



Diane M. Linn, Multnomah County Chair

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Amy Swanson
(503) 988-3312 x27184

Multnomah County Assists, Encourages Employers to Withhold County Income Tax

Multnomah County is actively assisting and encouraging employers to withhold the County personal income tax for their employees who are Multnomah County residents. County representatives have spoken at several business and community association meetings and are developing programs and materials to help employers implement payroll withholding and educate their employees.

“We are happy to assure our schools of a full school year, and we need the help of employers to make tax payments easier for their employees that live in Multnomah County through withholding,” Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn said.

“Many other states and counties outside of Oregon have local taxes, and most payroll software and services can easily accommodate this tax,” added Satish Nath, Finance Manager for Multnomah County.

The County income tax was created when voters approved Ballot Measure 26-48 last May. The tax is expected to raise \$128 million for public schools and county services this year. The money allowed county schools to start the school year without teacher layoffs and funded programs and services that would have disappeared without the additional local support.

Employer withholding for this tax is voluntary and employees must authorize the amount to be withheld. Many major payroll services already offer withholding services to their clients. Any wages withheld or individual payments made during calendar year 2003 are eligible for 2003 state and federal itemized deductions. In addition, many businesses are already withholding this tax.

The County is encouraging any employers or business associations interested in having a County representative contact them or provide a presentation to call Amy Swanson at 503-988-3312 x27184. The County is preparing a mailing to go out to employers in mid-October, and an employer handbook can be located and downloaded from the County’s Website, www.co.multnomah.or.us/tax, and can also be requested by calling 503-988-4829.

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