



**WASHINGTON COUNTY
2022
FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA**



Adopted by the Board of County Commissioners and Clean Water Services – December 14, 2021

Washington County is the second largest county in Oregon and is among the state's most diverse, including the state's largest county population of Latino/Latina/Latinx community members and the highest percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

By the Numbers U.S. Census Bureau 2021 (www.census.gov/quickfacts/washingtoncountyoregon)

600,372
total population

2nd
largest
county in Oregon

17.9%
identify as
Hispanic or Latino

Over 11%
identify as Asian
or Pacific Islander

The county is home to a thriving high-technology industry, sometimes referred to as the Silicon Forest, as well as world leaders in sports and recreational apparel and a long-established agricultural sector.

Washington County Economy



15,945 EMPLOYERS with more than 290,000 Employees



727 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS with 27.7% of the MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE IN THE STATE working in Washington County



270 TOURISM ESTABLISHMENTS with 16% of the TOURISM JOBS IN THE STATE located in Washington County



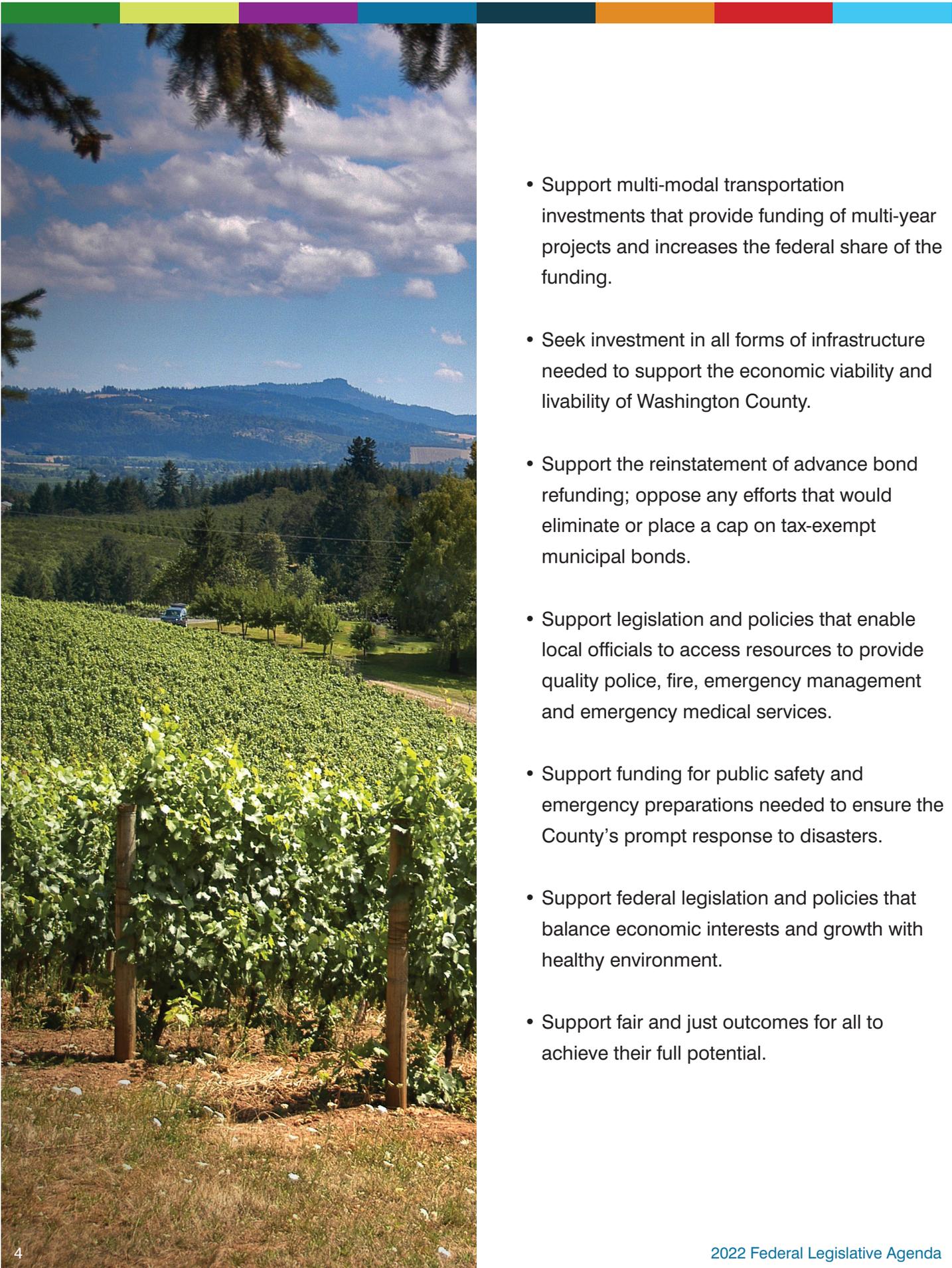
45 AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS with 3.4% of AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEES located in Washington County

County services are made possible through a workforce of approximately 2,300 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees. We work cooperatively with more than a dozen cities that are wholly or partially within the county's boundaries, five fire districts, plus Clean Water Services and other service districts to serve the county's shared residential, business and institutional constituents.



WASHINGTON COUNTY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Oppose efforts to preempt, restrict, reduce or eliminate existing federal revenue resources.
- Secure ongoing public health funding and constituent relief for COVID-19 response and recovery.
- Promote participating in international agreements that improve market access and increase demand for Oregon-made products and advance efforts that benefit other identified county priorities including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency.
- Advance equitable, age-appropriate, evidence-based affordable physical and behavioral health care and service delivery.
- Oppose policies that restrict or inhibit the County from making local investments necessary to support its missions and programs.
- Support policies that increase pathways to homeownership, preserve and add affordable rental housing options, and offer safety nets to our homeless residents.
- Support federal financing tools for the County to support, build and preserve affordable housing; and legislation that provides for the creation of a long-term funding source dedicated to affordable housing.



- Support multi-modal transportation investments that provide funding of multi-year projects and increases the federal share of the funding.
- Seek investment in all forms of infrastructure needed to support the economic viability and livability of Washington County.
- Support the reinstatement of advance bond refunding; oppose any efforts that would eliminate or place a cap on tax-exempt municipal bonds.
- Support legislation and policies that enable local officials to access resources to provide quality police, fire, emergency management and emergency medical services.
- Support funding for public safety and emergency preparations needed to ensure the County's prompt response to disasters.
- Support federal legislation and policies that balance economic interests and growth with healthy environment.
- Support fair and just outcomes for all to achieve their full potential.



Clean Water Services is a water resources management utility that combines science and nature to clean water and return it to the Tualatin River. Our work safeguards the river's health and vitality, ensures economic success for our regions, and protects public health for over 600,000 residents and the businesses across Washington County.

Guiding Principles

- Support ongoing federal investment in grant and low-interest loan programs that support local water storage and infrastructure development projects.
- Ensure the long-term resilience and safety of water infrastructure.
- Support continuing investment in local conservation technical assistance and water recycling initiatives.

Legislative Priorities

Scoggins Dam/Tualatin Project

(U.S. Dept. of Interior - Bureau of Reclamation)

Support funding to ensure that safe, reliable and secure water resources continue to be available to meet the region's agricultural, industrial, municipal, and environmental needs.

Specifically:

- Support and pursue enhanced federal investment in the Bureau of Reclamation Safety of Dams program that can be utilized to address seismic resilience needs and secure the region's primary water supply.
- Support agreement with Bureau of Reclamation that allows advanced funds to be applied to the repayment contractors' share of future project costs or outstanding obligations.

Legislative Priorities, cont.

Planning for and investing in the region's water future (Various federal agencies)

Recognizing water resource needs within the basin, and impacts associated with future droughts and climate change, CWS will work to support and pursue funding to help plan for and invest in the basin's future water supply, including water management optimization, conservation strategies, and one-water approaches, including water reuse opportunities.

Specifically:

- Support legislation which authorizes and appropriates federal funding for water recycling and reuse initiatives, and advocate for federal regulatory consistency that supports projects. Specifically, the Bureau of Reclamation's Basin Study program, the Title XVI competitive grant program, and the Alternative Water Source program under Section 220 of the Clean Water Act (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and USEPA).
- Support legislation which authorizes and appropriates funding for water conservation and efficiency initiatives. Specifically, the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART grant programs which provides funding for a variety of projects that increase water supply flexibility and improve water management.

Ongoing Support for Water Infrastructure Funding (Various Federal Agencies)

Support federal funding and programs, including implementation of the recently passed federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, to assist in the financing of water storage and other water-related projects through direct grants or principle forgiveness/low-interest loans.

Water Ratepayer Assistance

(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/ possibly other federal agencies)

In the last year, Congress has successfully established and provided \$1.2 billion in funding for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. CWS will support additional federal investments in federal ratepayer assistance programs to support low-income households' payment of municipal water and sewer service bills.

Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge

(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Support an appropriation that ensures the US Fish and Wildlife Service has adequate funding to prudently manage, operate and maintain the Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Integrated Planning Approach

(U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Support the U.S. EPA in their work to implement the Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework to ensure reasonable, cost-effective, and scientifically-based permits and policies that will provide meaningful improvements to the nation's environmental and economic health. This approach will provide municipalities with opportunities to engage in long-term planning that supports the wise use of resources while ensuring continued compliance and meaningful environmental outcomes.

Natural Resource Conservation Service

(U.S. Department of Agriculture)

Support full funding for NRCS for technical assistance to effectively deliver conservation program resources in collaboration with the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Clean Water Services and other partners.

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