



Diane M. Linn, Multnomah County Chair

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We have changed the way we approach budgeting in Multnomah County. We have focused our time and energy on maximizing returns for the services we provide instead of focusing most of our time on the services we cannot afford.

This 2006 Multnomah County Budget aligns the resources we have with services the community most desires.

This is a balanced budget and will help Multnomah County prepare for the end of the local personal income tax in 2007.

This budget also reflects the priority-setting budget process the Board of County Commissioners employed to review every County program and rank it according to how well it helps meet one of six community supported priorities. The priorities, as expressed by citizens are:

- I want to feel safe at home, work, school and play.
- I want all Multnomah County residents and their families to have their basic living needs met.
- I want my government to be accountable at every level.
- I want to have clean, healthy neighborhoods with a vibrant sense of community.
- I want all children in Multnomah County to succeed in school.
- I want Multnomah County to have a thriving economy.

This Budget represents a change in how we budget resources. Instead of spending to pay for County costs, we spent to buy results of value to citizens. Instead of cutting at the margin, we kept what's at the core and what works best. Instead of producing a department-centered budget, we worked across departments to produce a results-centered budget. Instead of looking at a one-year horizon, we looked two years ahead.

We moved from spending 100 percent of our time on the 5 percent we have to cut, to spending 100 percent of our time on the 95 percent we can afford.

A great deal of work went into producing the program offers, public involvement and other steps of this new way of budgeting. Our Budget Office, department directors, and County staff who served on Outcome and Priority teams deserve much credit for their excellent and hard work.

Sheriff Bernie Giusto, Auditor Suzanne Flynn and District Attorney Mike Schrunk also deserve credit for their hard work and their participation in this new budget process.

I also want to thank the Citizen Involvement Committee and the Citizen Budget Advisory Committees, as well as the City Club of Portland, for their substantial efforts to ensure public involvement in our deliberations.

My colleagues on the Board of County Commissioners embraced this new way of doing business and I am proud of the work we have done together on the 2006 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Linn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "L".

Diane Linn
Multnomah County Chair