



To: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

From: Judith Ure, Department of Administrative Services

Date: August 24, 2016

Subject: Potential 2017 Legislative Session Issues of Interest

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On August 29, representatives of Pac/West Communications, the County's new lobbyist firm, will attend the Board's work session to help Commissioners and staff to begin preparing for the upcoming legislative session. In advance of that meeting, departments were asked to identify any topics or potential legislation that may be introduced in 2017 and that could be of concern to Deschutes County. While it is important to note that the Board of Commissioners has not yet taken an official position on these issues, departments submitted the following for consideration:

- Transportation Funding
- Energy Opportunities (including woody biomass, natural gas, and others to be determined)
- Pre-employment Polygraphs (including telecommunicators)
- Local Government Contract Template
- Benefit Requirements for Unmarried, Same-Sex Couples
- Cascades East Transit Taxing Authority

In addition, both the County and several of its community partners are monitoring several measures that will appear on the November ballot, including:

- Measure 96: Use of lottery funds for veterans services.
- Measure 97: Corporate income tax.
- Measure 98: High school dropout prevention and career/college readiness programs.
- Measure 99: Use of lottery funds for outdoor schools.

At this time, I am unaware of any specific legislative concepts that the County may ask to be initiated. However, if there are other items that should be included with the preliminary list above, please let me know prior to the August 29 meeting.