

# MULTNOMAH COUNTY TAX SUPERVISING & CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## 808 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 540 Portland, Oregon 97204

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### What is the Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC)?

The TSCC assists citizens, school districts, and local governments in Multnomah County with local budget and property tax law and implementation. It employs 2.2 FTE. Commission staff members are experts in budgeting and taxation. Their work often consists of:

- Monitoring and reporting on local government and school district budgets and taxes.
- Monitoring local government and school district adherence to local budget law.
- Holding public hearings on government and school district budgets and tax measures.
- Answering questions from citizens on budget and property taxes.
- Providing expertise in budgeting and tax law for local jurisdictions.

The TSCC is a public agency created by the legislature. Its five-member governing board is appointed by the Governor. Its budget cap and inflation factor are determined by state statute. It is locally funded by the 29 member jurisdictions, all of which have signed a petition in support of this legislation.

### What does HB 2504 do?

- Increases the TSCC's budget from \$365,000 to \$410,000, an increase of \$45,000;
- Increases the annual inflation factor from 3% to 4% to match current trends;
- Gives TSCC the ability to charge non-member jurisdictions for services and expertise;
- Gives TSCC the ability to apply for grants that increase transparency and innovation.

#### What is TSCC requesting?

Thanks to past legislation addressing this same issue, the TSCC has never exceeded its budget and spends an average of \$25,000 less than the cap. 90% of our budget is spent on personnel costs. As personnel expenditures increase at a rate faster than our 3% annual adjustment, our budgetary buffer decreases and will be eliminated by 2021. We are requesting a base budget increase from \$365,000 to \$410,000 and a 1% increase in our inflation factor, to 4%.

Additionally, we are requesting authority to generate revenue through grants and pay per service pricing for non-members. We hope to use this additional revenue stream to provide better customer service and implement programs and technology that support increased government and financial transparency.

Thank you.