



June 5, 2015

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Policy Position  
HB 2316: Relating to fees in Justice Courts**

**Clackamas County supports HB 2316:** The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2316, which increases Small Claims and civil case fees in Justice Courts.

Justice Courts provide vital civil court services to our local citizens at a reasonable cost. The Clackamas County Justice Court hears small claims and civil cases. In addition, Justice Courts reduce the workload of and cost to the state's Circuit Courts by overseeing civil cases. However, with rising costs and fees that have not been raised in several years, the continued operation of courts is in jeopardy. In particular, additional fees are needed to offset overhead costs for the civil department.

By increasing Small Claims and civil case fees, HB 2316 would allow Justice Court services to continue. Even with the fee increases, Justice Court fees would remain lower than the fees of Circuit Courts for the same services.

Please help to ensure this low cost legal service remains available and effective for our citizens. We urge a "yes" vote on HB 2316.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.