

**BEND PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE BEND PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**ESTABLISHING LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PROCEDURES AND ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

The purpose of this Resolution is to guide Bend Park and Recreation District (“District”) officials in considering legislative or regulatory proposals that are likely to have an impact on the District, and to allow for a timely response to important legislative issues, including monitoring and acting upon bills during state and federal legislative sessions.

**WHEREAS**, the Legislative Advocacy Procedures and Priorities, contained herein, will provide the District Executive Director, Board Legislative Liaison, or other designee (“District Officials”;) discretion to advocate for Bend Park and Recreation District’s best interests. Adherence to legislative advocacy procedures will ensure that legislative inquiries and responses will be administered consistently with “one voice” and in compliance with the identified Advocacy Priorities; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Resolution provides District Officials the authority to take legislative positions without further Board of Director approval, as long as those positions generally adhere to the Advocacy Procedures and Advocacy Priorities contained herein or as periodically amended by the Board of Directors; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of District to proactively monitor and advocate for or against legislation as directed by the Advocacy Priorities and by the specific direction of the Board of Directors. This process involves interaction with local, state, and federal government entities both in regard to specific items of legislation and to promote positive intergovernmental relationships. Accordingly, involvement and participation in regional, state, and national organizations and participating in their advocacy work is encouraged; and,

**WHEREAS**, whenever the Board of Directors’ position on an Advocacy Priority is unclear on how it pertains to the District, the matter shall be brought before the Board of Directors for formal direction; and,

**WHEREAS**, generally, District Officials will not address matters that are not pertinent to the District’s local government service authority as provided in ORS 266 and ORS 198, without first obtaining direction from District Board of Directors; and,

**WHEREAS**, monitoring legislation is a shared function of District and government associations such as Special Districts’ Association of Oregon and Oregon Recreation and Park Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bend Park and Recreation Board of Directors authorizes District Officials to advocate on behalf of the District in adherence to the following Legislative Advocacy Procedures and Advocacy Priorities:

**ADVOCACY PROCEDURES:**

1. District Officials shall review legislative concepts and bills to determine if the legislation (or concept) aligns with District’s current adopted Advocacy Priorities and are within the

- powers granted to the District in ORS 266 and ORS 198.
2. District Officials will review positions and analysis completed by the Special Districts' Association of Oregon or Oregon Recreation and Parks Association and other pertinent local government associations when formulating positions.
  3. If the matter aligns with the Advocacy Priorities, District Officials' response shall be sent to the legislative body reviewing the bill or measure or to the governmental association tracking the issue.
  4. Legislative position correspondence initiated by District Officials shall state whether the District is requesting "support", "support if amended", "oppose", or "oppose unless amended" action on the issue and shall include adequate justification for the recommended action.
  5. District Officials may also provide correspondence of concern or interest regarding a legislative issue or rule without taking a formal position.
  6. When legislative correspondence is sent to a state or federal legislative body, the appropriate federal or state legislators representing the District shall be included as a copy on the correspondence. The appropriate contacts at the Special Districts' Association of Oregon, Oregon Recreation and Park Association, or other local government associations, if applicable, shall also be copied on the correspondence.
  7. All legislative positions adopted shall be communicated to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. When appropriate, District Officials will submit a report (either written or verbal) summarizing activity on legislative measures to the Board of Directors.

#### **ADVOCACY PRIORITIES:**

##### **1. Funding and Revenue Protection:**

- a. Promote funding measures that affords access to revenue opportunities equal to that of other types of local government agencies.
- b. Protect District's resources from the shift or diversion of revenues without consent.
- c. Support legislation that increases funding for local parks, trails and recreation opportunities.
- d. Support funding that would allow District to maximize local revenues, offset and leverage capital expenditures, support local flexibility with revenue and to diversify local revenue sources.
- e. Oppose legislation that imposes unfunded mandates and supports the legislature's consideration of the impact unfunded mandates have on local agencies.
- f. Protect and preserve Districts' property tax allocations.
- g. Opposes legislation that negatively impacts the ability of the district to assess, collect, and use Park System Development Charges (SDCs), and property taxes, or pursue grants and other similar funding mechanisms whose purpose is to support park and recreation.
- h. Oppose legislation that would divert constitutionally dedicated funds from park, recreation and natural resource uses.
- i. Oppose any attempts to fundamentally alter the local government grant provisions

of Measure 76.


2. **Park and Recreation Service Delivery:**
  - a. Promote the efficient and sustainable delivery of core local services.
  - b. Support legislation that recognizes park and recreation agencies as partners in providing opportunities to pursue healthy, active lifestyles.
  - c. Support anti-obesity programs, environmental education and experiences, and programs designed to connect people with the outdoors.
  - d. Support programs facilitating trail and pathway connectivity and active transportation.
  - e. Support programs promoting overall health and physical vitality.
  - f. Support programs that serve older adult, therapeutic and out-of-school activities.
3. **Special Districts Autotomy:**
  - a. Enhance special districts' ability to govern as independent, local government bodies.
  - b. Encourage best practices that avoid burdensome, costly, redundant or one-size-fits-all approaches.
  - c. Prevent restrictive public works requirements that increase costs to taxpayers or reduce local flexibility.
  - d. Promote local-level decision-making and management of service delivery affecting special districts.
  - e. Support legislation that ensures District services meet the unique needs, priorities, and preferences of each community served by special districts.
4. **Public Meeting and Records:**
  - a. Oppose additional public meeting and records requirements that unnecessarily increase the burden on public resources.
5. **Recreational Immunity:**
  - a. Oppose legislation that weakens the liability protections of special districts and their public officials granted under the Oregon Tort Claims Act or similar federal legislation.
  - b. Support continued immunity protection for landowners who allow public access to their lands free of charge for recreational use or access to recreation sites.
  - c. Support legislation on discretionary immunity and duty of care that further protects public landowners.
6. **Employment and Contracting:**
  - a. Promote policies related to hiring, management, benefits and retirement that afford flexibility, contain costs, and enhance the ability to recruit and retain qualified, career-minded employees to public service.
  - b. Support policies that foster productive relationships between management and employees and maintain District's ability to exercise local flexibility.
  - c. Oppose legislation regarding employment requirement that do not consider the unique role of park and recreation employers who often hire seasonal and part-time employees.
7. **Contracting:**
  - a. Oppose any measure that would hinder District's ability to maximize efficiencies through the use of contracted services.

- b. Encourage prudent planning for investment and maintenance of innovative long-term infrastructure.
- c. Support the contracting flexibility and fiscal tools and incentives needed to help District meet Bend's changing demands.
- d. Support the modernizing of Bureau of Labor and Industry's requirements that overburden public agencies.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors on this 20th day of December, 2022

  
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Deb Schoer, Board Chair

Attest:

  
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Don P. Horton, Executive Director