



**KEVIN BARTON**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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150 North First Avenue, Suite 300, MS 40, Hillsboro, Oregon 97124-3002  
(503) 846-8671 / (503) 846-3407 (fax)  
[www.WashingtonCountyDA.org](http://www.WashingtonCountyDA.org)

February 1, 2024

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez,

As the District Attorney for Washington County, I am writing to ask for your support for \$886,528 in permanent funding for a new judicial officer and \$1.25 million in one-time matching state funds for Washington County's Courthouse Replacement Project.

There is an urgent need in Washington County for this funding. As the second most populous county in Oregon, our severe lack of judges and courtrooms have a direct impact on access to justice for our over 600,000 residents.

This request will support **one** additional judge and funding to initiate the Courthouse Replacement Project. The need, however, is even greater. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) analyzed case filings and determined that **four** additional judges are required. However, while the county can make the space available for one additional judge, our undersized courthouse cannot accommodate four more judges. Our courtrooms are overwhelmed with hearings and hallways are crowded with victims and witnesses.

As a public safety leader in Washington County, I would greatly appreciate your assistance in securing state funding to expand the county's judicial capacity and ensure true access to justice for our residents.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Barton".

Kevin Barton  
District Attorney for Washington County