



March 11, 2019

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**  
**Policy Position**  
**HB 2449: Relating to 9-1-1 Funding**

**Clackamas County supports HB 2449:** The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2449, which increases the 9-1-1 tax from \$0.75 to \$1.50 per month.

Since the last 9-1-1 emergency access tax increase in 1995, Clackamas County has seen a population increase from 314,922 to 412,672 (2017). More people means higher call volume into the emergency access lines in urban areas. It also results in increased search and rescue calls as greater numbers of people from the Portland metropolitan area travel to Mount Hood for recreation.

Clackamas County is an Oregon leader in collaborative communication responses. The County works with other local and regional 9-1-1 providers to share costs and ensure that Clackamas County has safe and reliable access to 9-1-1 services. Even with this collaborative approach, the 9-1-1 tax today only covers approximately 18% of our local operations.

Clackamas County recommends three areas to improve HB 2449:

- Remove the provisions that give 2% to counties with a population less than 40,000. This creates an inequity in the distribution among the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Oregon, causing some to receive up to 300% of their entire budget, while other PSAPs would receive less than 20% of their budgets.
- Reduce the amount for Oregon Emergency Management 9-1-1 Program from 4% to 2% with this increase and reduce the amount for the Department of Revenue from 1% to .05%.
- Add language specifically allowing interest earned on the 9-1-1 tax to be held in an account to be used for future upgrades to our critical infrastructure, commonly known as Next Generation 9-1-1.

It is important to note that while this increase will not provide 100% funding to all 9-1-1 centers in Oregon, it will help to improve our ability to respond to our communities when they are in need.

We urge a “YES” vote for HB 2449.

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