



## VANESSA CORNWALL

---

Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
Vanessa.cornwall@lanecountyor.gov

DATE: March 11, 2025  
TO: House Committee on Revenue  
FROM: Laurie Trieger, Lane County Board of Commissioners  
RE: HB 3518, Relating to Funding County Assessment Functions

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee:

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, members of the committee, for the Record, I am Lane County Commissioner Laurie Trieger.

As you know the CAFFA program provides critical supplemental funding for County Assessment and Taxation (A&T) functions.

But CAFFA revenues have failed to keep pace with costs to the detriment of our entire property tax system.

Insufficient CAFFA revenue has forced reductions in Assessment and Taxation (A&T) staffing, impacting county budgets and the services our constituents rely on.

At its peak in 2003 CAFFA funded 36% of the cost of A&T function but has been on a steady decline since that time, sitting now at a mere 12% of the statewide cost of the system.

**HB 3518 will provide much needed relief to Oregon's county general funds by covering 25% of A&T costs and help to ensure *each taxing district in our state* receives an accurate and maximized property tax distribution, help create uniformity for property taxpayers, and support counties in delivering vital services.**

The Oregon Department of Revenue recommends a staffing level of 76 full time equivalent (FTE). Our staffing levels in Lane County rank among the lowest per account in Oregon.

Due to funding shortfalls we went from 60 to 48FTE in 2012, where our staffing remains today, while in that same 13 year timeframe we've grown by over 20,000 property tax accounts.

Heading into fiscal year 25/26, our county general fund is facing a \$6.5 million budget deficit; forcing us to consider 5% reductions across all departments. This would further reduce A&T staffing down to just 45 FTE.



## VANESSA CORNWALL

---

Intergovernmental Relations Officer

[Vanessa.cornwall@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:Vanessa.cornwall@lanecountyor.gov)

This year we've certified just shy \$721million in taxes to collect and distribute to Lane County's 85 districts; including schools, cities, public safety, fire, ambulance, and parks districts... after which just 12 cents on the dollar remain for Lane County to put into our own General Fund for priority programs and services.

Nearly 28% of our County General Fund is made up of property tax revenue

Your support of HB 3518 supports our shared goals of affordable housing, public education, health, and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER