



# JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

## Board of Commissioners

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February 10, 2026

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee On Judiciary

RE: Support for Oregon House Bill 4043 (2026)

Dear Members of the House Committee On Judiciary:

We, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, urge your support of Oregon House Bill (HB) 4043 (2026) authorizing the State Treasurer to issue Article XI-Q bonds to finance renovation or expansion of courthouses. As you know, these funds are currently limited to the replacement of courthouses. We ask that the Oregon Courthouse Capital Construction and Improvement Fund also be allowed to be utilized for expansion of courthouses, as sometimes it is a more responsible way to spend taxpayer dollars while meeting the counties' requirement to provide suitable and sufficient courtrooms, offices, and jury rooms, and to maintain those facilities under Oregon Revised Statute 1.185.

Jackson County is one of the most populous counties in Oregon, serving more than 200,000 residents through its Circuit Court in Medford. Public reporting and judicial budget reviews show that Oregon courts statewide are handling more cases with limited physical infrastructure, especially in growing counties. When courtroom availability does not match caseload demand, the consequences include delays in hearings and trials, and scheduling bottlenecks for juries, attorneys, and victims.

Additionally, modern court facilities are expected to meet much stricter standards than older buildings were designed for, including Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility throughout public and staff areas, secure entrances and screening capacity, and safe holding and transport areas for in-custody defendants. Older courthouses often do not meet current safety and accessibility expectations. But that does not mean new buildings are a must – Jackson County's building is structurally sound, so bringing it into compliance just requires renovation or expansion. The current bond requirements for replacement should be expanded to allow this work.

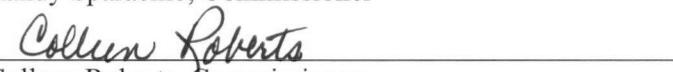
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Rick Dyer, Chair

  
Randy Sparacino, Commissioner

  
Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

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By: Email Only to Ms. Cindy Robert, Jackson County Lobbyist, cindy@rainmakersgovernmentstrategies.com