

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office

Commissioners
Margaret Magruder
Henry Heimuller
Casey Garrett

Administration
Jacyn Normine
Kathy Coddington

Communications
Mark Pacheco



ST. HELENS, OR 97051

230 Strand St., Room 338
Direct (503) 397-4322
Fax (503) 366-7243
columbiacountyor.gov

March 9th, 2023

Support for SB 5512, Policy Option Package 119 – AOC improvement projects

Co-Chair Senator Sollman, Co-Chair Representative Evans, and Members of the Committee,

The Columbia County Courthouse Annex and Historic Courthouse ranked 29th overall and 38th by cost in the 2008 Statewide Court Facilities Assessment. The overall rating of our facilities was 3.34 out of 5 when considering existing conditions in the ADA, Security, Life Safety, and Improvement categories as outlined in the ranking analysis.

Columbia County has made great progress towards mitigating facility deficiencies identified in the 2008 assessment. From 2012 to 2021 we have invested over **\$3.5 million** to upgrade HVAC, Lighting, Plumbing, Fire Monitoring and Suppression Systems, Roof Replacements, Elevator Modernization, Security Systems, and other Significant Building Shell and Structural Repairs. In addition, we have substantially increased staffing levels in our Facilities Services Program to ensure proactive, preventative courthouse facilities maintenance routines are performed regularly to protect and maintain these investments.

In 2021 Columbia County purchased a 30,000 s.f. facility to relocate county operating spaces, and free up space to allow expansion and improvements for State Court operating spaces. To make these improvements possible we have spent over **\$2 million** on acquisition, design development and permitting, and committed an additional **\$12.5 million** towards renovations for a new county operations center.

Now in 2023, the county is working collaboratively with OJD, State Courts staff and a Design/Build Contracting firm to invest an additional **\$2 million** of allocated funds for life/safety and accessibility upgrades to our historic courthouse, and to begin designing and improving new space for Court operations in the Courthouse Annex.

The ongoing commitment to improve, expand, and maintain the Columbia County Courthouse has drastically changed the condition and outlook of our court facilities when compared to the 2008 assessment. Additional investment will be necessary to bring new and existing State Court operating spaces up to the most current best practice standards. Columbia County is committed to continued collaboration and partnership opportunities with the state to carry out these much-needed projects.

Please support Senate Bill 5512 funding requests included in Policy Option Package 119 for the recommended AOC improvement projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Casey Garrett", is written over a horizontal line.

Casey Garrett