



February 17, 2017

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**  
**Policy Position**  
**SB 661: Prohibiting Sweeps of Moneys in Emergency Communications Account**

**Clackamas County supports SB 661:** The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 661 to prohibit sweeps of 9-1-1 tax dollars to the State of Oregon General Fund.

Technology is advancing quicker than what 9-1-1 centers are able to keep up with. In the last 20 years, cell phone innovation has included features such as texting, video recording, social media notifications, and location tracking. These are tools that can better support 9-1-1 operations if emergency call centers are able to afford resources that are compatible with new technologies. The 9-1-1 tax ensures Oregonians can have that support in times of urgent need.

In the current state biennium, the 9-1-1 tax funded almost \$3.1 million in operations of the Clackamas County 9-1-1 center. Additionally, the tax paid for the installation of new telephone equipment, the implementation of Text-to-9-1-1, and all ongoing costs associated with the maintenance and operations of the 9-1-1 telephone lines that serve Clackamas County. The funds in the 9-1-1 accounts are also needed for the rollout of “Next Generation” 9-1-1 technology, which will allow Clackamas County to catch up with what our citizens are using today to communicate emergencies while also helping our first responders provide improved services to our citizens.

The entire 9-1-1 network is decades behind in technology and any sweep of the 9-1-1 tax would further slow the ability of Clackamas County to provide current technology services to our citizens. SB 661 ensures funds will be available moving forward, and will help to create a safer Clackamas County and Oregon.

**We urge a “yes” vote for SB 661.**

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