



## Curry County Opinions Values and Beliefs Survey

Leaders and community members in Curry County would like to consult with residents about their opinions, values, and beliefs about county services and county funding. The responses you provide will be compiled and provided to the new County Commission and Curry County residents in January.

This consultation consists of 42 questions and typically takes less than 20 minutes to complete. Thank you very much for your participation.

### General Attitudes

1. In general, do you feel things in Curry County are headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track? Please circle or check off one response.

- Right direction
- Wrong track
- Don't know

2. Why?

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3. Do you trust **county** government to do the right thing for Curry County residents? Please circle or check off one response.

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Some of the time
- Almost never
- Don't know

4. Why?

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5. What are the most important issues that you would like to see your county government officials do something about?

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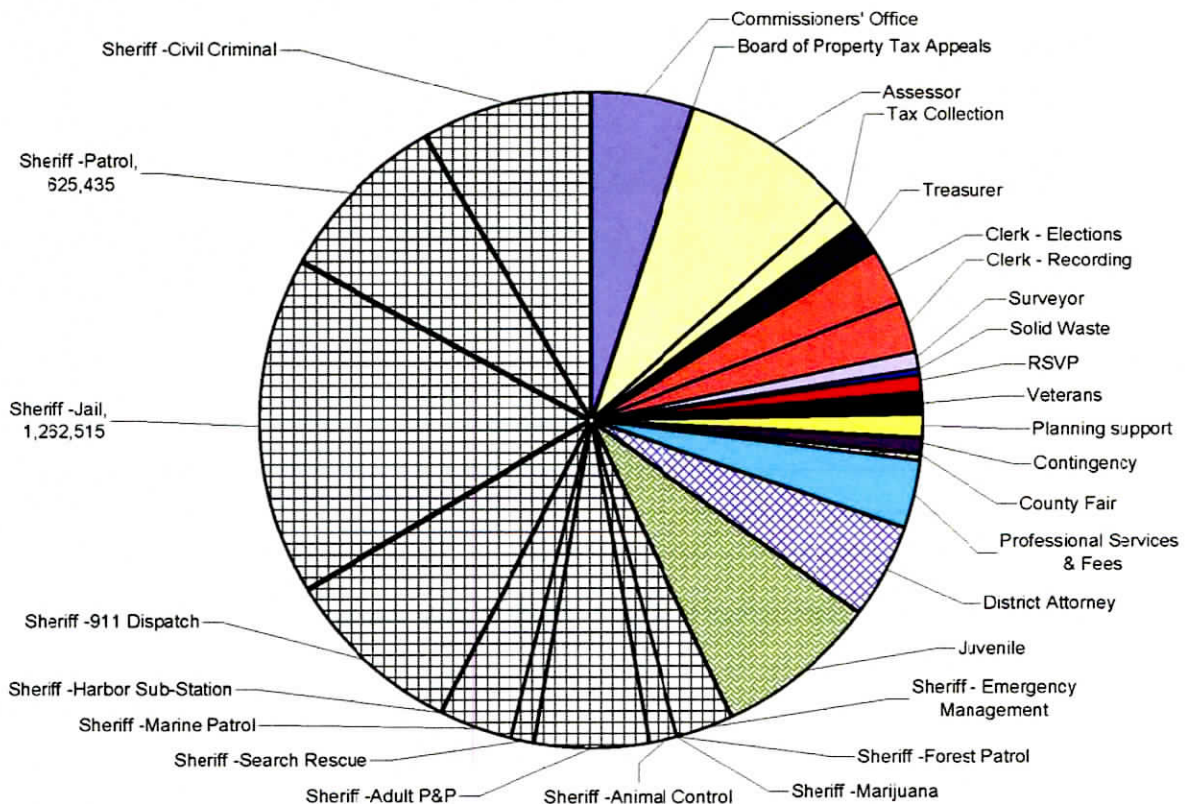
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Who do you believe provides these services? Please select all that apply.

Response Category	City	County	State	Federal	Don't know
6. Sheriff patrol	0	0	0	0	0
7. Maintenance and operation of the local jail	0	0	0	0	0
8. District attorney's office	0	0	0	0	0
9. Veterans' services	0	0	0	0	0
10. County Administration (commissioners, legal, IT, financial/HR, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
11. Juvenile justice	0	0	0	0	0
12. Property tax assessment, collection and distribution to taxing districts	0	0	0	0	0
13. Elections	0	0	0	0	0

Here is the actual distribution of the spendable County general fund budget:

### 2012/13 General Fund Expenditure Budget



10/26/2012 10:21 AM

**Values & Priorities**

How important are these services to you? Please circle or check off one response for each row.

Response Category	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	Don't know
14. Maintenance and operation of the local jail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Veterans' services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Sheriff patrol	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. District attorney's office	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. Property tax assessment, collection and distribution to taxing districts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. Elections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. County Administration (commissioners, legal, IT, financial/HR)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. Juvenile justice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Funding Options**

Since 2006, Curry County general fund revenue has decreased by nearly two-thirds—from just over \$6 million dollars to about \$2.1 million dollars. Most of that was loss of federal timber payments to the county. Over the past few years, Curry County has reduced its general fund workforce by nearly one-third. According to a study by the state, the courthouse and the jail needs several million dollars in repairs and structural improvements, and there are at least \$775,000 worth of repairs required within the next two years to keep all three county buildings functional.

The Oregon Constitution does not allow states or counties to deficit spend. There will be more than a \$3 million gap in next year's budget between the current level of service and available revenues, and there will be an approximately \$5 million gap between next year's available revenue and the basic county services provided in the 2006-07 budget.

According to a Secretary of State's report, Curry County residents pay the second lowest county property tax rate in the state, and it is less than one-quarter of the statewide average. Curry County officials have been advised by the Governor and others that they should re-examine the tax rate as part of their response to the end of county timber payments.

22. Before this survey, did you know that over the past six years, the county general fund revenues will have decreased two-thirds and even with these reductions, the 2013 county budget will have at least a \$3 million dollar shortfall that will require additional cuts in county services if there are no other sources of revenue? Please circle or check off one response.

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|-----|-----------------------|
| Yes | <input type="radio"/> |
| No  | <input type="radio"/> |

23. How concerned are you about cuts to county services? Please circle or check off one response.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Very concerned       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Somewhat concerned   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Not too concerned    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Not at all concerned | <input type="radio"/> |
| Don't know           | <input type="radio"/> |

Several options have been proposed to respond to the loss of federal timber payments and resulting \$3 million shortfall that the county will be facing starting next year:

- a) Increase county property taxes from the current sixty cents (\$.60) per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$2.98 per \$1,000 to return county services to approximately the 2006-07 level. This new tax would expire after 5 years.
- b) Create a special law enforcement district that would support sheriff's patrol, the jail, the district attorney's office and other law enforcement functions through a permanent property tax assessment of \$2.32 per thousand. That would leave approximately \$.60 per thousand to provide other county services and a gap of approximately \$.06 per thousand to return those services to approximately the 2006-07 level.
- c) Create a 3% county sales tax on consumer goods with exemptions for essential purchases (food, medications, etc...) to return services to approximately the 2006-07 level.
- d) Create a 2% county sales tax on consumer goods with only the legally required exemptions to return services to approximately the 2006-07 level.
- e) Do nothing and reduce or eliminate most county services including general county administration, closing the jail, and eliminating sheriff's patrol and emergency services, veterans' services, and RSVP.

24. Please rank the following approaches to dealing with the budget shortfall. Please enter 1 for the best option, 2 for the second best, etc. Please rank all approaches below.

- a. An increase in county property taxes from the current sixty cents (\$.60) per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$2.98 per \$1,000 to return county services to approximately the 2006-07 level. This new tax would expire after 5 years.
- b. Create a special law enforcement district that would support sheriff's patrol, the jail, the district attorney's office and other law enforcement functions through a permanent property tax assessment of \$2.32 per thousand. That would leave approximately \$.60 per thousand to provide other county services and a gap of approximately \$.06 per thousand to return those services to approximately the 2006-07 level.
- c. Create a 3% county sales tax on consumer goods with exemptions for essential purchases (food, medications, etc...) to return services to approximately the 2006-07 level.
- d. Create a 2% county sales tax on consumer goods with only the legally required exemptions to return services to approximately the 2006-07 level.
- e. Do nothing and reduce or eliminate most county services including general county administration, closing the jail, and eliminating sheriff's patrol and emergency services, veterans' services, and RSVP.

**Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Please select one response for each row.**

<b>Response Category</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
25. County services are critical and should not be cut anymore.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26. Curry County is great places to live, raise a family, and retire. We need to fund public services to maintain our community even if it means I need to pay a little more in taxes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27. This is a tough economy, and this is not the right time to raise taxes even it means that Curry County will be without most county services.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28. If the county were to restructure to create additional efficiencies, I would be willing to consider additional taxes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
29. I believe that the state or federal government will step in with additional resources to prevent the county from having to make additional deep cuts or raise taxes on residents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. Do you have any additional ideas or concerns to share with Curry County leadership?

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31. Where do you get your information about county government?

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**Demographics**

32. How many years have you lived in the county? Please select one response.

- 5 years or less
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21 years or longer
- Refused/Don't know

33. Do you own or rent your home? Please select one response.

- Own
- Rent
- Refused/Don't know

34. Please indicate where you live in Curry County.

- Langlois
- Port Orford
- Gold Beach
- Agness
- Pistol River
- Carpenterville
- Brookings
- Harbor
- Nesika Beach
- Ophir
- Other Unincorporated Curry County
- Refused/Don't know

35. In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

36. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

37. What is your education? Please select one response.

- Less than High school
- High school graduate
- Some college associate or technical
- College graduate
- Post college graduate degree
- Refused/Don't know

38. Do you consider yourself to be... Please select all that apply.

- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic
- Native American
- White
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Refused/Don't know

39. What is your household income?

- Less than \$30K
- \$30-\$50K
- \$50-\$75K
- \$75-\$100K
- \$100-\$150K
- \$150K+
- Refused/Don't know

40. Are you currently registered to vote? Please select one response.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Not eligible
- Refused

41. Do you consider yourself to be a:

- Republican
- Democrat
- Non-affiliated
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Refused

42. Would you consider yourself:

- Very liberal
- Liberal
- Moderate
- Conservative
- Very conservative
- None of the above

**Please check the box below to indicate that this is the only Curry County Opinions and Beliefs survey through Oregon's Kitchen Table that you have filled out and submitted. Checking the box means you have not filled out more than one paper survey or an online version of this survey.**

I have only filled out and submitted one Curry County Opinions and Beliefs survey through Oregon's Kitchen Table.

*Thank you for taking a seat at Oregon's Kitchen Table!*

