



# Oregon Judicial Department

## Representative Juries: Increase Juror Pay & Mileage Rates to Improve Access to Justice

### Key Points

- ✓ Addresses economic barriers many people face when summoned to serve on juries.
- ✓ Oregon jurors are paid less for a day of service (\$10) than the lowest hourly minimum wage (\$12).
- ✓ The 2021 legislature approved per diem reimbursement for lower-income people who volunteer to serve on executive branch boards and commissions.
- ✓ Brings Oregon to parity with the federal court system and several other states.
- ✓ Jurors must waive the jury fee if their employer pays them during their jury service. Employers are not required to pay jurors during service.

### Questions?

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## Increase Juror Pay & Mileage Rates

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) seeks to raise juror pay from one of the lowest rates in the nation. Jury pay and mileage is set by statute and has not been updated in 20 years. Current rates do not begin to cover the costs of a day's loss of work, child-care, elder care, parking, transportation, food costs, and other financial losses from fulfilling required jury service duty.

HB 2224 would not fully compensate jurors for the expense of their required service in this essential role in our democracy, but would come closer to compensation paid to lower-income people who volunteer as board and commission members in state government.

### Representative Juries

Increasing the rate of pay and mileage reimbursement will help ensure juries more fairly reflect the communities they represent, increase access to justice for the community, and increase trust in government. OJD hopes this change also will increase the response rate, bringing in more individuals who can make this important sacrifice, thereby improving turnout, representation, and engagement.

### Changes in HB 2224 and Policy Option Package 112

	Current Law	HB 2224
<b>First 2 days of service</b>	\$10/day	\$50/day
<b>Third or more days</b>	\$25/day	\$60/day
<b>Mileage reimbursement</b>	\$0.20/mile	\$0.655/mile

HB 2224 also provides authority for the State Court Administrator to provide periodic cost-of-living adjustments to juror compensation. Mileage reimbursement is tied to federal rate changes.

The bill as introduced also increases juror compensation in justice or municipal courts. OJD has no objection if cities and counties want to amend the bill and continue paying the current rate in their courts.

Approving HB 2224 and Policy Option Package 112 would provide \$21 million GF for additional juror compensation for jurors who do not receive employer-provided paid jury leave, which is optional under current Oregon law.