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**Washington County Board of Commissioners, and  
Metro Councilors**

**Transparency and Disclosure**

Under Oregon tradition and Public Records and Meeting Law, elected officials' deliberations are to be public and "transparent", with some narrow exceptions.

Under Oregon's Government Ethics standards and law (Chapter 244), elected officials' deliberations are to be conducted with due respect to the management of conflicts of interest.

Washington County Personnel Policies (October 2009), under Ethical Standards, identifies the management of conflicts of interest and family and personal relationships.

A judge hearing a recent case in Lane County found that several county commissioners had engaged in illegal and secret deliberations, flouting Oregon's law requiring public bodies deliberate and decide public business in public. In this case, it was found that the several elected officials had engaged in "serial meetings" in private, scripting their votes that then were to be unveiled in a public hearing.

It could be that here, in Washington County, we lack these errors of governance. However, the perception arises, especially when rapid votes follow complex and far reaching testimony. The

perception arises, if one never witnesses a public disclosure of possible conflict, due to family relationship, economic interest, or other benefit.

With all due respect, I ask you to assure me here today that deliberations are being made in public and that any conflicts will be disclosed.

Robert Bailey

SaveHelvetia