



SB 1175

Key Points:

- ✓ Jurors perform a vital role in our system of justice, yet jury participation is declining in Oregon
- ✓ SB 1175 creates a 2025-26, 15-member, three branch task force
- ✓ Task force focus areas:
 - Evaluating jury compensation
 - Improving juror participation levels
 - Public education and outreach strategies
- ✓ Staffed and supported by the Oregon Judicial Department

Questions?

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Task Force on Removing Barriers to Jury Service

The Task Force on Removing Barriers to Jury Service will study and make recommendations to improve Oregon's jury system by examining Oregon's current structure of jury compensation and how it impacts jury participation, comparing Oregon's structure and outcomes to other states, and exploring public outreach and education strategies.

The constitutional right to a trial by jury is a cornerstone of US democracy and the Oregon judicial system. Juries ensure fairer outcomes, promote civic participation, and increase citizen understanding of our system of government. 84% of Americans believe that trials by jury help make the justice system accountable to the rule of law and the Constitution.¹

Unfortunately, participation in juries is declining in Oregon. Accounting for the impact of the pandemic on jury trials, the number of requests for excusal from jury service has increased by 16% yearly since 2017. The percentage of people who fail to respond has also increased from 24% in 2022 to 32% in 2024.

"We would say that about 40-50% of the responses we receive state that serving as a juror is a financial hardship, they cannot afford to take time off work based on the amount the court pays jurors."

-Deschutes County Jury Coordinator

Financial hardship is a significant barrier to jury participation. National research shows that there is a relationship between the amount of juror compensation, proportion of jurors excused for financial hardship, and the demographic composition of the jury pool.²

Understanding the importance of jury service and these current challenges, OJD has committed to increasing jury participation and improving the jury service experience to promote equitable, informed, and engaged civic participation.³ SB 1175 is a part of that effort.



The Task Force on Removing Barriers to Jury Service will study how Oregon’s structure of jury compensation and resulting participation levels compare to other states. Several states and local jurisdictions outside of Oregon have recently increased juror compensation. Various states take different approaches to compensation, from fixed flat rates to graduated per diem rates. Some jurisdictions also provide specific compensation for out-of-pocket expenses like travel costs and parking or provide in-kind compensation in the form of childcare, while others impose a partial or full compensation requirement on employers. States have also reduced costs to jurors through efficiencies such as remote participation in jury selection.

The task force will also explore outreach and education strategies to inform the public regarding jury participation and compensation. This is a crucial part of the jury process, with many innovative approaches for boosting civic engagement around jury services to consider. This may include partnerships with community organizations, schools, public service announcements, campaign outreach, and collaboration with other government entities.

The 15-member task force will issue a report including its research and recommendations by December 15, 2026. The work of the task force will be supported by OJD staff.

¹ [The State of the State Courts: 2022 National Center for State Courts Public Opinion Survey](#)

² National Center for State Courts (2022), [Juror Compensation in the United States](#).

³ [OJD’s 2024-27 Justice Campaign](#)