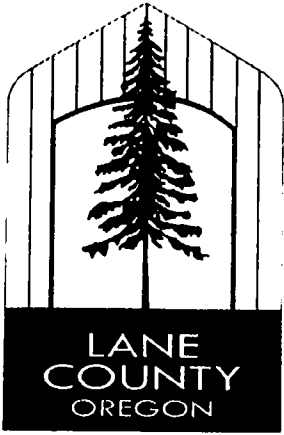


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# Memorandum

**To:** Board of Commissioners  
**From:** Stewart Bolinger, Auditor  
**Date:** August 17, 2009  
**Re:** Fines Collections Rates

The Board asked how Justice Courts rate of fines collections compared with other counties. Justice Courts supplied the data we need for the area collector/governments. I have requests out for the same data from several other counties, and so far Des Chutes has responded.

The low/slow response rate indicates to me that a very basic collection performance benchmark holds little importance to most fines collections departments. Auditors from two other counties reported difficulty getting the same data when they did similar audits. Des Chutes responded promptly, post audit.

The following summarizes what we have learned so far:

Fiscal Year 2008 -2009

<b>Central Lane Justice Court Collection Rate</b>	<b>52.60%</b>
Des Chutes Justice Court Collection Rate	55.00%
Eugene Municipal Court Collection Rate	62.29%
Springfield Municipal Court Collection Rate	48.99%

July 1, 2000 through June 30,2009 Cumulative Rates

<b>Central Lane Justice Court</b>	<b>57.09%</b>
Eugene Municipal Court	74.89%
Springfield Municipal Court	62.82%

Implicit in a collection rate is the multiplier we can use to gage the approximate total levies necessary to cover the cost of the collections operation. We must levy approximately 1.75 more in fines to yield what would be collected under one-for-one fine-collection conditions. ( $1/.5709 = 1.75$ ).

The proposed FY 09 -10 budget for Justice Courts totals \$3.6 million. Based on the historical collections rate and the costs to be covered, fines totaling about \$6.3 million ( $1.75 \times \$3.6$  million) would net \$3.6 million in collections ( $\$6.3$  million  $\times 57.09\% = \$3.6$  million). The cost of the traffic team has not been factored into this example.