



JAY BOZIEVICH

Lane County Commissioner
West Lane District
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DATE: April 4, 2019
TO: Joint Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Public Safety
RE: SB 5513, relating to the financial administration of the Judicial Department

Co-Chairs Senator Winters and Representative Piluso and Members of the Committee:

Each and every day, Lane County works in partnership with the Judicial Department in a variety of ways. You have previously heard me speak to our relationship with the Court through the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council when it comes to both Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment funding decisions, our involvement with them on the issue of specialty courts, our role as the Mental Health Authority when it comes to fitness to proceed and civil commitments, and the partnership we have with them in terms of family mediation and conciliation and the operation of our Law Library. I personally have worked with several Presiding Judges and each of them has been stellar. We further appreciate the Chief Justice and her staff in fostering these working collaborations.

When it comes to the Chief Justices Request Budget, I'd like to highlight several Policy Option Packages (POP's) that we are particularly supportive of:

- POP 111, the Oregon Courthouse Capital Construction and Improvement Fund includes \$87.6M in State General Obligation Bond authority for the Lane County Courthouse. This project is Lane County's highest legislative priority. As a long-time member of the Association of Oregon Counties Courthouse Task Force, I support all five of the projects listed. This funding source is absolutely critical to modernization efforts across Oregon and has thus far built two new courthouses in Oregon. Approval of this POP will put four new courthouses in the queue, including finalizing the Lane County funding package.
- POP's 101 and 102 both deal with the agency's ability to attract and maintain the necessary human resources to ensure the Court's operate to their highest potential. It is imperative that salaries remain competitive and that courts are able to fill their staffing needs.
- POP 110 addresses the safety considerations within courthouses. There are two ways safety is improved; through staffing with trained public safety personnel and via capital improvements to harden the facilities. POP 110 increases funding for personnel and establishes brand new money for hardening.
- POP 107 addresses the information technology that is part and parcel of a modern court system. This POP is a must have particularly as the new courthouses come on line due to presence of the OCCIF. As we have experience through our work to modernize the Lane County Courthouse, there is an expectation for additional e-court resources to expand access to justice.

Thank you for hearing this input and I urge you to work diligently to secure adequate resources for this agency.

Sincerely,

Jay Bozievich
Lane County Commissioner, West Lane District