



March 1, 2017

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Policy Position  
SB 382: Relating to public contracting**

**Clackamas County supports SB 382 with conceptual amendments:** The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 382 with the conceptual amendments, which raises the threshold of public contracting services.

Clackamas County is committed to spending the public's resources responsibly, efficiently, and effectively. Currently, counties and other public agencies are required to hire design consultants for any contract over \$100,000 using only Qualification Based Selection (QBS). QBS is not the right tool for all contracts, and the current law's "one size fits all" approach adds no value to the more straight-forward projects that we undertake. Raising the threshold to \$500,000 and allowing consideration of pricing criteria would save local agencies time, help small businesses that can perform exceptional services, and make the marketplace more competitive to ensure the public is getting good value for its money.

SB 382 will also bring back the option for local agencies to ask consultants to provide a level of effort in hours when no state funds are involved with the project. This option was eliminated by the Legislature several years ago. Prior to that change, counties could use this information to determine a consultant's comprehension of the project scope, thus providing a valuable tool for comparing proposals from different consultants. Restoring this tool for local agencies will once again ensure Clackamas County has the best information available to select and negotiate with contractors for projects.

SB 382 will reduce a time-consuming process for projects that are straightforward, will provide cost savings for the public, and will give local agencies flexibility to best serve their citizens while still preserving public safety.

**We urge a "yes" vote for SB 382 with the conceptual amendments.**

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