



**WASHINGTON COUNTY
2022
STATE
LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA**



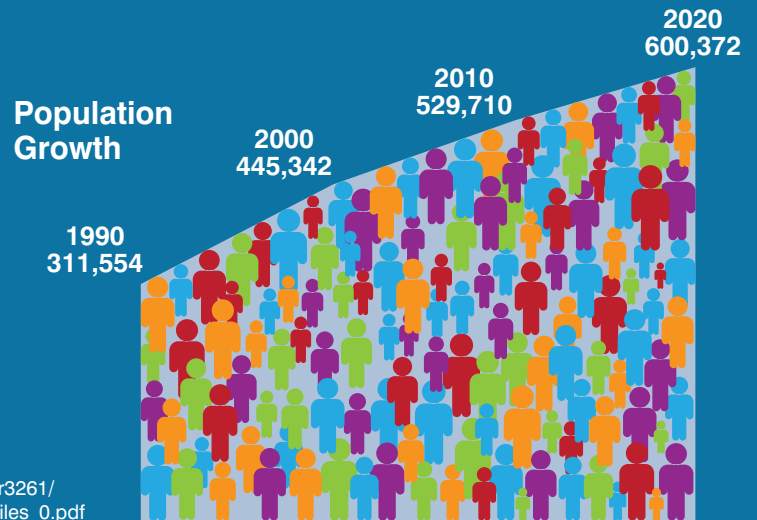
Adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and Clean Water Services – December 14, 2021

Washington County: Growing to Meet Growing Needs



Our mission is to provide excellent and cost-effective services that support healthy, peaceful, safe and sustainable communities, and encourage meaningful participation in community activities and county governance.

Washington County is growing rapidly. In the last decade, the population grew by 13 percent¹ which is approximately the same as having 19 people move to the County every day for a decade.



¹Based on https://www.pdx.edu/population-research/sites/g/files/znldhr3261/files/2021-08/2020%20Census%20Oregon%20and%20County%20Profiles_0.pdf

By the Numbers

600,372
total population

Second
largest
county in Oregon

17.9%
identify as
Hispanic or Latino

Over 11%
identify as Asian
or Pacific Islander

U.S. Census Bureau 2021
(www.census.gov/quickfacts/washingtoncountyoregon)



WASHINGTON COUNTY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles are driven by the overall goals and mission of the Board to provide robust and equitable service delivery to the community.

Maintain the County’s ability to design and implement programs that support, serve, and respond to community needs by defending local control of policies, processes, and outcomes.

Enhance local efforts to serve the diverse population of Washington County in an equitable and inclusive manner.

Oppose efforts to preempt, restrict, reduce, or eliminate existing revenue sources.

Support maintaining and, in certain circumstances, enhancing funding of programs and services which rely on state revenue sources.

Oppose unfunded mandates.

Support legislation that balances economic interests and growth with a healthy environment.

Approach policy solutions through the promotion of recognized best practices and collaborative problem solving.



Legislative priorities reflect the needs and goals of the Board for the year’s legislative session.

Provide long-term COVID-19 response and recovery for our communities.	page 5
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Restore funding to, and cost recovery for, County programs and services with a focus on the County Law Library and Juvenile Conciliation Services.	page 6
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Secure long-term stability of revenues provided to the county by the state that offsets investments of local revenues.	page 7

PRIORITIES



COVID-19 RESPONSE & RECOVERY

Provide long-term COVID-19 response and recovery for our communities.

Close the health equity gap among communities of color and other under-served community members.

Grow behavioral health workforce to provide stability for residents experiencing mental health crises and substance use disorders.

Fund public health response to COVID-19 for the long term.

Maintain housing stability and increase housing options for homeowners and renters.

Support homeless residents with short- and long-term solutions including shelters, temporary housing, permanent housing, and resources for daily life.

Strengthen the economy by ensuring local business and community-based organization resiliency.

Increase availability and access to childcare services.



PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE

Restore funding to, and cost recovery for, County programs and services with a focus on the County Law Library and Juvenile Conciliation Services.

Support Public Safety policies that embrace principles of social and restorative justice while helping build capacity for communities to flourish.

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Support polices and initiatives that support robust service delivery in the public safety system while preventing the loss of positions and public services that harm the ability of Washington County residents to participate meaningfully and fully in our justice system.

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Washington County Law Library

Restore state funding for statutorily mandated County Law Libraries so members of the public have continued access to critical legal resources.

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Juvenile Conciliation & Mediation Services

Expand state funding for juvenile conciliation and mediation services to promote equitable outcomes in legal proceedings involving youth.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Secure long-term stability of revenues provided to the County by the State that offsets investments of local revenues.

Long-term assurance of funding availability allows strategic investment in community improvements that allow the county to address the growth, safety and needs of the community.

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Investment in programs, such as gain share, allows the county to support development of long-term career pathways in manufacturing and traded sector industries.

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Maintaining local flexibility for use of these revenues allows the county to determine the best way of meeting ongoing and emerging needs of the community.



PRIORITIES



CLEAN WATER SERVICES

Guiding Principle: Clean Water Services will support efforts to maintain and improve the infrastructure, innovation and efficiency of water resources that ensure quality of life throughout the Tualatin River Watershed.



Advocate for additional state investment in water infrastructure, as well as state programmatic funding and resources to support basin planning and one-water approaches to address complex water challenges.

Support efforts to secure additional state funding for water utility ratepayer assistance.

Identify opportunities to promote the use of green and one-water infrastructure strategies, including natural treatment systems and water reuse/recycled water.

Monitor statewide water visioning/planning conversations.

Preserve local financing tools for infrastructure investments, including local charges that support additional capacity and growth.

Seek opportunities for CWS to engage in climate and drought adaptation strategies, including carbon sequestration initiatives and investments to enhance and promote natural and working lands.

COUNTY SERVICE SPECIFIC GUIDING PRINCIPLES



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Maintain and increase funding for all Health and Human Services programs.
- Monitor and preserve local authority and accountability for all Health and Human Services programs.
- Improve child health and well-being.
- Protect human health through assurance of healthy environments.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

- Increase access to permanent supportive housing.
- Enhance funding for affordable housing preservation and increase affordable housing supply.
- Ensure affordable housing options for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Reduce barriers to homeownership.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support Oregon’s existing toolbox of economic development incentives available to local government and state agencies.
- Protect Oregon’s Strategic Investment program (SIP) & Gain Share agreements as important economic development tools for attracting new investments and encouraging additional investments from Oregon’s existing business community.
- Increase opportunities and programs that invest in workforce training for living wage jobs and career advancement.

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION

- Maximize efficiency, promote safety and equity, and stabilize investment in Oregon’s multimodal, transportation system and State Highway Fund.
- Increase the flexibility of existing funds and creation of new funds to support local government work on climate adaptation and carbon reduction strategies.
- Maintain local ability to sustainably manage land use processes and decisions.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support legislation that creates stable funding, improved decision making and planning to keep Washington County a safe place to live, work and thrive.
- Secure increased funding for judicial resources.

PUBLIC SAFETY (CONT.)

- Support the development and use of a continuum of cost-effective community sanctions and services to supervise juvenile and adult offenders.
- Support legislation that evaluates all components of the criminal justice system for the purpose of making recommendations on comprehensive criminal justice reform, to support equity and safety.
- Expand the opportunities and investments to provide services in a collaborative and cooperative manner with other County departments (e.g. Health and Human Services) and with other criminal justice and community service agencies.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- Secure flexibility in funding services and advocate for policies that recognize the critical partnership between state and local governments.
- Maintain a secure and fair election system.
- Reduce barriers to maintaining accurate and uniform property assessment in compliance with Oregon laws.
- Support legislation that allows local government to evaluate and maintain efforts to foster employee development, including training programs and a commitment to active performance management.
- Maintain and invest in local government opportunities to recruit, develop, and retain a diverse and talented workforce and advance policies and practices that reflect the diverse nature of our workforce.

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