



Support HB 2145

The Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center is a small 20-acre facility that caters to our community of 65,000+.

We are home to many organizations that use the facility for fundraising and youth programs. In 2024 we hosted 13 fundraisers which raised \$153,931.00 during the year and 6 fundraisers which raised \$627,449.00 during the Annual Fair that was reinvested back into our community.

We are home to not only 4H/FFA but to softball team practices, Archery, Boy Scout winter camp, Girl Scouts and Eagle Scout project days. The Salem Police train in our parking lot, the Polk County Sheriff trains in our buildings and parking lot. The school buses teach their drivers in our parking lot. Christmas Cheer and the Holiday Project take care of the families in Polk County, using our facility to stage the packages going out.

Our facility has long been used for emergencies not only for our County but also neighboring Counties.

We are the reunification for 7 public schools in our County.

We have been underfunded in the past years and have struggled to keep our doors open, we are always here for our community in their time of need, we always open our doors with open arms in any crisis. However, when we are in crisis of not being able to keep up with facility maintenance and capital projects, we go unheard. We carry our community but are considered just entertainment facilities.

Our mission statement is to promote community interaction by providing a facility for our diverse community to use, share, grow and enjoy. We take this very seriously and have worked hard with a very small staff and a very large group of volunteers to make this happen.

Our facility is aging rapidly. We were built in the 1950's and 1960's and have done our best to keep up on the maintenance however without funding help it makes it extremely difficult to be here for our community needs.

We are asking for legislators to:

- Eliminate the cap established 20 years ago and fully fund 1% of lottery funds to county fairs with 90% of funds going to county fairgrounds and 10% of funds going to the state fairgrounds.
- Support an additional \$20.839 million to the state fairgrounds for infrastructure improvements as a regional emergency and evacuee center
- Fund a study and additional capital project improvements to state and county fairgrounds to ensure they can continue as resilience/disaster response, economic, social, cultural, and educational hubs in our communities.
- Support an investment of \$2.5 million to the Union County Fairgrounds for health and safety infrastructure, including running water and sewer.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the needs of all Fairgrounds in Oregon

Sincerely,

Tina R Andersen

Tina Andersen, Polk County Fairgrounds & Event Center Manager