

Memorandum Date: January 27, 2010

TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Administration, Intergovernmental Relations
PRESENTED BY: Alex Cuyler, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Legislative Committee Report in Advance of the Special Session of the 75th Oregon Legislature.

I. MOTION

Move to adopt the positions recommended by the Legislative Committee outlined on Attachment A.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Special Session of the 75th Oregon Legislature is scheduled to begin on February 1 and will last one month. With the special election for Measures 66 and 67 scheduled for January 26, 2010, there is much unknown as to the entirety of the scope of this session.

Each Representative has been able to develop one "member" bill. Each Senator is allowed two member bills. Committee bills had to have been approved by leadership. In advance of the session, the Legislature set up a website to see the bills and legislative concepts in advance. There are approximately 90 Senate bills and approximately 50 House bills listed on the site.

Intergovernmental Relations staff assigned pertinent bills to Directors to review and make recommendations on. These recommendations are contained in attachment A.

Given the short time frame, committees will work extremely quickly. There is little opportunity for amendments, although many bills already have amendments to them waiting in the wings.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

- The Board of County Commissioners regularly takes positions on specific legislation.
- On January 7, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Good Governance Board Order which adjusted membership on the Legislative Committee and allowed it to meet separately from the Board of County Commissioners.
- On November 4, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners adopted four legislative priorities for the special session and directed the Intergovernmental Relations Manager to pursue drafting bills and seeking sponsorship for those bills.

B. Policy Issues

The Intergovernmental Relations Manager was unsuccessful in attaining a sponsor for any of the County's priority issues for the February session. However, each issue did advance slightly:

- The Justice Court collections issue was intriguing for our local delegation. It is expected that a meeting will occur in Salem during February to discuss a strategy to put it into the queue for the January, 2011 session.
- The Secretary of State has developed language relating to the "fix" for contiguous precincts in Lane County. It will amend SB 998.
- Tort law provisions remain an issue. Lane County's advocacy interest in this issue did coincide with the Association of Oregon County's leadership meeting with the Attorney General. As a result, AOC staff has held two meetings with the AG's office to attempt to rectify this situation. The AG's office is now attempting to find a paying "client" for the work necessary to undertake a fix.
- There has been no discussion about revitalizing the Progress Board in light of the budgetary uncertainty in Oregon.

In seeking to identify bills for Directors to analyze, the Intergovernmental Relations Manager relies on his initial reading of the bill to identify those bills that may impact the operations or service delivery ability of the organization. He may also prioritize bills that have an expected impact on the County's budget. He sometimes identifies bills that address a community value, or are related to a statewide issue.

C. Board Goals

Proposed legislation may impact the ability of the Board to reach a variety of its vocalized goals.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The lobbying effort during the Special Session will take up the majority of the Intergovernmental Manager's time during February. There is no assistant available for the Manager during the Special Session. Lane County Directors or key staff may travel to Salem during the session if testimony is necessary.

There are several bills relating to the State's budget that were not assigned to staff. See attachment B for analysis of these measures. The Board may decide to take a position on these measures, or not.

E. Analysis

See Attachment A and B for a discussion of specific bills.

Depending on the outcome of the special election, the session may evolve in very different ways. If the proposed tax measures fail, it is expected that a re-evaluation of all of the bills will occur and the session will focus on re-balancing the 2009-11 biennium's budget.

F. Alternatives/Options

- 1.) Adopt the entirety of the legislative committee report in a single motion.
- 2.) Adopt a position on each bill individually.
- 3.) Adopt 1.) or 2.) and adopt a position on the measures contained in Attachment B.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff has no recommendation with regard to how the Board chooses to adopt legislative positions.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

With the Legislature convening on February 1, 2010 for one month only, it is important for the Board to provide direction today.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

Staff will continue to monitor the session as it evolves and is able to schedule a call in presentation in mid-February if the Board wishes to receive an update.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A outlines the legislative committee report and recommendations.

Attachment B is an analysis of non-assigned legislation measures that have an impact on future State budgets.

Attachment C is the draft Board Order outlining the positions the Board takes as a result of this packet and staff presentation.