

DRAFT Legislative Committee Report
Lane County, Oregon
Board of County Commissioners
75th Oregon Legislature
February 18, 2009

During the February 11, 2009 Board of County Commissioners meeting, there was discussion about the procedure utilized to bring legislative measures in front of the Board.

The intergovernmental relations staff submits the following items for discussion and evaluation by the Board. It seeks direction to utilize these documents during the remainder of the 75th Oregon Legislature.

Attachment A, Draft Operating Principals:

This draft document will be distributed to members of the legislative committee in an attempt to gain a common understanding and utilization of procedures and terminology employed with regards to legislation being considered by the 75th Oregon Legislature. The document addresses activities of the Intergovernmental Relations Manager, the Legislative Committee and the Board of County Commissioners.

Suggested Motion: The Lane County Board of County Commissioners moves to approve the draft operating principals for legislation review as presented for the basis upon which it will ultimately determine a position on key legislation considered during the Oregon 75th Legislative Assembly.

Suggested Actions: A Board Order to be drafted after discussion and placed as a consent calendar item to memorialize the principals of Good Governance and the discussion of the Legislative Operating Principals.

Attachment A
DRAFT Operating Principals: Lane County Legislative Advocacy
February 16, 2009

Mission Statement: When the Oregon Legislature is in session, the Lane County Legislative Committee serves to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on specific legislative measures.

Membership: The Lane County Legislative Committee consists of all Department Directors and the Intergovernmental Relations Manager. Department Directors may invite select staff from their departments to develop information on specific legislative measures.

Schedule and Frequency: As necessary, and as close to Board of County Commissioners meetings as possible to ensure pertinence. Special meetings may be called as emergency business.

Measure Evaluation Selection: Any member of the Legislative Committee or the Board of County Commissioner may request that a measure be selected for staff evaluation and recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners such that a formal position of the Board is established. Measures are selected deemed by their relationship to a previous issue discussed by the Board of County Commissioners and/or the direct impact to local government operations.

Procedure: Upon selection of a particular measure, a staff assignment will be made by the Intergovernmental Relations Manager. The assignment will consist of a bill summary, analysis, and recommendation.

- The summary will include a brief summary statement, the relating to clause, and the sponsors of the bill.
- The analysis will include a discussion of how the bill may affect Lane County government and/or its citizens, including any financial considerations that can be established.
- Recommendations are:
 - Neutral: There is no direct impact to Lane County if it passes or doesn't pass.
 - Support: To uphold or defend as valid or right. Actively engage to ensure passage.
 - Oppose: Offer resistance to the bill such that fails in committee or in a chamber.
 - Oppose unless amended/Support if amended: A specific amendment is necessary and should be pursued. Amendment concept or language must receive Board support.
 - Monitor: To stay engaged and actively involved in the process of a bill, with regular reports back on real or possible amendments and other developments.
- The Intergovernmental Relations Manager will bring select bills to the Board of County Commissioners on a regular basis in order to confirm or adjust the staff recommendations. No bills may be actively lobbied by staff without a position being memorialized by a Board Order.
- Bills will be tracked on an Access database and a post session report will be developed.

Staff and Board Testimony: Testimony is an important element within the legislative process and may only be submitted after the Board of County Commissioners has memorialized a position on selected legislation. Staff and Board members may testify on legislative issues prior to a Board taking a position on legislation if they are clear that they are doing so as individuals or as a member of a professional organization.

Collaboration: Lane County will attempt to maximize collaboration with regards to legislative advocacy by pairing with the Association of Oregon Counties, the Association of O and C Counties, other individual counties, and cities and districts within Lane County.

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO.

I IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING POSITIONS ON
I LEGISLATIVE ISSUES DURING THE 75TH
I LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, Lane County has a keen interest state legislative activities, and;

WHEREAS, Lane County Government employs an Intergovernmental Relations Manager for the purpose of advocating on behalf of Lane County government at the Oregon Legislature, and;

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of County Commissioners wishes to communicate their positions on legislative issues to the public and other elected officials, and;

WHEREAS, the Legislative Committee is the established standing committee which exists to fully inform the Lane County Board of Commissioners in a timely fashion on legislative issues, and;

WHEREAS, it has previously been resolved that the Legislative Committee will forward its recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval by the Board of County Commissioners on an as-necessary basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Lane County Board agrees to the slate of positions illustrated in Attachment A, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board Order will officially represent the will of the Board of County Commissioners and may be used by the Intergovernmental Relations Manager to communicate their position to Oregon legislators during the 75th Legislative session.

DATED this _____ day of February, 2009

Pete Sorenson, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

Attachment A
Lane County, Oregon
Board of County Commissioners
Spreadsheet for Legislative Review
75th Oregon Legislature
February 18, 2009

Item #	Priority # (1-3)	House- Senate	Bill #	Reviewer	Recommendation	Bill Summary	Staff's Analysis
1	1	House	2561	Spickard	Monitor	<p>Permits public bodies leasing land from other exempt public bodies to file claim for property tax exemption for prior tax years by April 1, 2010.</p> <p>Applies to property tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2002, and on or before July 1, 2008. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.</p>	<p>Since 1977, ORS 307.166 has required public and otherwise exempt entities who lease property to each other to file an application with the assessor along with a copy of the lease agreement in order to maintain the tax exemption for that particular property. Current exemption statutes also allow late filing for the exemption through December 31st each year with a late filing penalty. The application requirement is the responsibility of the lessee, however if the requirement is not met the taxes are assessed to the owner. The Oregon Tax Court has ruled consistently on the assessors' side in 307.166 related appeals as the law is clear that an application is required in order to receive the exemption. This bill does not eliminate the application filing requirement. It only opens up a short window of time for government entities to get a refund. Refunds are paid from tax district funds, not from the county alone. In Lane County half of the refund will come from schools, which the state may not be able to backfill through the state school fund formula.</p>

Attachment A

Priority # House-		Senate		Item #	Bill #	Reviewer	Recommendation	Bill Summary	Staff's Analysis
2	1	1	1	2	440	Spartz	Oppose	Removes requirement that 70 percent of revenues from new or increased local transient lodging tax be used to fund tourism promotion or tourism-related facilities. Applies to local transient lodging taxes imposed on or after effective date of Act. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.	Less flexibility. Restrictions on Our use of Transient Lodging Taxes.