

Marion County

TODAY

SPRING 2019 ◀



A Message from the Board of Commissioners

We are honored to serve as your Marion County Board of Commissioners. We appreciate this opportunity to report back to you about our progress and challenges on important issues that affect the lives of Marion County residents. We seek to enhance the health, safety, and livability of Marion County's communities.

Marion County is served by 15 departments with more than 1,500 dedicated full-time employees. County 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 so much more.

Each year we review our strategic priorities and assess our performance as a public service provider. In this publication you will find examples of how we have worked to meet our priorities and goals. While we cannot include everything, we hope the information here gives you a sense of what Marion County is about.

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 Street NE, in Salem. Time is set aside for public comment at the beginning of each meeting.

In 2019, we are bringing evening board sessions to Marion County communities. We will visit East Salem, north county, and the Santiam Canyon for a series of evening board sessions and town hall community forums. In July, we'll be back at the Marion County Fair for an opening day board session highlighting 4-H, FFA, and other fair activities.

We also look forward to connecting with you on social media. You can find us on Facebook (@MarionCountyOR) and Twitter (@MarionCo_Board). To keep up with



Commissioners Colm Willis, Kevin Cameron, and Sam Brentano.

what's happening at Marion County year-round check out our monthly e-newsletter, also called Marion County TODAY.

For more information about county programs and services or to review upcoming board session agendas, visit www.co.marion.or.us. To contact commissioners personally, call (503) 588-5212 or email commissioners@co.marion.or.us.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Marion County TODAY.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cameron, *Chair*
Sam Brentano
Colm Willis



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



Fiscal Year 2018-2019 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, as well as 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.

Budgets are affected by many internal and external factors including changes in tax revenues, PERS, legislation, and the economy. The total adopted budget for fiscal year 2018-19 is \$445,424,664 with a general fund of \$101,783,890 for discretionary spending, and \$343,640,774 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 budget includes the addition of up to ten Sheriff's Office deputies in east Salem through the implementation of a \$10 per housing unit fee in the East Salem Service District. 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.

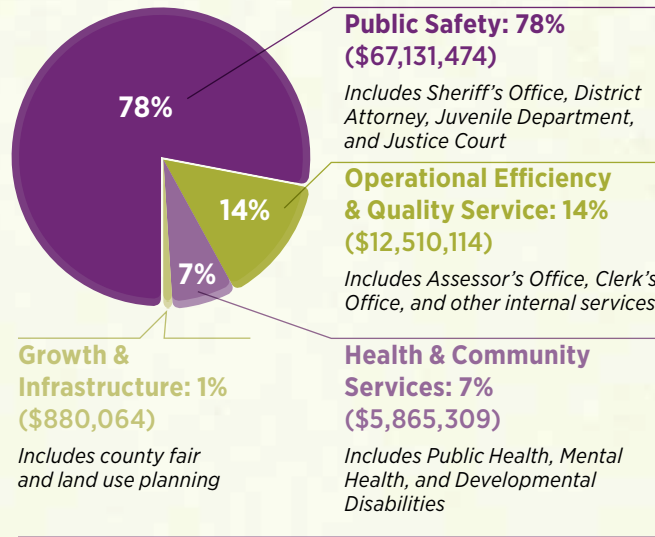
The FY 2018-19 budget provides additional funding for county parks improvements, funding for pre-trial services, additional staff for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program, and continuing capital improvement projects.

Marion County received the Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the annual financial report for the year ended June 30, 2017. This is the 17th consecutive year the county has received this award. The county also received GFOA's prestigious Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the seventh consecutive year.

To view the complete fiscal year 2018-19 adopted budget, visit www.co.marion.or.us.

General Fund by Goal Area FY 2018-2019

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:



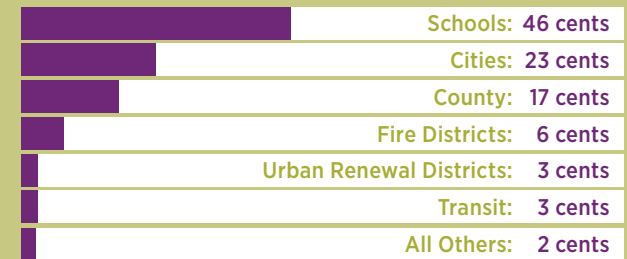
Total: \$86,386,961

Operating budget excludes contingency, ending fund balance, non-departmental debt service, administrative charges, and capital outlay.

Your Property Tax Dollar

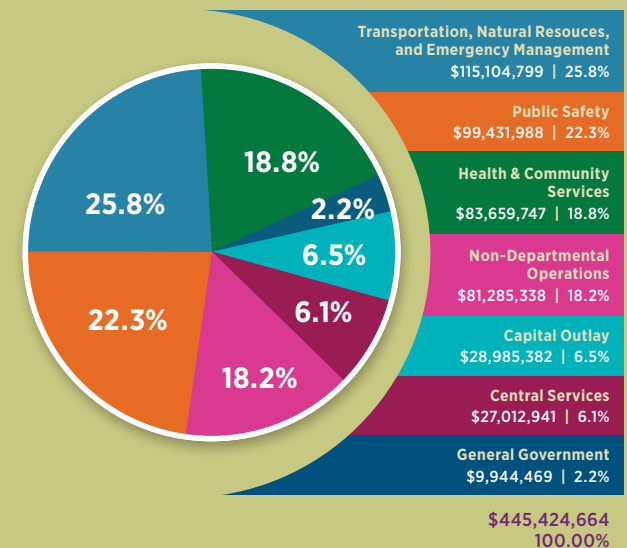
Although you write your property tax check to Marion County, only some of the money supports county programs and services. The county collects the taxes and then distributes funds to 68 primary taxing districts and nine urban renewal plan areas.

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



All others: water, library, lighting, and other districts.

Where the Money Goes FY 2018-19 All Funds



2018 Highlights

County Welcomes New Elected Officials

In January 2019, Marion County welcomed new commissioner Colm Willis to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Willis is a licensed business attorney and previously served as an aide in the United States Senate for the Joint Economic Committee. He and his wife live in Stayton and have four daughters.

District Attorney Paige Clarkson, who served as Deputy District Attorney for more than 20 years prior to her election, was sworn in to her first term in January. D.A. Clarkson was initially appointed to the position in September 2018. She and her husband live in Salem and have four children.

East Salem Public Safety Enhancements

East Salem's population continues to grow and residents are seeking more urban services such as lighting, enhanced law enforcement, code enforcement, and neighborhood park amenities. To help meet the need, ten sheriff's deputies will be added for patrolling unincorporated East Salem, financed by a fee on housing and property. That 5.5 square-mile urban area, which comprises the Hayesville and Four Corners neighborhoods, has a population as large as Keizer and generates a majority of the calls for Marion County Sheriff's Office services.

Deputies assigned to East Salem will wear a student-designed patch that features evergreen trees, a bright red apple, and compass. The Advanced Art class at Stephens Middle School created 23 entries for a patch design contest for the East Salem Service District patrol deputies. The entry form for the patch posed the question, "What do you love about your neighborhood?"



Serving as the board of the East Salem Service District, the commissioners approved a single special assessment district for lighting services in the area. The district and county are

working with Portland General Electric to bring upgraded and additional lighting to the area in the next two to four years. In 2019, the Board of Commissioners will hold two evening board sessions and town hall meetings in East Salem.

Capital Projects

Marion County continues to make significant strides in infrastructure upgrades. In 2018, Marion County opened a new Public Safety Building and new Juvenile Courtroom. The 31,000 sq. ft. Public Safety Building consolidates the Sheriff's Office Community Corrections and Enforcement divisions, providing for improved interoperability and greatly needed additional space.

The Juvenile Courtroom is one of a series of improvements at the Juvenile Department campus. The county recently broke ground on a new Juvenile Services Building which will house the department's administration, probation, family support, educational advocates, and records divisions. The new building is expected to open in the fall of 2019.

Health & Human Services completed a series of moves to co-locate programs into an updated, modern facility in the Salem area. The Alcohol and Drug Treatment program moved in 2018 and is now joined by Adult Behavioral Health and the Health Promotion and Prevention team.

Detroit Dam & Lake Downstream Fish Passage

In September 2018, a federal magistrate judge approved Marion County's status as an intervenor in the lawsuit between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Northwest Environmental, Wildearth Guardians, and Native Fish Society. As a result of the initial lawsuit, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed a mixing tower to control water temperature at Detroit Dam. Construction could negatively impact agricultural and recreation based industries in the area if the lake is drained for an extended time. By entering into the lawsuit, Marion County seeks to ensure the concerns of county businesses and residents are considered as potential solutions are reviewed.





Health & Human Services Confronts Suicide

The Marion County Health & Human Services Department has launched an initiative to dramatically reduce the number of suicides. The work includes educating county staff at all levels about suicide and partnering with other organizations to raise community awareness. More than five times as many people die by suicide in Oregon than by homicide.

Marion County brought local organizations together in May and September to identify resources and barriers for dealing with suicide. Seventy people, from a variety of agencies representing perspectives ranging from youth to seniors, participated. The newly formed coalition of community groups will help strengthen and share resources.

More County Parks to Remain Open Year-Round

A number of county parks that would normally close for the winter season now remain open. The county added additional year-round staff which has allowed the Parks Division to expand and improve services. Parks open year-round include Aumsville Ponds, Bonesteele Park, Denny, Eola Bend, Joryville, Labish Village, Parkdale, Rogers Wayside, Minto, Niagara, and Packsaddle.

Salem Water Advisory

In June 2018, Marion County opened its Emergency Operations Center in response to a water advisory for vulnerable populations in the Salem area caused by toxic algal blooms at Detroit Lake. Eighty-four employees from nine departments assisted in response from May 29 to June 19 including Emergency Management, Public Works, Health and Human Services, and Board of Commissioners Office staff. County employees coordinated with city and state officials to open water distribution sites and deliver water to home bound customers, as well as providing technical assistance to home care and food service providers. More than 160 volunteers assisted in response operations.

Solid Waste & Recycling

In early 2018, the global market for many recyclable materials abruptly shrunk as China, the primary importer of much of the world's plastics, barred shipments of dirty and unacceptable recycling materials.

Marion County Environmental Services staff immediately began working with partners at the Mid-Valley Garbage & Recycling Association and Garten Services to educate residents about proper curbside recycling. Since that time, Garten reports that contamination rates have dropped approximately three percent to about five percent. While this is a marked improvement, a five percent contamination rate still will not meet China's strict standards.

Environmental Services encourages residents to reduce and reuse before recycling. The county continues to support a potential mixed waste processing facility that would add expanded opportunities for material recovery, enhancing recovery for commercial entities, and working with our partners to develop new markets and uses for recycling products.

Veteran Service Office

A new Marion County Veteran Service Office (VSO) was officially introduced to the community in June 2018. The office is a partnership among Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and Marion County. The VSO is networked with local community resources to provide referrals and services to best connect veterans with services that meet their needs. The VSO provides VA trained and knowledgeable Veteran Service Officers who are there to answer questions, explain VA decisions and processes, and help guide veterans through the claims process in order to access a wide range of VA benefits.



Did you know?



Marion County Public Works maintains 140 bridges and 1,120 miles of roadway – 923 miles of paved roads and 197 miles of gravel roads.



In 2018, the Marion County Dog Shelter found forever homes for 411 dogs, returned 759 lost dogs to their owners, fostered 163 dogs, and transferred 136 dogs to rescue organizations.



In 2018, Building Inspection issued 8,061 building permits.



The Marion County Clerk's Office maintains approximately 54,810,000 documents in the county archives. In 2018, the office recorded 61,506 documents, issued 2,377 marriage licenses, and processed 4,579 passport applications. Other documents include deeds and mortgages, plats, and even wanted poster circulars from the early 1900s.



In the last five years, Marion County has awarded more than \$350,000 in Community Projects grants throughout the county increasing livability and safety in our communities.



There are more than 202,000 registered voters in Marion County.



In 2018, Marion County Health & Human Services staff inspected 4,198 licensed facilities, schools, and childcare facilities; issued 387 food handler cards; and issued 6,748 birth and death certificates.



Last year, the Wheatland and Buena Vista Ferries transported 342,562 vehicles, 5,091 bicycles, and 13,552 pedestrians across the Willamette River.



2018 Proclamations

March

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

April

Child Abuse Prevention Month
National County Government Month

April 2-8

National Public Health Week

April 15-21

National Volunteer Week

May

Foster Care Appreciation Month
Mental Health Month
Older Americans Month

May 2

175th Anniversary of Marion County

May 6-12

Corrections Professionals and Nurses Appreciation Week

May 13-19

National Police Recognition Week

May 16

Stepping Up Day

July 15-21

National Parole & Probation Officers Week

September

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 14-20

National Hands and Words Are Not For Hurting Week

Agriculture

Agriculture and farming enjoy a rich heritage in Oregon – particularly in the Mid-Willamette Valley. In 2017, there were an estimated 34,200 farms in Oregon encompassing more than 16 million acres of land. Oregon AgLink reports that one in twelve Oregonians are employed in agriculture and Oregon is the number one U.S. producer of blackberries, hazelnuts, grass seed, Christmas trees, and other agricultural commodities.

Marion County remains a state leader in agricultural production. From berries to Christmas trees, fruit, and nursery stock, Marion County leads the state in the overall total value of agricultural products sold and agriculture remains a primary economic driver in the region.

Marion County Annual Ag Sales 2017 \$668 million

Nursery and Greenhouse

\$228,480,000

Field Crops and Hay

\$125,120,000

Livestock

\$124,000,000

Fruit, Tree Nuts, and Berries

\$81,600,000

Vegetables

\$54,400,000

Grains, Oil Seeds, Dry Beans, Dry Peas

\$27,200,000

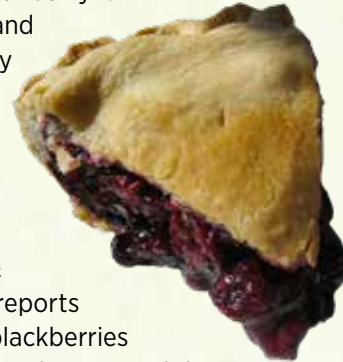
Christmas Trees

\$27,200,000

The Marionberry

The Marionberry, a hybrid of Olallie and Chehalem blackberries, was named for Marion County where it was created by Oregon State University Extension Service in 1956. The Marionberry is known for being plump and juicy and its intense berry flavor. Annually, Oregon produces 28 to 33 million pounds of Marionberries.

The Oregon Raspberry & Blackberry Commission reports that more than half the blackberries grown in Oregon are Marionberries and the Willamette Valley is the blackberry and raspberry capital of the world. In 2017, the Marionberry Pie was designated as the official state pie of Oregon.



Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District



In 2015, Marion County voters approved formation of the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District. The district provides dedicated funding for extension services in Marion County. Investments include 4-H youth development programs such as camps and club activities; programs to help growers and other agricultural businesses improve productivity and profitability; and volunteer programs such as Master Gardeners, Master Food Preservers, and Master Woodland Managers. In 2017, OSU Extension volunteers donated more than 33,700 hours through a variety of programs.

To learn more about OSU Extension, visit <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/Marion>.



▶ **Weekly Board Sessions**

Opportunity for Public Comment

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. || Senator Hearing Room || Courthouse Square || 555 Court Street NE, Salem, OR
Visit www.co.marion.or.us || Watch live on Facebook Live and YouTube


▶ **Contact Us**

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