



Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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October 30, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber
Representative Tawna Sanchez
Joint Ways and Means Committee

Subject: Reduction options for the Oregon District Attorney's budget (SB 5513)

Oregon District Attorneys are a unique agency because 85% of our budget is salaries and benefits. Additionally, only 0.77% of our budget (\$162,635) is within our control to reduce. That small amount plus our one unfilled vacancy amounts to \$269,299 or a 1.75% reduction in our budget and is the extent of our suggested budget reduction options. The only other option, which was presented to this committee back in February when our budget was approved, is to furlough the DAs for the remaining reductions. This would require four furlough days to reach the 2.5% reduction and a total of twelve days to get to the 5% reduction requested. This is not something we are recommending any more than we did back in February. In some Counties, the Elected DA is the only attorney and furloughing them would effectively shut the office down.

The Oregon District Attorneys (ODA) consists of 36 members elected by county pursuant to Article VII, Section 17 of the Oregon Constitution. We have no staff and utilize DOJ staff for budgeting, payroll, and training. Each District Attorney (DA) is the chief law enforcement officer in the county and shall "perform such duties pertaining to the administration of Law, and general police as the Legislative Assembly may direct." Our mission is to enforce the laws of the State of Oregon, preserve the safety of the public, protect the rights of crime victims, and pursue justice for all.

SUMMARY OF OUR BUDGET

Salaries	\$11,250,384
Benefits and payroll expenses	\$ 6,742,643
Government services charges	\$ 2,744,824
Other services	\$ <u>317,276</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$21,055,127

2.5 % Reduction
5.0 % Reduction

\$ 526,278
\$ 1,052,756

ELIMINATION OF NEW OR EXPANDED PROGRAMS

The Oregon DAs only have two programs, both of which are relatively new. First is Grand Jury recordation which began in 2018 with test counties and began statewide in 2019. The district attorney is required to record grand jury proceedings by law (see ORS 132.250). We have \$146,055 of our budget dedicated to this responsibility. Because this amount is relatively small and redirecting these funds would require rewriting a recently passed law, we do not see this as a viable option to achieve the stated goal. The second program is the creation of transcripts from the grand jury recordings. This program is not required by law but assists prosecutors in preparing for, and presenting at, trial. While this is an important program for the success of this agency, it is a viable option. Our budget for this program is \$162,635 and this is our most preferred reduction option.

UNFILLED VACANCY OPTION

The authority to fill DA vacancies lies with the Governor (see ORS 8.640). Currently, the DA position in Jefferson County is unfilled and has been since April of this year. We have no other vacancies to leave open and do not foresee any in the next year. This represents a \$17,774/month reduction, and we would suggest this position could be left open through the end of this year for a \$106,664 reduction. The Department of Justice currently has a Senior AAG covering the position, so this is a viable short term reduction option.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE CHARGES

These charges are set for the services the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) provides to our agency and are a required portion of our budget. Essentially, this is our contribution to DAS's budget for services DAS is required to provide. These charges are not within our control, nor do we have the authority to reduce them.

Enclosed with this letter is the Oregon District Attorney's spreadsheet of reduction options prioritized as requested. As mentioned above, due to the unique composition of our budget, our ability to cut the budget is severely limited. Nevertheless, we include options to achieve the reductions requested and have prioritized them. However, we cannot reach the requested reductions without shutting down offices and risking public safety.

Sincerely,

Bryan Brock

Executive Director

Oregon District Attorney's Association

2025-27 Biennium

2025-27 LAB	21,055,127	-	-	-	-	-	21,055,127
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Detail of Reductions to 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Priority (ranked most to least preferred)		Agency	SCR or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Gov. Reduction Target Yes / No	One-Time Yes / No	Describe the reduction and associated impact on services and outcomes. Please identify the source of Other Funds reductions.
Dept	Prgm/Div															
4650				Other Services and Supplies/Transcription of Grand Jury recordings	10,000						\$ 10,000			Yes	Yes	This is the budget reduction option requested by the Governor. Transcripts are used in preparations and during the trials of major crimes in Oregon (primarily homicides). Without them we are less prepared and outcomes can suffer. With the small reduction we will just have to be more selective about which cases get transcribed.
4650				Other Services and Supplies/Transcription of Grand Jury recordings	152,635						\$ 152,635			No	Yes	This represents the entire transcription budget which cannot be sustained without an unacceptable reduction in quality. Anticipate that Counties will need to step in to backfill this money.
3110				Personal Services: Salaries & Wages	106,664						\$ 106,664	1	1.00	no	Yes	This option is to leave the DA position in Jefferson County open until the end of the year
3110				Class/Unclass salary and per diem	252,856						\$ 252,856					Four furlough days
3110				Class/Unclass salary and per diem	505,712						\$ 505,712					Eight additional furlough days for a total of 12
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				TOTAL	1,017,867	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,017,867	1	1.00			

Target (5%)	1,052,756	-	-	
Difference	(34,889)	-	-	