

Executive Director
Shannon I. Wilson



Assistant Executive Director
Jacob Reynolds

**Public Defender
of Marion County, Inc.**
Humanidad. Comunidad. Justicia.

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503-480-0521

March 3, 2025

Re: Senate Bill 913

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shannon Wilson, and I am the director for the Public Defender of Marion County. I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 913. Our nonprofit organization provides legal representation for low-income clients who qualify for court appointed counsel in Marion County Circuit Court. An important part of ensuring a fair and just process is the ability to select jury members that belong to our clients' community.

Many of our clients are residents of Salem and share similar experiences and backgrounds with their neighbors and the larger community who comprise the jury pool available for trials in our Circuit Court. I was surprised to learn the jury pool for the Marion County Justice Court is not truly representative of this county, as it excludes citizens that reside within the city limits. With the passage of Senate Bill 913, local citizens who are now disenfranchised would finally be allowed to participate in their local Justice Court's Jury Panel. Currently, the statute arbitrarily disenfranchises many simply because the location of their residence is within the city limits.

Please vote YES on SB 913 and let me know if I can provide any additional information in support of the passage.

Respectfully,

Shannon I. Wilson, Executive Director
Public Defender of Marion County