the field of treating substance use disorder
- 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

## Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

- 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

### Public Works

- ~~Support efforts to implement the 2017 transportation funding package~~
- Support funding solutions to support safe roads and bridges
- Support prescription drug take back
- Support efforts which transfer the cost of recycling and disposal functions onto product producers
- Support efforts which incentivize public and commercial fleets to transition towards cleaner burning or renewable fuels
- Support commercial development in unincorporated communities
- Support the Willamette confluence project, Phase II (or III) funding, and efforts to transition to public access
- 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
- 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 to avoid higher future deferred maintenance costs
- Support efforts to address the increased workload effects of medicinal and recreational marijuana growing and processing
- 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
  - Allow for counties to have additional flexibility with respect to siting accessory dwelling units.
- Support policies and funding streams which help address the nuisance outcomes derived from growing and processing medical and recreational marijuana.
- Seek additional funding and polices which address Lane County's high rate of roadway fatalities

### 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 throughout Oregon

## Attachment A – Legislative Principles Updated Draft

- 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.
- Support efforts to secure State bond authorizations for the Knight Campus in collaboration with the University of Oregon.
- Support efforts which enable public agencies to expand the local impact of their investment in construction projects by establishing minimum standards for worker pay, benefits, equity, and participation by persons and businesses traditionally under-represented in the construction industry.

### LANE COUNTY PRIORITY BILLS

- Amend ORS 426.335 to ensure that county employees and elected officials are protected from litigation arising from the community restoration procedures inclusive to ORS 161.365 and ORS 161.370 or amend ORS 278.315 to ensure the Oregon Health Authority will provide tort liability coverage for counties providing community restoration under ORS 161.365 to 161.370.
- Participate in efforts to modify Measure 110, with emphasis on clarifying section 7 of Measure 110 does not apply to savings related to reductions in arrests, incarceration, and supervision at the local government level.
- Dependent on outcomes from nation-wide class action settlement negotiations with manufacturers of opioids, create a dedicated state fund for revenues received from these cases and stipulate discreet allocations from that fund to provide counties with dedicated funding stream for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.