



AGENDA COVER MEMORANDUM

AGENDA DATE: April 28, 2026

PRESENTED TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: County Administration

PRESENTED BY: Vanessa Cornwall, Intergovernmental Relations Officer
Steve Adams, Policy Director

AGENDA TITLE: REPORT/ Legislative Committee Update

I. MOTION

This item is a report back only but does include an Order to memorialize the proposed changes to the Lane County Legislative Principals and Priorities Document. In the event the Board decides to formalize these recommendations, staff suggest the following motions:

Move to adopt (via Board Order 26-04-28-10) the updates to the Lane County Legislative Principles and Priorities document to include the amendments recommended by the Lane County Legislative Committee arising from their April 8, 2026 meeting and included by reference as Attachment A to this Agenda Cover Memorandum.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

This is a report from the Lane County Legislative Committee which met on April 8, 2026. This report back summarizes a discussion about draft principles and priorities for the Oregon 2027 Legislative Short Session.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

The Board of County Commissioners regularly takes positions on specific legislation. Typically, the Board adopts recommendations of the Committee after their review but can also take positions on specific legislation if timing of Committee meetings does not allow for the Committee to make recommendations in a timely manner.

The Board memorializes these decisions by making changes to the Lane County Legislative Principles and Priorities document, a comprehensive yet dynamic summation of issues important to Lane County and which guides organization-wide advocacy involving the Oregon Legislature and the United States Congress, as well as administrative rulemaking arising from adopted laws.

The Board last acted on January 27, 2026, when it adopted ORDER 26-01-27-13 which amended the Legislative Principles and Priorities document by adding legislative principles specifically identified to prepare the organization for the 2026 “Short Session” of Legislative Assembly and establishing respective priority policy efforts.

B. Policy Issues

Participation in the state and federal legislative process is initiated through the Lane County Legislative Committee, which is established in Lane Manual Chapter 3, Section 3.670, and the Lane County Administrative Procedures Manual Chapter 1, Section 10. In addition, the Board of County Commissioners adopts both Legislative Principles and Legislative Priorities.

Legislative Principles are intended to be broad policy statements that reflect the range of County interests and provide guidance when specific legislative proposals arise. Legislative Priorities, by contrast, identify specific bills, funding requests, or initiatives the County actively seeks to advance.

The Committee’s By-Laws require that each meeting of the Legislative Committee includes a review of the Legislative Principles and Priorities document to ensure continued relevance and alignment with evolving legislative conditions.

C. Board Goals

The Strategic Priorities identified in Lane County’s 2025-2027 Strategic Plan of Safe, Healthy County; Vibrant Communities; Robust Infrastructure; and Our People & Organizational Health are reflected throughout the legislative priorities and principles adopted by the Board and inform the updates discussed by the Committee.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The Legislative Principles and Priorities document includes several items intended to improve or stabilize the fiscal environment for Lane County, including enhanced biennial appropriations, protection of existing funding streams, and potential changes to state law that may affect revenue authority, funding structures, or cost responsibilities, as well as efforts to

reduce cost-shifting from the state or federal government to counties

E. Health Implications

There is always the possibility of health implications stemming from state and federal legislative actions. The Board has consistently emphasized issues related to homelessness, housing stability, and behavioral health, all of which are expected to be addressed in some form during the 2026 legislative session.

F. Analysis

At the April 8, 2026 meeting of the Legislative Committee, the committee:

- Received a brief summary of the 2026 “Short Session”, highlighting Board priorities that advanced, state budget adjustments related to transportation funding, and Lane County’s shelter funding request.
- Interim Plans for the interim and 2027 Legislative Priorities, including Community Corrections, illegal marijuana grow enforcement, courthouse funding, jurisdictional transfer and annexation, County Assessment Function Funding Assistant (CAFFA), and potential for state grant match assistance to counties. Additional topics for ongoing tracking for Medicaid budget impacts, cannabis regulatory reform, tax foreclosure surplus legislation, and sustainable funding for law library, court security, and family mediation services.
- Discussed updates to the Legislative Priorities and Principles for the 2027 session. Suggested update:
 - Transient lodging tax budgetary flexibility
- Discussed United Front preparation and ongoing federal advocacy around appropriations, Secure Rural Schools and O&C lands, and other agency-specific funding and policy matters.

G. Alternatives/Options

The Board may:

- Accept the report and adopt the recommended amendments to the Legislative Principles and Priorities document
- Accept the report and take no action on the proposed amendments • Amend the proposed Legislative Principles and Priorities document as it sees fit
- Take no action

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board accept the report and adopt the recommended amendments to the Legislative Principles and Priorities document as outlined in

Attachment B.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

The Oregon Legislature will convene January 2027.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

The Legislative Committee will continue to convene quarterly and report back to the Board with recommendations.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Recommended Legislative Principles and Priorities document for formal adoption.