

Position Accepted by Board

The wording of the new position on Jackson County Government is as follows:

JACKSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT 1999 League Position

Concerning the overall functioning of county government, the League believes that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) as the legislative and principal policy making agency of the county should pass appropriate ordinances, approve all budget decisions and act in its quasi-judicial capacity in land use matters.

Composition:

The League supports a Board of Commissioners of 5 or more members. The commissioners should be elected either at large or by a combination of district/at large and should be elected on a non-partisan basis. The League supports considering other options to full time paid commissioners.

County Administrative Officer:

The League supports the BOC's delegation of administrative functions to a professional administrator, but reasserts the League's position that policy making shall be reserved to the BOC and that overall responsibility for all functions of the County's government ultimately rests with the Board of Commissioners.

The League believes that the position of Administrator should be incorporated in the County Charter in order to give more stability to that position. It further believes that the qualifications of that position should be established by ordinance.

Elected Department Heads:

Concerning elected department heads, the League believes that those offices which require expertise in a professional field, are not required to make policy decisions, and are not politically sensitive, should be

appointive rather than elective.

The League believes that the Office of Treasurer should be abolished with those duties assigned to the Finance Officer. That office be should be made appointive and the Charter amended to reflect these changes. The League believes that Jackson County should establish by ordinance qualifications for the office of Financial Officer.

The League believes that the offices of Assessor and Surveyor should be appointive rather than elected and that the Charter should be amended to reflect these changes. The qualifications of those offices must conform to state requirements.

Citizen Participation in Jackson County Government:

Concerning policies and procedures that facilitate citizen involvement, the League:

1. Continues to emphasize the importance of citizen involvement and citizen participation in the establishing of policy through citizen advisory groups and commissions.
2. Believes that the BOC should provide widespread notice throughout the county of all vacancies on advisory boards and commissions. The Board should establish terms of service and qualifications for such positions. It should conduct interviews and select candidates who will bring diversity and experience in their service to the County.
3. Reaffirms its belief in the importance of the Oregon Open Meetings Law. Notices and agendas for all public meetings of the BOC should be given widespread advance publicity in media throughout the county.

Charter Amendments:

The League believes that the Charter's election laws, (Charter, Chapter VII, Section 28: 1,4,5) should be amended to conform with state statutes. This would correct the current inconsistent time intervals regarding initiative and referendum.