

January 30, 2025

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners Policy Position Relating to Income Tax Authority

Clackamas County opposes House Bill 2110: As proposed, this legislation restricts local government tax authority and potentially destabilizes existing public service programs.

In 2020, voters in the greater Portland Metro area approved a 10-year income tax to fund Supportive Housing Services (SHS) for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. With these dollars, Clackamas County has built a recovery-oriented system of care, housed over 2,000 people, created 210 shelter beds, and prevented 3,300 evictions.

HB 2110 has the potential to change how much is collected in the existing SHS measure. Clackamas County has built out our programming based on projected revenue of the measure as currently defined. As we know from recent efforts to lower the tax, any reduction in revenue will necessarily require cuts to programs and services – which is a non-starter for the county.

Moreover, restricting local and regional revenue tools and removing local discretion in the tax development process is inconsistent with Oregon's system of local responsibility and control. Successful legislation should maintain the financial sustainability of local programs. Legislation should not preempt local tax sources or restrict local government authority.

We urge a "no" vote on HB 2110.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.