Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Chair

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: (503) 988-3308
Email: mult.chair@multco.us

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Dear Multnomah County Department of Community Services Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Members,

Thank you for your dedicated service and for sharing your time and community expertise on the committee.

As we plan the county budget for Fiscal Year 2028 (FY 2028), we face another constrained fiscal environment with an anticipated budget deficit for a third consecutive year. These difficult financial conditions mean we must evaluate tough spending cuts that directly impact vital community programs and services.

Your thoughtful feedback as an advisory committee is essential to this process. Your insights ensure our budget reflects our core values—such as equity, accountability, and justice—and guides how we support our most vulnerable community members through challenging times.

The purpose of this letter is twofold. First, I want to directly express my sincere gratitude for your civic engagement and volunteer service. Whether you are a new or returning member, your input is highly valued and makes a meaningful impact on county governance.

Second, I want to provide an update on how past CBAC recommendations helped shape the adopted Fiscal Year 2027 (FY 2027) budget, providing helpful context to guide your upcoming deliberations.

To strengthen community participation and support your work, the Office of Community Involvement (OCI) has implemented several program improvements. These include an expanded stipend program offering $35 per meeting (up to $420 per budget cycle), year-round recruitment, comprehensive onboarding and training workshops, the new CBAC Policy Guide, and an online repository of resources.

Below are the specific budget responses and updates for your department:

- **Animal Services:**
    - **Animal Services Animal Care (90007):** Multnomah County Animal Services (MCAS) Animal Care program provides comprehensive sheltering, medical support, and enrichment for animals from admission to their final placement. The board restored 1 FTE from the proposed reductions during the amendment process.
    - **Animal Services Client Services (90005):** The Client Services team is the front-facing unit at MCAS which provides public engagement with the shelter. Client Services delivers essential services to all residents of Multnomah County seven days a week, through multiple forms of accessibility (phone, email and in-person). Client services saw the reduction of 1 FTE vacant Office Assistant Senior.
- **Land Use Planning:**
    - **Land Use Planning (90021A):** The Land Use Planning program, which fulfills state mandates, is divided into two teams that work to establish and enforce the rules governing how land can be used in rural Multnomah County. There were no changes to this service in order to maintain service delivery improvements and support economic recovery.
    - **LUP Zoning Code Improvement Project (90021B)**: This is the third and final year of the three-year Zoning Code Improvement Project to make the code clever and easier to use to support the rest of the County in achieving important goals like increasing housing, boosting rural economies, improving climate resilience and mitigating hazards.
- **Elections:**
    - **Voter Pamphlet distribution (90010A):** was restored to prevent disproportionate impacts on marginalized, homebound, or unhoused communities during the implementation of countywide Ranked Choice Voting.

- The request for funding a new position for **GIS Support** was not funded in the budget. Central IT will continue to support this service which will be prioritized for elections during the busiest months.
- **Ballots (90010C):** Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) requires a significant amount of ballot space. Instead of using just one column on a three-column ballot, RCV contests need all three columns to allow for the six possible rankings per candidate. Oregon's general election ballot is already crowded, and an extra ballot page will always be necessary in general elections to accommodate RCV for Multnomah County and City of Portland candidate contests. This program funds the printing, mailing, and processing of this additional ballot page.
- **Ranked Choice Voting Education (90010D)** - RCV Voter Education is essential for the successful implementation of Ranked Choice Voting. County staff will continue to collaborate closely with the City of Portland on education initiatives and will coordinate the widespread distribution of educational materials to keep all voters well informed. This program funds on-call outreach staff, a ballot insert, a countywide mailer, targeted paid advertising, a mock RCV election platform, and the design, translation, and printing of new and existing RCV educational materials. Elections staff will focus RCV education efforts on communities throughout Multnomah County that did not use RCV in the November 2024 election.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for your dedication to the residents of Multnomah County. Our programs, services, and community are stronger because of your commitment and volunteer service as a Budget Advisory Committee member.

In gratitude,



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Chair