

Message from Commissioner Meieran

Budget decisions are being made during the month of May. If you would like to be involved in shaping our budget considerations and underlying policy, you can attend and testify about this topic in any of the following ways:

During one of two upcoming virtual public budget hearings. Members of the public who wish to provide testimony during either budget hearing can sign up using [this webform](#). After submitting the form, a confirmation email will be sent containing information about joining the virtual public budget hearing to testify. [The webform](#) can also be used to submit written comments. Written testimony will be shared with each commissioner and their staff prior to the hearing. Hearings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday May 5, 6:00-8:00pm ([info here](#))
- Wednesday May 12, 6:00-8:00pm ([info here](#))

You can also testify during regularly scheduled County Commissioner Board meetings each Thursday morning at 9:30am. Information on how to sign up to speak at a board meeting is available [here](#). You must sign up before 4pm on the Wednesday prior to the Thursday board meeting.

You can also contact individual County Commissioners directly to express your perspective. Contact information for my fellow commissioners is below:

- Chair Deborah Kafoury: Mult.Chair@multco.us
- District 2 Commissioner Susheela Jayapal: district2@multco.us
- District 3 Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson: district3@multco.us
- District 4 Commissioner Lori Stegmann: district4@multco.us

The commissioners make final budget decisions, and your opinion can help inform those decisions. Here's an example of the type of message you could send to support my proposed alternative shelter plan to reduce harm for people living outside, but of course feel free to draft your own message, or add your personal story or perspective; hearing from people about their own experiences and perspectives is invaluable as we are making difficult budget decisions:

Dear Commissioner XXX,

I am very concerned about the public health and safety of people living on our streets in Multnomah County. Although I support the long term approach to ending homelessness outlined in Multnomah County's Local Implementation Plan and supported in Chair Kafoury's proposed budget, I believe we need to be allocating more resources, or allocating resources in a different way, to address the urgent humanitarian crisis of people who will not have housing or shelter in the near term.

I support the approach outlined in Commissioner Meieran's proposed plan, and hope that you will strongly consider this approach and have open conversation about it as you deliberate on your final budget.

Thank you for all you do for our community.

Sincerely,

XXX

And finally, if you would like to connect with me directly, I would love to have the opportunity to hear from you further at one of several upcoming budget forums I am personally hosting on *Saturday May 8th, 9:30 - 10:30am, Thursday May 13th, 12:00 - 1:00pm, Tuesday May 18th, 5:00 - 6:00pm, and Sunday May 23rd, 3:30 - 4:30pm.* These are spaces for me to hear from constituents about the things that matter to them, answer questions about the budget process, and help inform my perspective. You can sign up for any of these sessions [here](#).

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