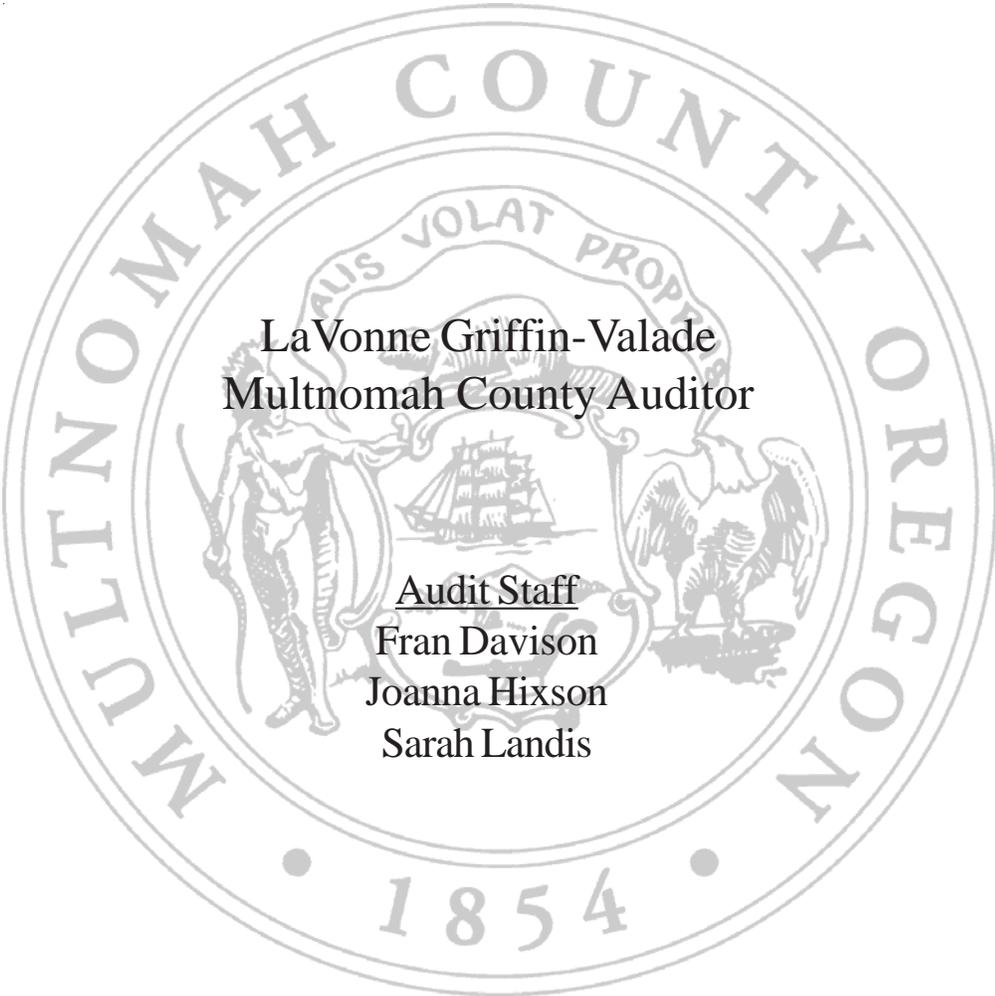


Marquee Indicator Report  
FY2008 Budget Cycle

---

---



LaVonne Griffin-Valade  
Multnomah County Auditor

Audit Staff  
Fran Davison  
Joanna Hixson  
Sarah Landis



# LaVonne Griffin-Valade Multnomah County Auditor

501 SE Hawthorne Room 601  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
Phone: (503) 988-3320

---

## MEMORANDUM

Date: January 3, 2007

To: Multnomah County Board of Commissioners  
Priority-Based Budgeting Design Team

From: LaVonne Griffin-Valade, County Auditor  
Sarah Landis, Principal Auditor

Subject: Marquee Indicator Report for the FY2008 Budget Cycle

The Auditor's Office is pleased to provide you with the attached Marquee Indicator Report for the FY08 budget cycle. This report contains updated information for each of the Outcome Teams' indicators, along with a brief description of what the indicators measure and any emerging trends.

The marquee indicators provide Outcome Teams, the Design Team, the Board of Commissioners, and the public with a status check on each of the County's six priority areas. The indicators represent broad, community-level concerns and are not intended to directly measure the success of particular County programs or services. Rather, they help provide a context for decision-makers as they consider various strategies and program offers to address the budget priorities.

The Auditor's Office collects and reports on the indicator data each year and acts as a repository for this information. In addition, we assist Outcome Teams with the interpretation of indicator results and trends, and, to the extent possible, verify the data quality and accuracy. The marquee indicators themselves were selected by Outcome Teams during the first priority-based budgeting cycle.

The Auditor's Office performs this work as a non-audit service that is not covered by the government auditing standards promulgated by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). The GAO allows audit organizations to perform tasks requested by management that directly support the entity's operations, as long as those tasks do not serve as a management function or impair the independence of the audit organization. This non-audit service was examined during the most recent peer review of the Auditor's Office, conducted in March 2005 under the standards and guidelines of the Association of Local Government Auditors.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions for improvement.

## Basic Living Needs Priority: Marquee Indicators

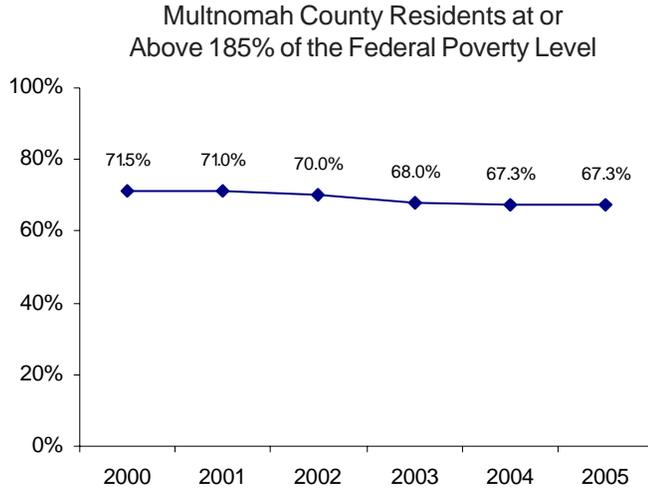
*I want all Multnomah County residents and their families to have their basic living needs met.*

---

### 1. Percent of residents with incomes at or above 185% of the federal poverty level.

The chart shows the percentage of Multnomah County residents whose earnings put them at 185% of the federal poverty level or above. It is intended to show the percentage of residents with adequate means for basic living.

The most current data available (through 2005) show stabilization during the past three years with a decline of 6% between 2000 and 2005. This indicates that compared to 2000, fewer residents are earning at least 185% of the federal poverty level.

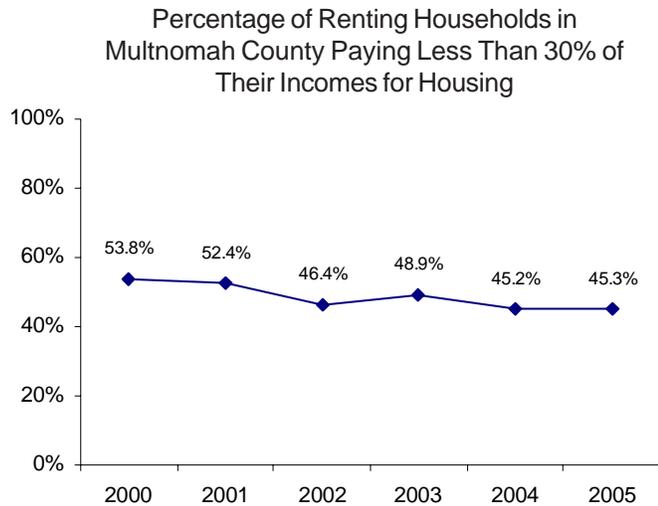


Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey

### 2. Percent of renting households paying less than 30% of their income for housing.

This indicator is intended to measure the affordability of local housing, with particular focus on rentals. Spending of less than 30% of income on housing is generally considered affordable.

The percentage of Multnomah County households that pay less than 30% of their income on rent dropped significantly (16%) between 2000 and 2005, remaining stable from 2004 through 2005. This could mean that rental housing is less affordable for the county's households compared to 2000.



Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey

## Basic Living Needs Priority: Marquee Indicators

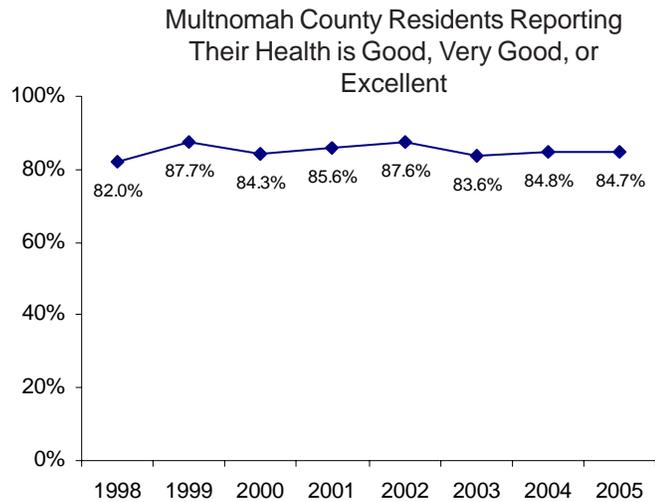
*I want all Multnomah County residents and their families to have their basic living needs met.*

---

### 3. Residents' perception of their own health.

The state of Oregon conducts an annual survey that asks residents to respond to a number of health related questions. This measure shows the percentage of respondents reporting that their health is good, very good, or excellent.

Between 1998 and 2005, the most current years available, this measure fluctuated between a low of 82% to highs of nearly 88%. Currently, just under 85% of respondents report good or better health.



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Oregon Department of Human Services

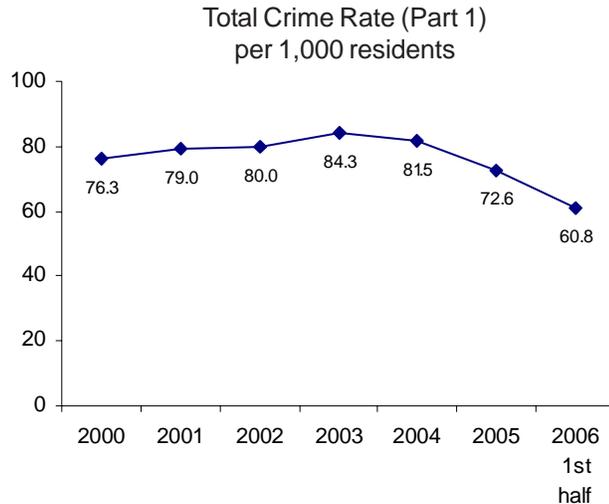
# Safety Priority: Marquee Indicators

*I want to feel safe at home, work, school, and play.*

## 1. Reported crime rate per 1,000 residents (Portland and Gresham Only).

This chart shows the rate of reported Part I crimes per 1,000 residents. Part I crimes are: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft, and arson. Other crimes, including DUII crimes, are not reported here. The rate decreased steadily between 2003 and 2006 after an increase over the four years prior.

Regular and current crime information is available from the Portland and Gresham police departments, as shown in this chart for 2005 and 2006. Other police agencies in Multnomah County do not participate in this regular reporting. Gresham and Portland combined represent 94% of the County's population.

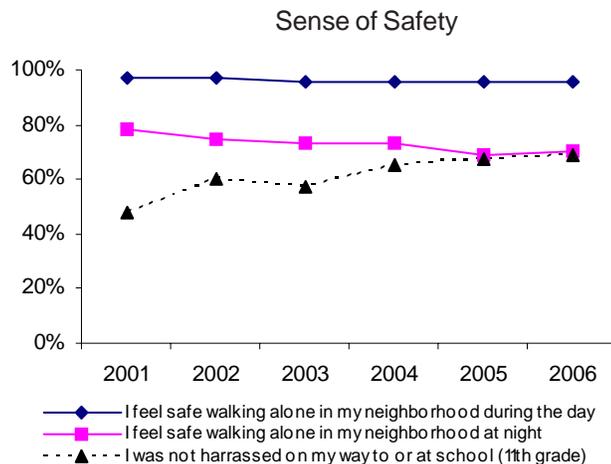


Sources: Law Enforcement Data System (years 2000-2004)  
Portland and Gresham Police Department estimates for 2005 and 2006 as of December 2000

## 2. Citizen perception of safety.

This chart shows two measures taken from the Auditor's Office's annual citizen survey, which asked residents how safe they feel walking in their neighborhoods at night and during the day. Sense of safety at night has declined 10% over six years, while sense of safety during the day has remained stable.

The third line is from the annual Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, administered in schools. It asks whether students were harassed on their way to school or at school in the last year. Over the past six years, 43% fewer students are reporting harassment.

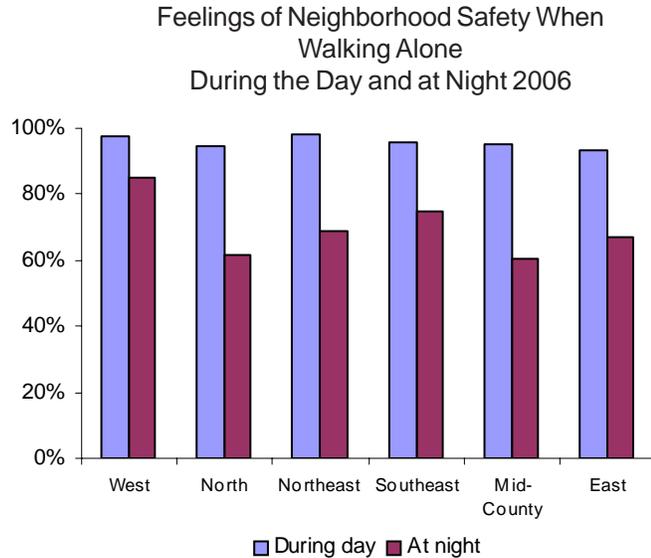


Sources: County Auditor's Office Citizen Survey,  
Oregon Department of Human Services Healthy Teen Survey

## Safety Priority: Marquee Indicators

*I want to feel safe at home, work, school, and play.*

This chart shows residents' sense of safety at night and during the day for 2006, broken down by area of the county. Mid-County had the lowest sense of safety at night, East had the lowest sense of safety during the day, and West had the highest for both. These data were collected from the Auditor's Office's annual citizen survey.



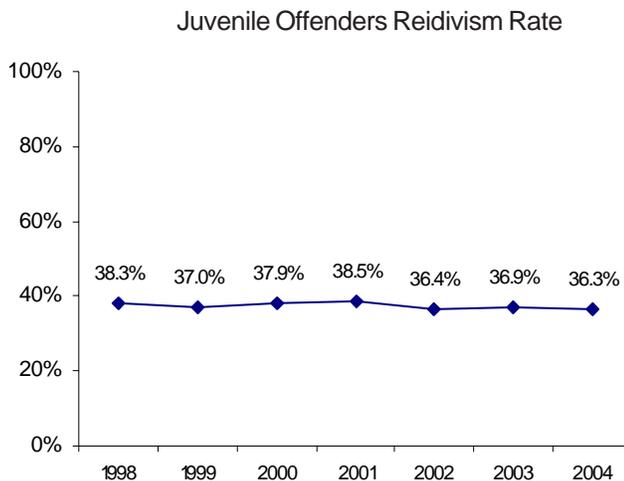
Source: Multnomah County Auditor's Office Citizen Survey

### 3. Adult and juvenile criminal recidivism rates.

#### *Juvenile*

This measure shows the percent of juvenile offenders under the jurisdiction of Multnomah County who were referred on a new criminal offense within 1 year of their initial offense. The delay in data availability is due to this lag between the initial offense and the 1 year reoffense point.

The recidivism rate for juveniles has been between 36% and 38% for the most current 7 year period available.



Source: Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Research and Evaluation Unit; Oregon Youth Authority

## Safety Priority: Marquee Indicators

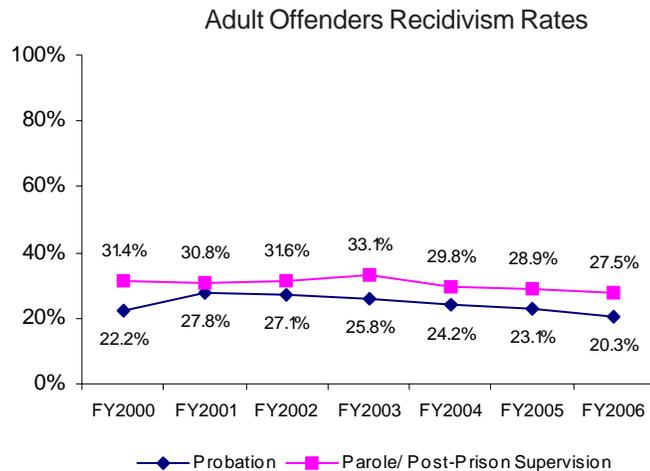
*I want to feel safe at home, work, school, and play.*

### Adult

This measure shows the percentage of adult offenders convicted of a new felony crime in the 3 year period after supervision began, broken out by type of release condition.

Probationers are those who have been assigned supervision as a sanction for their offenses rather than going to jail. Parole/post-prison supervision refers to those offenders who are released conditionally from jail.

The adult recidivism rate has declined since 2003 for both probation and parole/post-prison supervision, with rates higher for the latter.



Source: Oregon Department of Corrections

### Notes:

The juvenile and adult measures differ in that juvenile rates are reported by the initial offense date (a first offense in 2002 with a second offense in 2003 is reported in 2002). The adult rate follows the cohort through a three year period, then reports at the end of those three years (the FY2006 figure is the rate for the group that began supervision FY2003).

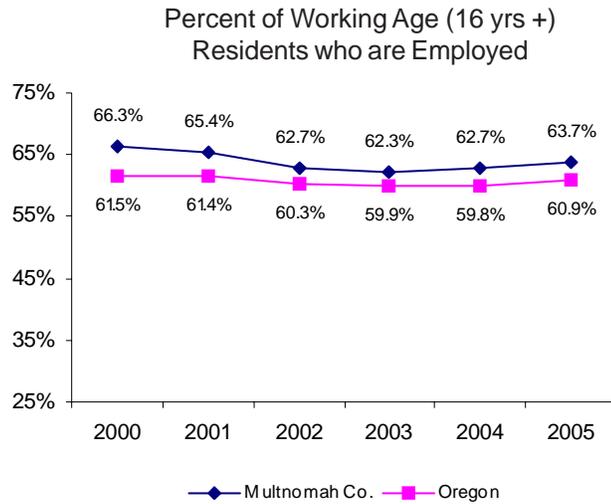
# Thriving Economy Priority: Marquee Indicators

## *I want Multnomah County to have a thriving economy.*

### 1. Percent of working age Multnomah County residents who are employed.

This chart shows the rate of employment among Multnomah County residents who are 16 years and older. It includes those who are self-employed and who work part-time. The Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey is the source.

The rate of employment has been stable for the three most recent years of available data, but has dropped 5.4% since 2000. Multnomah County consistently employs a slightly higher percentage of residents than the state as a whole.

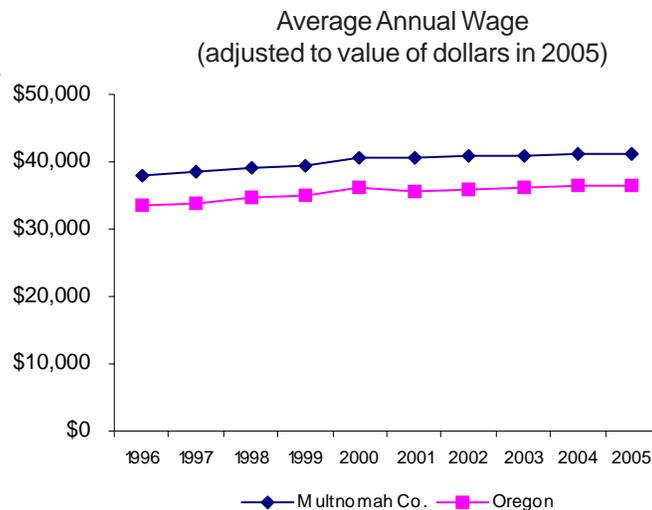


Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey

### 2. Average wage paid by Multnomah County employers.

This chart shows the average annual wage per worker paid by employers, adjusted for inflation. In 2005, the average annual wage in Multnomah County was \$41,241. The calculation is based on jobs and wages paid only by employers in the county, so it excludes county residents who work elsewhere or are self employed. It is intended to be an indicator of the health of the economy in Multnomah County, rather than an indication of average wages earned.

The average annual wage has been relatively flat since 2000, but is up 9% over a decade ago. Multnomah County wages are, on average, about \$4,600 higher per year than statewide average wages.



Source: Oregon Employment Department

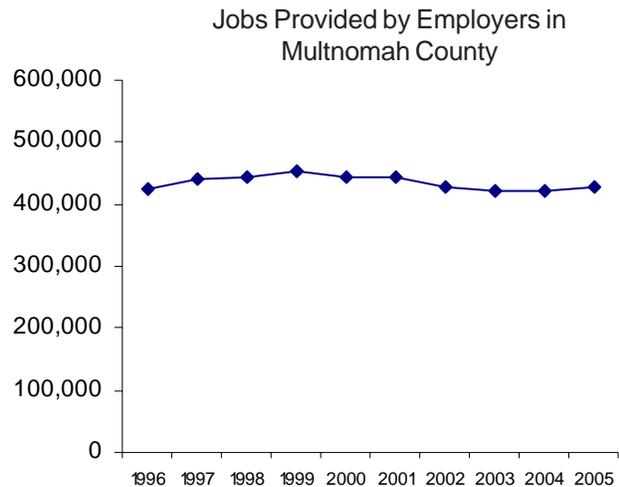
# Thriving Economy Priority: Marquee Indicators

*I want Multnomah County to have a thriving economy.*

### 3. Number of jobs provided by Multnomah County employers.

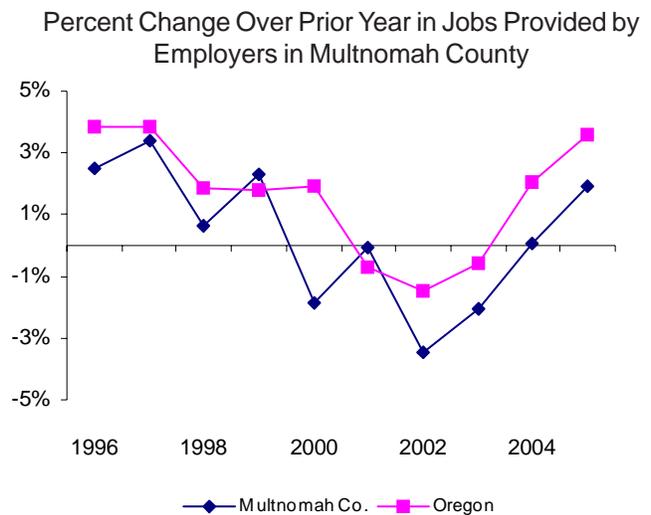
These charts reflect the number of jobs provided by businesses in Multnomah County. They exclude individuals who are self-employed or work outside of the County and do not differentiate between part-time and full-time positions. They are intended to be an indicator of economic health rather than a complete picture of employment

Over the last decade, a total of 13,327 jobs were added in the aggregate. Between 2000 and 2003, 33,200 jobs were lost, but this trend was reversed in 2004.



Source: Oregon Employment Department

The percent change over the prior year in the number of jobs provided fluctuated more dramatically in Multnomah County than it did in the state as a whole, although the overall trend of job loss and gain mirrors that of the state.



Source: Oregon Employment Department

## Vibrant Communities Priority: Marquee Indicators

*I want to have clean, healthy neighborhoods with a vibrant sense of community.*

---

### 1. Environmental and health index.

Options for this measure are currently being considered by the Vibrant Communities/Thriving Economy outcome team for future inclusion.

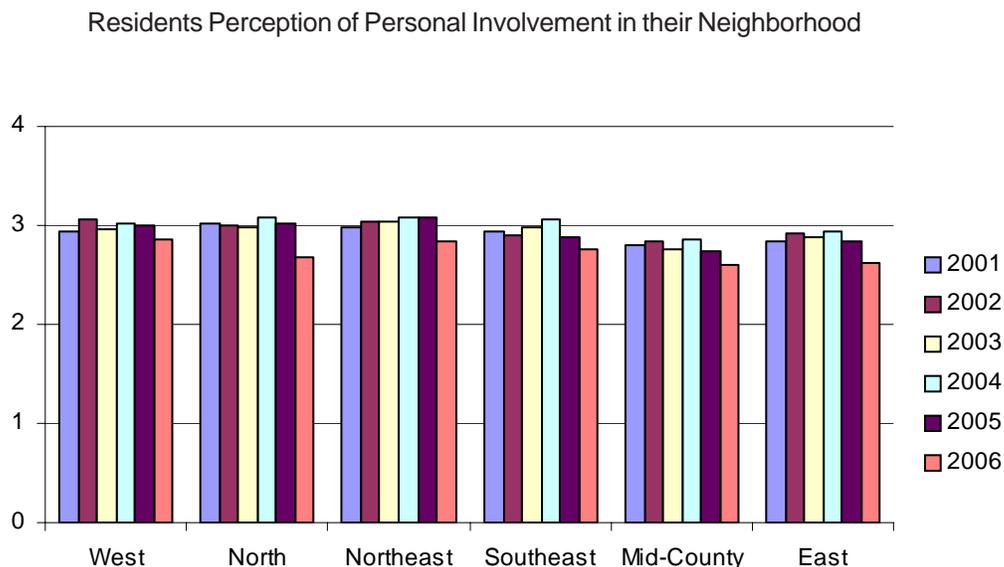
### 2. Citizen perception of personal involvement in neighborhoods.

This chart shows data by area of the county taken from the Auditor's Office's annual Citizen Survey. It is an average of responses to these three questions:

1. Many of my neighbors know me.
2. I can recognize most of the people who live on my block.
3. I regularly stop and talk with the people in my neighborhood.

Responses are reported on a scale of 1-4, with 4 showing the strongest level of agreement with the statement.

There was generally little variation between areas of the county for this index. Residents in Mid-county and East county identify as slightly less personally involved in their neighborhoods than other areas. The score was down slightly in 2006 for each district.



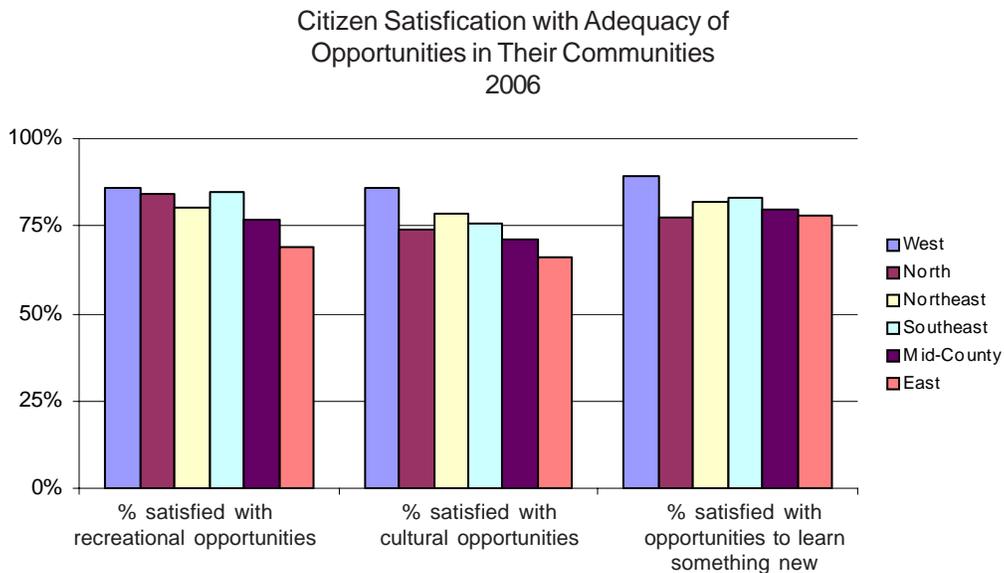
Source: Multnomah County Auditor's Office Citizen Survey

## Vibrant Communities Priority: Marquee Indicators

*I want to have clean, healthy neighborhoods with a vibrant sense of community.*

### 3. Citizen perception of adequacy of cultural, recreational, and lifelong learning opportunities.

Beginning in 2005, the annual Citizen Survey asked residents to rate their satisfaction with cultural, recreational, and lifelong learning opportunities in their communities. Respondents were highly satisfied with these opportunities. Generally, residents in West, Northeast, and Southeast noted the highest level of satisfaction on all three questions, with East county noticeably higher on learning opportunities. Residents in North and Mid-county expressed slightly lower levels of satisfaction.



Source: Multnomah County Auditor's Office Citizen Survey

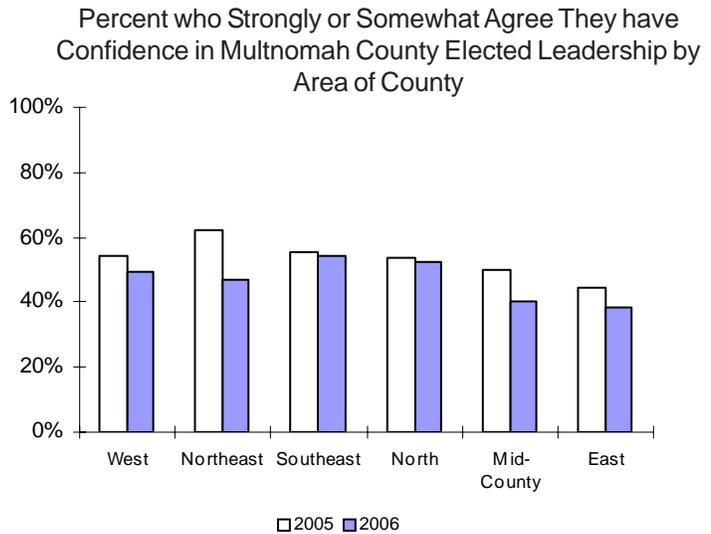
# Accountability Priority: Marquee Indicators

## *I want my government to be accountable at every level.*

### 1. Perception of trust and confidence in government.

The 2006 County Auditor’s Citizen Survey asked respondents the extent to which they agreed with the statement: “I have confidence that the elected leadership of Multnomah County manages the County well.”

In each area of the county, confidence in elected leadership dropped from 2005 to 2006.



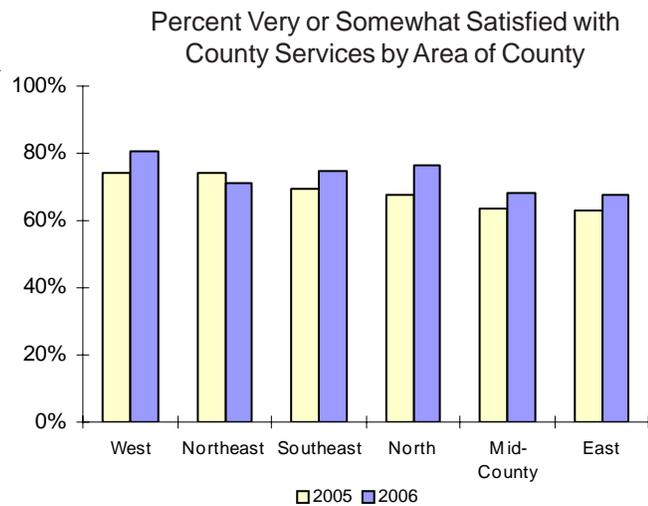
Source: Multnomah County Auditor’s Office Citizen Survey

### 2. Satisfaction with services.

The survey also asked respondents to rank their satisfaction with County services. The question read: “Multnomah County provides services for the poor, elderly, and disabled, as well as operates jails, libraries, criminal justice, health clinics, animal control, elections, bridges, etc... Please rate your overall satisfaction with Multnomah County services.”

Except for in the Northeast portion of the county, there were more respondents very or somewhat satisfied in 2006 than in 2005.

Respondents from the West portion of the county were most satisfied, while those in mid-county and East county were least satisfied.



Source: Multnomah County Auditor’s Office Citizen Survey

## Accountability Priority: Marquee Indicators

*I want my government to be accountable at every level.*

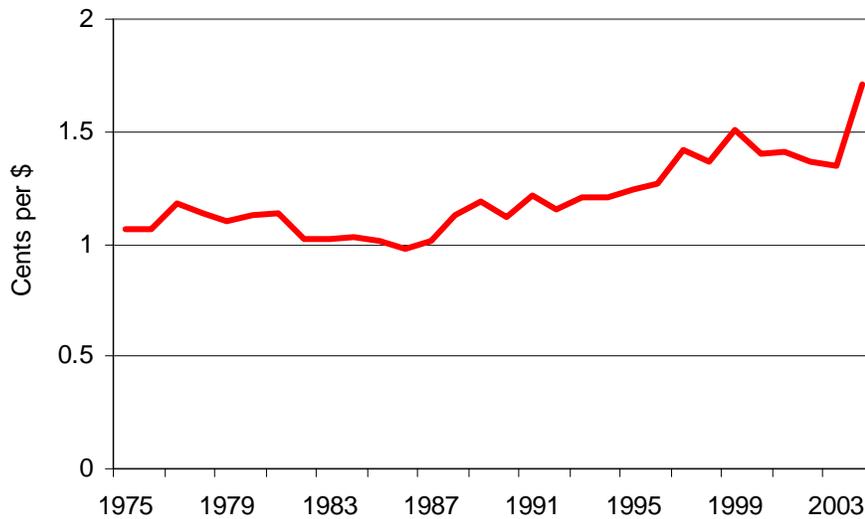
---

### 3. Price of government.

The price of government indicator allows a government to track the “burden” of its cost on the economy. The price is calculated as the sum of taxes, fees, and charges (local own source general fund) divided by the total economic resources of the community (aggregate personal income of the community). The price represents the number of cents out of every dollar in the community committed to pay for government services.

The increase in the price of government in 2004 is likely explained by the County’s temporary personal income tax.

Multnomah County’s Price of Government  
Cents/\$ Personal Income  
1975-2004



Source: Multnomah County Finance Office, Census Bureau,  
Bureau of Economic Analysis

# Education Priority: Marquee Indicators

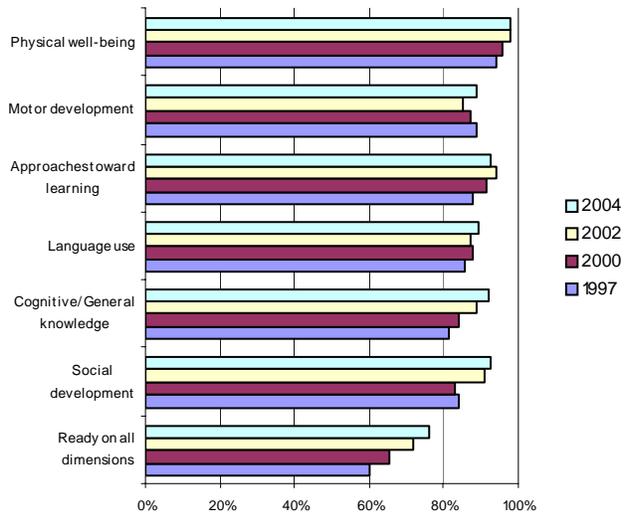
*I want all children in Multnomah County to succeed in school.*

## 1. Percent of entering kindergarten students who meet specific developmental standards for their age.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) conducts a periodic survey of Kindergarten teachers, asking them to assess their incoming students' readiness to learn on six different dimensions. Multnomah County Kindergarten students received high marks on their readiness to learn in each dimension.

The 2006 Kindergarten Readiness survey is currently underway, making 2004 the most current year of available data.

Multnomah County Kindergarten Students Meeting Readiness Dimensions



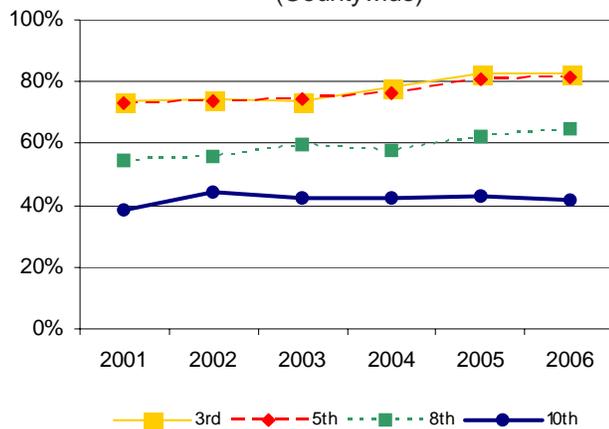
Source: Oregon Department of Education

Note: ODE makes the following cautions about use of this measure: "Comparable groups of children are needed to make a claim about the percent increase in children meeting all Developmental Dimensions over time... The survey results can give a point-in-time picture of young children who are attending Kindergarten. Cautious commentary should be used when making statements about progress from one survey administration to another."

## 2. Percent of students at 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade who meet or exceed standards on state assessments.

Over the past six years, the percent of Multnomah County students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 who meet standards in reading has vacillated. In 2006, the percent of students meeting standards in 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade was up, while other grades were level.

3rd, 5th, 8th, and 10th Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards in Reading (Countywide)



Source: Oregon Department of Education

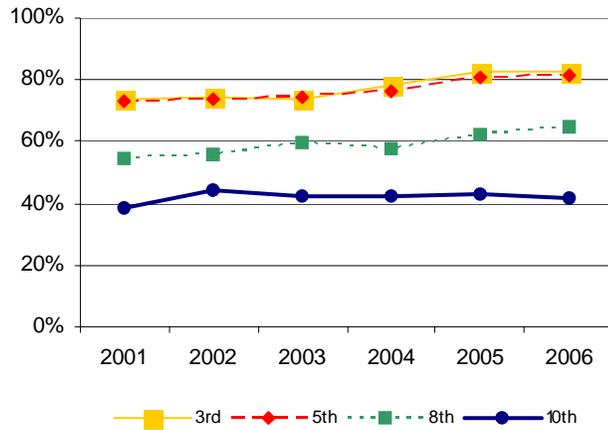
## Education Priority: Marquee Indicators

*I want all children in Multnomah County to succeed in school.*

### Math Standards

Multnomah County 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade scores are roughly the same, so distinct trend lines are not able to be seen in the chart. The percent of students meeting standards was up in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and level in all other grades.

3rd, 5th, 8th, and 10th Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards in Math (Countywide)



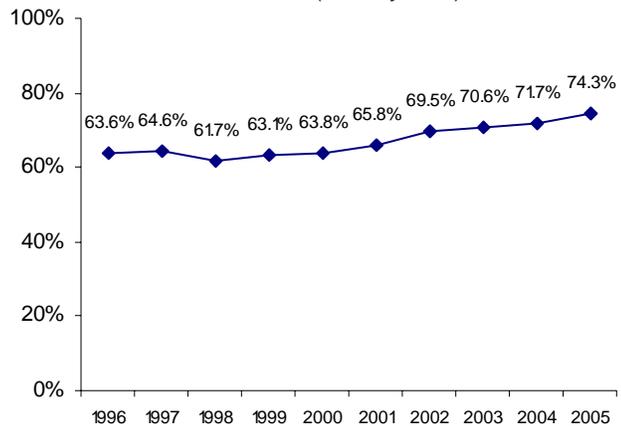
Source: Oregon Department of Education

### 3. High school graduation rate.

This chart represents a formula that simulates a graduation rate for a single class, or cohort, of students. It does so by dividing the number of graduates in a given school year by the number of graduates plus the number of dropouts in each grade for that year. The rate therefore attempts to reflect the number students who dropped out in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

The graduation rate in Multnomah County increased 13% over the past five years, 17% over the last ten years.

Hight School Graduation Rate (Countywide)



Source: Oregon Department of Education