



*Josephine County Board of Commissioners*

*Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair • Herman E. Baertschiger Jr., Vice Chair • Darin J. Fowler, Commissioner*

April 13, 2021

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Subj: Josephine County Supports OJD's FY 2021-2023 Proposed Budget

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Josephine County Board of Commissioners. Josephine County supports the Oregon Judicial Department's proposed budget for the 2021-2023 biennium. The budget includes current service level funding and adds targeted resources to better serve Oregonians.

Locally, OJD's budget looks to remedy unsafe court facilities with courthouse improvements, provide a treatment court position (which is currently grant funded), and a Family Court facilitator. These roles are vital to the provision of justice in Josephine County as they eliminate barriers and provide access for the underserved and vulnerable populations we serve.

Much of the county government is collocated with the court at the two courthouses. We have long enjoyed a pleasant and productive working relationship with court personnel and patrons. In 2019, Chief Justice Martha Walters served as the Grand Marshall for the annual Boatnik parade, which is one of the largest and most popular ongoing events in the state. From our perspective, OJD is a well-run, efficient and highly professional branch of the state government that deserves to be reinforced going forward.

Thank you for including this letter of support for OJD's proposed budget in the formal legislative record. Please contact me at 541-474-5221 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. DeYoung, Chair

COURTHOUSE

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