

Legislative Priorities

Ensuring Access to Justice and Filling Critical Gaps

Key Priorities

- ✓ Improve public safety by supporting a functioning public defense system and effective pretrial release practices.
- ✓ Remove barriers for juveniles and adults by implementing efficient court processes to help people clear their records as permitted by the legislature.
- ✓ Protect vulnerable children and adults with substance abuse and mental health challenges.
- ✓ Ensure that courts have the judicial resources needed to provide litigants with timely justice.
- ✓ Help provide justice partners with better data and funding for court security and facilities.

Questions?

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Oregon Judicial Department



Courts Play a Key Role in Addressing Legislative Priorities

Oregon courts play a key role in addressing the Legislature's top priorities this session -- in public safety, public defense, behavioral health, housing/homelessness, equity and justice, and economic vitality. This session OJD proposes doing the following to address these issues and expand access to justice.

Public Safety & Public Defense

- Continue implementing a statewide pretrial release program to protect victim and public safety while reducing reliance on cash bail and increasing risk-based decision-making.
- Reduce the number of unrepresented persons and provide closure to victims by supporting efforts to improve Oregon's public defense system, recruiting and retaining qualified attorneys, and developing creative ways to resolve cases.

Behavioral Health

- Participate in efforts to improve systems and focus resources, especially in aid-and-assist and civil commitment cases.
- Invest in Family Treatment Courts, to provide substance abuse and behavioral health treatment and expedite moving children from foster care to safe homes.
- Provide stable funding and staff for Oregon's specialty courts addressing substance abuse, mental health, and veterans.

Housing & Homelessness

- Avoid unnecessary evictions by continuing to connect landlords and tenants with mediations and relief funds.

Equity & Justice

- Continue developing efficient processes to expand access to timely record expunction, as allowed by the Legislature.
- Ensure OJD can train staff to ensure efficient processing and maintain accurate data for management and policy decisions.
- Provide ongoing support to better protect vulnerable people with guardianships and conservatorships.
- Begin collecting demographic data to better understand and address disparities in the justice system.
- Improve access to courts through remote proceedings and other technology solutions.
- Raise juror compensation to increase juror participation and diversity to ensure the right to a 'jury of your peers.'



Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) Bills

SB 233	Salaries to Attract and Retain Highly-Qualified Judges
SB 234	Collect Demographic Data to Identify Disparate Justice Outcomes
SB 235	Add Judicial Positions to Provide Timely Access to Justice
HB 2224	Pay Jurors More Than \$10 per day to Keep Democracy Strong
HB 2225	Court Efficiencies and Housekeeping Changes
SB 5512	OJD Budget Bill

OJD Priority Policy Option Packages (General Fund unless otherwise noted)

Court Services for Vulnerable Oregonians

101	Strengthen Oregon's pretrial release system. <i>(\$9.6M)</i>
102	Continue temporary services to protect the \$1.2 billion in court-monitored assets of vulnerable people.
103	Continue temporary services to automate processes that give people a fresh start by setting aside records of a conviction, where allowed by law. <i>(\$2.0M)</i>
104-06, 109, 123	Provide court help for people without lawyers and maintain technology to expand remote hearings and share data with justice partners. <i>(\$12.6M)</i>
107	Add appellate court staff to improve efficiency and timely, transparent decisions. <i>(\$1.9M)</i>
108	Add seven judicial positions in the six counties of highest need to improve timely access to justice (Jackson, Washington (2), Lane, Josephine, Douglas, and Clackamas). <i>(\$6.6M)</i>
110	Fund classification and compensation changes to promote a stable, competitive workforce. <i>(TBD)</i>
111	Appropriate judicial compensation to recruit and retain highly-qualified judges. <i>(\$17.3M)</i>
112	Raise juror pay from \$10 per day to \$50 per day and increase mileage allowance. <i>(\$21M)</i>

Specialty Courts

113	Fund Family Treatment Courts to return children to safe homes. <i>(\$0.8M)</i>
114, 120	Continue supporting and expand drug, mental health, veterans, and other treatment courts. <i>(\$8.8M GF, \$11M OF)</i>

Pass-Through Funding for Legal Aid and Courthouse Security and Construction

116	Help counties provide entrance screening in 22 courthouses. <i>(\$12.5M)</i>
118	Provide Legal Aid funding to help more vulnerable Oregonians. <i>(\$14M)</i>
119, 121	Fund critical improvements to existing courthouses and support counties planning for construction of new, safe courthouses. <i>(\$1.7M GF, \$8.7M OF)</i>
122	Authorize State bonds to replace four unsafe courthouses. <i>(\$84.1M OF)</i>