



GRANT COUNTY COURT
Scott W. Myers, County Judge
Jim Hamsher, Commissioner
Sam Palmer, Commissioner

December 21, 2022

Association of Oregon Counties
Public Safety Steering Committee
Oregon Legislative Counsel

RE: LC 1479

The Grant County Court supports LC 1479, which will recognize Elected DAs and Deputy District Attorneys under Oregon's Police & Fire PERS system

The Oregon Constitution, Article 7, Section 17 provides, "There shall be elected by districts comprised of one, or more counties, a sufficient number of prosecuting Attorneys, who shall be the law officers of the State" While the constitution recognizes that prosecutors are law enforcement, the State continues to deny that status as it relates to PERS.

District Attorneys are the ONLY strike prohibited public safety employees not included in police/fire PERS? [see ORS 243.736 and ORS 238.005(19)] And that today the list of Police and Fire PERS eligible employees include regulatory specialists at the OLCC, livestock police at ODA, all DPSST employees other than secretary/clerical, DOJ investigators, lottery enforcement agents, OYA teachers, and DHS employees who provide care for residents in residential facilities.

Our District Attorney is often in the office early, and the last one in the building at night. He bears the load of prosecuting all crimes in Grant County, as well as the administrative functions of his office. He takes calls day and night from police officers, and is on scene for all major crimes. He remains available to the public, and represents law enforcement in our community with dignity and professionalism. We stand behind him in support of LC 1479.

Sincerely

Scott Myers, County Judge

Jim Hamsher, Commissioner

Sam Palmer, Commissioner