

SPRING 2017



Marion County

**TODAY**

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION  
FOR MARION COUNTY RESIDENTS





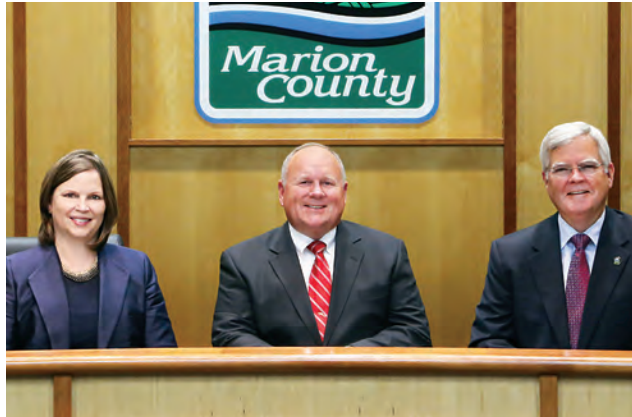
# A message from the Board of Commissioners

At its core, Marion County is a service organization dedicated to delivering excellence every day to make a positive impact on the lives of our residents. We are honored to serve as your Board of Commissioners as we seek to enhance the health, safety and livability of Marion County's communities.

We regularly hear that people don't know what county government does. In this annual newsletter, we cover a fraction of the important services county employees provide every day. Marion County is served by 15 departments with more than 1,400 dedicated full-time and part-time employees. Our employees are responsible for delivering essential services such as public safety, road and bridge maintenance, public and mental health services, property assessment, building inspections, elections and more.

Although some services may not be easily recognizable, we know that to our clients they make a difference. In one day without Marion County, here are a few of the services you would miss:

- \$959,943 in property taxes would remain uncollected and would not be available for distribution to schools, cities, fire and other taxing districts for public services
- \$879 in economic development funds would not support local businesses and communities
- 559 offenders would not be held accountable in the county jail or transition center
- 246 property and other documents would not be recorded
- 196 calls for law enforcement response would remain unanswered



*Commissioners Janet Carlson, Sam Brentano, and Kevin Cameron*

- 118 individuals released from state prison, the county jail, or placed on probation by the courts would not be supervised
- 111 road signs would not be maintained
- 40 public health clients, including children, would not receive services
- 38 Women, Infants and Children clients would not receive services
- 26 documents would not be served including protection orders, child support papers, summonses and subpoenas
- 22 people would not receive vaccines
- 13 environmental health inspections would not occur including restaurants, schools and childcare facilities
- 10 marriage licenses would not be issued
- 9 new concealed handgun license applications would not be processed
- 6 passport applications would not be processed

- 5 lost dogs would not be cared for or reunited with their owners, adopted or placed with rescue organizations
- 2 animal bites would not be investigated
- 4.5 miles of roadway would not be maintained


These are just a few of the services performed by Marion County employees. We hope you take a moment to review our annual snapshot of county programs and services. We appreciate this opportunity to report back to you about our progress and challenges on important issues.

We encourage participation in the public process and your feedback is always welcome. Board Sessions are held every Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Senator Hearing Room at Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, in Salem. Time is set aside for public comment at the beginning of each meeting.

For more information about county programs and services or to review upcoming Board Session agendas, visit [www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us). To contact a commissioner, call (503) 588-5212 or email [commissioners@co.marion.or.us](mailto:commissioners@co.marion.or.us).

We hope you enjoy this issue of Marion County TODAY.

Sincerely,

  
Sam Brentano, Chair

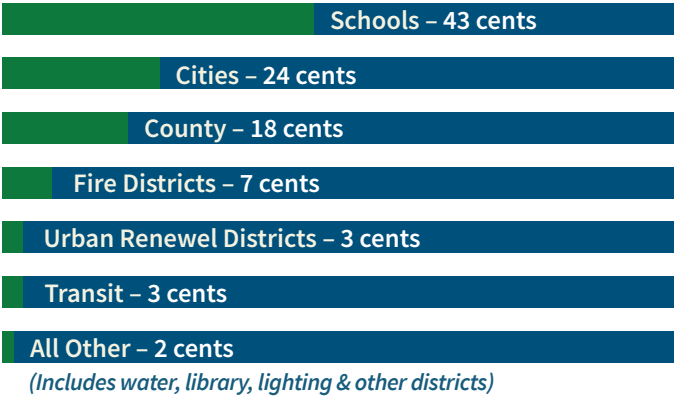
  
Janet Carlson

  
Kevin Cameron

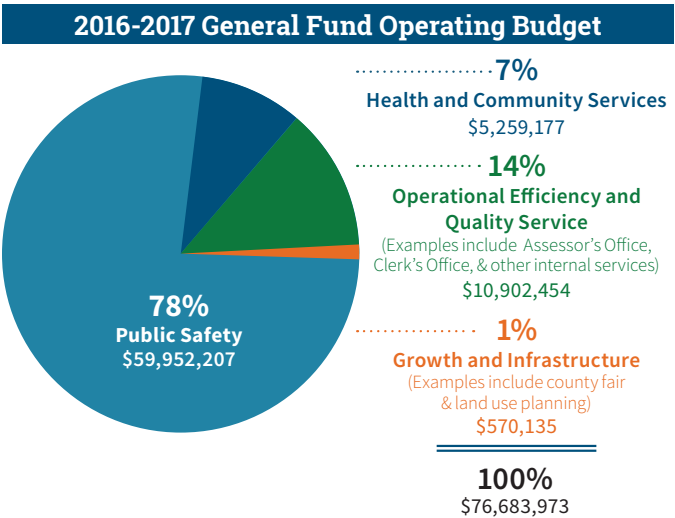
# Your Property Tax Dollar

Although you write your property tax check to Marion County, only some of the money supports county programs and services. The county collects the taxes and then distributes funds to 71 primary taxing districts.

On average, each \$1 paid by a Marion County taxpayer is distributed as follows:



Property tax dollars fund Marion County’s general fund – our most flexible revenue source. The general fund operating budget is distributed to the following county programs and services:



# Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget

Adopting the annual budget is one of the most important responsibilities for county government. The budget is a policy document which establishes the operational plan for delivering programs and services to county residents and one-time investments. With the approval of the budget, the Budget Committee establishes the funding priorities for the upcoming year and strategic direction into the future.

With an improving economy, the FY 2016-17 Marion County Budget sustains existing programs and continues our infrastructure renewal. The total adopted budget for FY 2016-17 is \$387,985,501 with a general fund operating budget of \$76,683,973 for discretionary spending and \$299,511,901 for all other funds.

As a priority service, the county allocates 78% of its general fund operating revenue to public safety services. This includes funding for the Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney’s Office, Juvenile Department and Justice Court. This year, we added staff in the District Attorney’s Office and Juvenile Department, as well as a patrol deputy for the North Santiam Canyon. The general fund also supports assessment and taxation, community services, licensing, recording, elections and the treasury.

The majority of non-general fund revenues are federal, state and other agencies’ contracts and grants that by law must be spent for specific purposes. Examples include Oregon

Health Authority grants and contracts for mental and public health services, gas taxes dedicated to road construction and maintenance and video lottery funds for economic development purposes.

The 2016-17 budget provides for a variety of equipment purchases and upgrades, including a replacement for the District Attorney’s Case Management System and a new ballot sorter for the Elections Division to streamline sorting and signature verification. The new ballot sorter was in place for the November 2016 presidential election.

In 2016, Marion County received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the fifteenth consecutive year and received GFOA’s prestigious Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the sixth consecutive year.

To view the complete fiscal year 2016-17 adopted budget, visit [www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us).



**Our Mission**  
 We serve the public to protect, promote, and enhance a positive quality of life in Marion County.

**Our Values**  
 Customer Service, Professionalism, Integrity, and Stewardship



# 2016 Awards

From playgrounds and fairs to honors for distinguished service, Marion County employees were recognized as among the best at what they do in 2016. In addition to county sponsored awards, numerous employees received individual or team recognition for outstanding service to their professions. These employees represent the county's commitment to customer service, professionalism, integrity and stewardship.

We appreciate these, and all, Marion County employees who provide quality services to our communities every day.

## Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (FY 2014-15)  
*15th consecutive year*

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award (FY 2016-17)  
*6th consecutive year*

## Mid-Willamette Council of Governments

Regional Cooperative Award – Big Toy project  
*Co-recipient: City of Keizer*

Wes Kvarsten Professional Service Award  
John Lattimer

## Corporation Service Company

eRecording All-Star Award - Rookie of the Year  
Marion County Clerk's Office

## Oregon Association of County Engineers & Surveyors

Award of Merit  
Don Newell

## Oregon Emergency Management Association

President's Award  
Krista Rowland Carter

## Oregon Fairs Association

Excellence as a Local Fair Supporter  
Marion County Board of Commissioners

## City of Turner Customer Service Award

Steve Preszler, Public Works  
Wipper Bridge & Delaney Road projects

## Oregon State Sheriff's Association

Deputy of the Year  
Jeremy Gilmore

Distinguished Service Award  
Undersheriff Troy Clausen

## 2016 County Awards

### Troy Thompson Award

Angelique Flores, *Business Services*

### Vision Award

Brandon Crossley, *Business Services*  
Danielle Gonzalez, *Community Services*  
John Kubasak, *Health Department*  
Joanna Ritchie, *Legal Counsel*

### Customer Service Award

Mark Cheney, *Information Technology*  
Monica Gates, *District Attorney's Office*  
Maria McGinnis, *Information Technology*  
Michael Neal, *Information Technology*  
Lisa Saucy, *District Attorney's Office*







Photo by Edgar Peteros  
Gallon House Bridge photo contest grand prize winner

# 2016 Proclamations

## 2016

Year of the Gallon House Bridge  
*In recognition of the 100th anniversary  
of the Gallon House Bridge*

## February 16

Government Day

## March

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities  
Awareness Month

## April

Child Abuse Prevention Month

## April

National County Government Month

## April 4-10

National Public Health Week

## April 5

National Service Recognition Day

## April 10-17

Volunteer Week

## May 1-7

Corrections Professionals Week

## May 15-21

National Police Recognition Week

## July 17-23

National Parole & Probation Officer Week

## September 17-23

Constitution Week

## October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

## October 16-22

Hands & Words are not for Hurting Week



# Did you know?

## Dog Shelter

In 2016, the Marion County Dog Shelter reunited 771 lost dogs with their owners, 301 were adopted by new families and 168 were placed with rescue organizations.



Last year, approximately 23,700 dogs were licensed in Marion County. This is about 32% of the estimated dog population. Dog licensing is an essential part of animal care in Marion County. Licensing helps prevent the dangerous spread of rabies and is also an efficient way to return lost dogs back to their families. Dog licensing fees help support the Dog Shelter by allowing necessary medical care for lost and stray dogs, partially fund dog control officers who investigate animal neglect and cruelty cases, and provide for community outreach programs that support responsible pet ownership.

## Economic Development

In fiscal year 2015-16, Marion County invested more than \$321,000 in local businesses and communities through our business development, community projects and infrastructure grant programs.

Grant recipients include two Detroit Lake marinas that received grant funds for installation of gangplank systems to extend boat ramps and

docks to provide boating access to the lake during low water years. Both projects support business resiliency during low water level years and will extend the boating season by five weeks in normal years. Marion County continues to work with local businesses and state and federal partners for long term economic growth in the Santiam Canyon.

Funding for economic development grants is made available through state video lottery proceeds. Annually, the Board of Commissioners designates video lottery funding to promote economic development in Marion County. The board directly designates a portion of lottery funding to support infrastructure and organizations that focus on economic development including Travel Salem, GROW North Santiam and SEDCOR.

During the five-year period including fiscal years 2012 through 2016, Marion County has awarded more than \$2.6 million in economic development grants.

## Public Health in Action

Marion County's Public Health Division provides leadership to improve and protect the health of our communities. The Public Health Division includes 20 individual service areas including communicable diseases, early childhood nursing, environmental health, prevention programs, emergency preparedness, reproductive health services and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The Health Department is accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board and was the first in Oregon to receive accreditation. Here are some of the services provided last year:

- 10,083 non-WIC client visits
- 9,674 WIC participants
- 5,626 vaccines given







- 3,254 environmental health inspections (licensed facilities, schools, childcare) including 2,019 restaurant inspections
- 2,992 diseases reported
- 621 animal bite investigations
- 471 food handlers trained
- 94 food managers trained
- 57 Indoor Clean Air Act (smoking) complaints investigated
- 36 water system surveys
- 29 disease outbreaks investigated

### Public Safety

Marion County prioritizes public safety and commits 78% of its general fund operating budget to public safety services. More than 44% of public safety general fund dollars support the Marion County Sheriff's Office. In addition to patrol deputies and operating the county jail, the Sheriff's Office is also responsible for court security, civil process/service, code enforcement, Parole & Probation and more. The department also operates a transition center for minimum custody inmates who may participate in community work crews and projects. Community Action's De Muniz Resource Center is housed within the transition center. The program promotes the successful transition of inmates back into the community.

Here are some of the ways the Sheriff's Office makes an impact in our communities:

#### Enforcement

- Number of calls – 71,638

#### Jail

- Annual bookings – 14,908

#### Parole & Probation

- Offenders under supervision – 3,600
- Average caseload per Parole Officer – 54:1

### De Muniz Resource Center

- Individuals served – 1,149
- Annual visits – 4,918
- Services delivered – 13,781

### Public Works

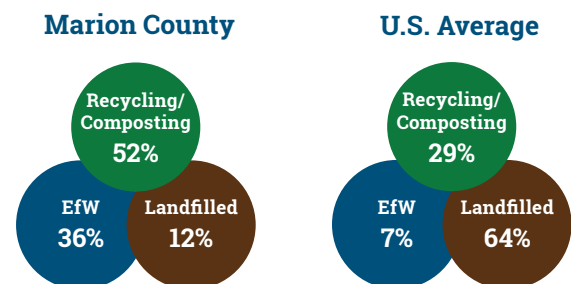
Marion County maintains 1,118 miles of roadway, 147 bridges or large culverts and approximately 28,000 signs.

In 2016, Public Works performed 21 miles of pavement overlays, 9.7 miles of slurry seal, 46.5 miles of chip seal with fog seals, of which 9.5 miles received a double chip seal, resulting in 56 miles of chip sealing.

### Waste Reduction & Recycling

Marion County remains a national leader in waste reduction and recycling. In 2015 (the most recent data available), Marion County communities recovered 52% of generated waste. The county prioritizes waste reduction and recycling and recovers energy from the material that remains. Annually, the Covanta Marion Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility generates enough electricity to power a city about the size of Woodburn.

Here's how we compare to the U.S. average:





# 2016 Highlights

## Capital projects

After a year of renovations, the Health Department's Center Street campus reopened to the public in November 2016. Staff, contractors and community partners gathered on November 10 to rededicate the refreshed facility. This was the first major renovation of the building since it was built in 1974. Renovations included updates to the building's heating and air conditioning system, installation of energy efficient windows and lighting, and a remodel to bring the building up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

This was the first in a series of capital projects planned by the county. In the spring of 2017, the county will break ground on a new public safety building that will house Parole & Probation and the Central District patrol offices for the Sheriff's Office. Additional projects include a new juvenile courtroom and a remodel of the Juvenile Administration building.

## County facilities tested for lead

The potential for lead contaminated water was highlighted in national, state and local news last spring and summer. As a precautionary measure, the county voluntarily tested drinking water at all county facilities to ensure the health and safety of our employees, clients and visitors.

More than 100 water samples were collected from drinking fountains, break rooms and kitchen sinks in each of the buildings the county leases or owns. In addition, the county sampled water from the Bear Creek Park & Campground where the county provides potable water.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends mitigation if a water test results in 20 parts per billion of lead or more. The county used a stricter standard of 15 parts per billion – the same standard used by most Oregon school districts. The water testing was very successful and all test results were well below standards.

## Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion

Marion County is actively working to bring LEAD to the Salem area. LEAD, or Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, was developed in Seattle. The program combines law enforcement, health care and social services to work with people who have records of multiple arrests, primarily for drug possession and other "livability" crimes, but not "victim-related" crimes.

People benefitting from LEAD typically exhibit high risk, addiction-based behavior and have multiple needs, such as homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse and mental health issues. LEAD's target population is not likely to engage in treatment services without intense intervention.

As a "harm reduction model," LEAD meets clients "where they are" and wraps services around them. LEAD, as developed locally, will focus on the top 100 utilizers of jail and emergency room services, focusing on people living in downtown Salem and along the Lancaster Drive corridor in East Salem.

Navigators will help people access treatment services from the first point of police contact. Diversion programs like LEAD can have a significant impact on changing people's lives by connecting them to the services they really need, thus making the entire community safer and stronger.







## **Marijuana businesses**

Measure 91, Oregon's recreational marijuana initiative, was approved by Oregon voters in November 2014. Although Measure 91 passed statewide, in Marion County the initiative failed by 51.56%. State law allowed the county to put to a vote the future expansion of recreational and medical marijuana businesses outside of city limits. County voters had the opportunity to weigh in on three measures referred to the November 2016 general election by the Board of Commissioners:

- Passed (50.54%) – Whether to allow the establishment of medical marijuana processing sites and dispensaries in unincorporated Marion County. This measure did not affect medical marijuana grow sites or existing permitted dispensaries.
- Failed (52.04%) – Whether to allow the establishment of recreational marijuana businesses including retailers, producers, processors or wholesalers in unincorporated Marion County.
- Passed (75.76%) – Whether to establish a three percent local tax if the voters allow recreational marijuana businesses. However, since recreational businesses are now prohibited in Marion County, the tax cannot be implemented.

The commissioners were clear that none of the measures would encroach on an individual's right to possess, grow or use marijuana under Measure 91.

Following the November 2016 vote, the Board of Commissioners adopted amendments to the Marion County Code regulating medical marijuana dispensaries in the unincorporated areas of the county. Recreational marijuana businesses remain prohibited as decided by Marion County voters.

## **Medication Assisted Treatment program**

In 2016, Marion County's Medication Assisted Treatment program earned the highest level of accreditation available for opiate treatment programs by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Reviewers recognized the quality of care and expertise by the medical team, clinical team, and professional recovery mentors who provide a holistic approach for clients seeking treatment of opioid addiction.

Evaluators stated that clients they spoke with expressed their appreciation of the county's specialized focus when working with pregnant women and indicated that more than one consumer stated that the program had saved his or her life. Services can include a medical assessment; individual, group and family counseling; and recovery mentor services.

Opioid use is at epidemic proportions in Oregon. Heroin is the second leading cause of fatal overdose in the state within the last year.

## **Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative**

In February 2017, the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative wrapped up its yearlong mission to identify and launch strategies to reduce homelessness in the Mid-Willamette Valley. The homeless initiative was a collaborative effort initiated by the cities of Salem and Keizer and Marion and Polk counties. At its final meeting, the task force adopted a strategic plan that includes more than 40 recommendations. Task force members endorsed hiring a project manager to coordinate plan implementation. The plan anticipates a Memorandum of Understanding for participating organizations. An executive team will oversee the project manager's work.



## 2016 Highlights continued

### Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative continued

Over the last year, the task force participated in presentations ranging from veterans and the mentally ill to runaway and homeless youth. Eight sub-committees involving task force members, technical experts and interested citizens held in-depth discussions on affordable housing, public safety, support services and education, and more. The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency coordinated surveys and interviews with 57 homeless individuals or groups, gaining insights into their needs.

There is no typical profile for people experiencing homelessness. It is estimated that there are approximately 1,660 homeless people in Marion and Polk counties on any given day, including families with children. Other populations experiencing homelessness include veterans, seniors, runaway and homeless youth and people with addictions or mental health issues. This means no single strategy will solve the problem.

While there is still a great deal to accomplish, participating organizations have already made progress on a number of fronts. For example, Marion County is seeking a HUD waiver to use \$1.2 million to create a reentry transitional housing facility and has also proposed legislation that will allow accessory dwelling units, or secondary apartments, in rural areas. Other projects include an affordable housing development on Portland Road in Salem, proposed expansion of the Union Gospel Mission men's shelter, and a sobering center.

### Property tax exemption for surviving spouses of public safety officers

The Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution in support of Senate Bill 1513 (2016) allowing a property tax exemption to surviving spouses of public safety professionals killed in the line of duty. The county will exempt property taxes of up to \$250,000 of assessed value of homes owned and occupied by the surviving spouse of a fire service professional, police officer or reserve officer killed in the line of duty. The exemption is effective for the 2017-2018 tax year.

### Snow and ice response

In December 2016 and January 2017, Marion County saw its share of winter weather. From snow, ice and rain our region experienced the force of Mother Nature.

During our first snow storm in December, Marion County Public Works had more than 60 employees working round the clock to sand, plow and de-ice roads. The county deployed 25 pieces of equipment, applied 400 tons of sanding material and 6,000 gallons of de-icer. This process was repeated again and again as needed by weather conditions.

In mid-January, crews were back out assisting the cities of Detroit and Idanha in the North Santiam Canyon. Both cities needed assistance after the series of winter storms and declared local emergencies. Marion County collaborated with each city, the Detroit-Idanha Fire District, Linn County and local volunteers to bring relief to the residents of Detroit and Idanha.

Community Emergency Response Team members worked side by side with youth search and rescue volunteers from Linn County going door to door to







ensure residents were safe and provide assistance as needed. Deputy-supervised inmate crews worked to clear snow from structures, fire hydrants and water meters. In addition, snow was removed from 24 structures and six sidewalks were cleared. Fortunately, crews only encountered five structures with damage due to snow.

### **Solid waste fees**

Last year, Marion County approved the first solid waste disposal fee, or tip fee, increase in 24 years. The rate went into effect on October 1, 2016. The new fee includes a \$20 increase in the per ton tip fee for franchised garbage haulers, as well as at the Salem-Keizer Recycling & Transfer Station and the North Marion Transfer Station. Most residential customers saw a modest increase in their garbage service resulting from the new tip fee.

The minimum transaction charge at the Salem-Keizer and North Marion Recycling & Transfer Stations remains \$25. Additionally, most recycling items are still accepted free of charge at the transfer stations. Examples include car batteries, mixed paper and cardboard, plastics and electronics.

The commissioners worked closely with the Solid Waste Management Advisory Council to review impacts of market conditions on the county's solid waste system. A contributing factor was the significantly reduced market value of electrical revenue generated by the Energy-from-Waste facility. The county reduced expenses as much as possible prior to considering a fee increase. The county also approved an increase in medical waste disposal at the Covanta Marion Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility as an additional revenue source. EfW is a preferred method to manage medical waste as it reduces the volume of waste and kills pathogens.

Marion County manages a nationally-recognized integrated solid waste system that ensures the safe and sanitary disposal of solid waste. Due to the efforts of residents and businesses, the county maintains one of the highest recycling rates in the state.

### **Stepping Up Initiative**

In December 2016, the commissioners approved a resolution in support of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Stepping Up Initiative. Stepping Up is a national initiative around diverting individuals with mental health or substance issues from county jails. A local Stepping Up workgroup will develop strategies to expand mental health screenings and assessments and enhance community-based mental health services. Marion County has a ten-year track record of coordination between law enforcement and mental health services, with strong collaboration among the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Health Department and other law enforcement agencies.

### **E-Newsletter**

Last year, Marion County launched a new e-newsletter program to foster direct communication with our constituents. Residents can browse a variety of newsletter topics including emergency management, waste reduction and recycling, economic development and general county news. To browse topics or sign-up visit [www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us) and click on "Newsletter Signup."





## **Commissioners**

Position 1 — Kevin Cameron  
Position 2 — Janet Carlson  
Position 3 — Sam Brentano

## **Weekly Board Sessions**

Wednesdays at 9 a.m.  
Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE, Salem  
Opportunity for Public Comment  
Visit [www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us)  
for weekly agenda

## **Contact Us**

Marion County Board  
of Commissioners Office  
PO Box 14500  
Salem, OR 97309

## **Website**

[www.co.marion.or.us](http://www.co.marion.or.us)

## **Email**

[commissioners@co.marion.or.us](mailto:commissioners@co.marion.or.us)

## **Phone**

503-588-5212

## **Fax**

503-588-5237

## **Twitter**

@MarionCo\_Board

## **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/MarionCountyBoard](http://www.facebook.com/MarionCountyBoard)