

A Resolution Declaring Columbia County's Commitment to Business-Friendly Government, Responsible Development, Customer Service, and a "Find a Way to Yes" Philosophy

WHEREAS, Columbia County recognizes that a strong local economy, family-wage jobs, thriving small businesses, agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, tourism, and responsible development are essential to the quality of life for County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believes that government should serve the public with professionalism, transparency, efficiency, and respect; and

WHEREAS, the County is committed to protecting public health, safety, natural resources, and the rights of property owners while encouraging economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, businesses, residents, developers, and community organizations deserve timely, courteous, and solution-oriented service from County government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Oregon, that:

Section 1. County Policy

It shall be the policy of Columbia County to foster a culture that is:

- Business Friendly
- Development Friendly
- Customer Service Focused
- Solution Oriented
- Efficient, Predictable, and Transparent

Section 2. "Find a Way to Yes"

County departments are encouraged to approach every application, permit, proposal, or request with the philosophy of **"Find a Way to Yes."**

This means staff should:

- Work collaboratively with applicants to identify lawful solutions.

- Clearly explain requirements and **available options**.
- Help applicants understand what is needed for approval.
- Seek practical solutions whenever permitted by law.
- Maintain open communication throughout the review process.

When a request cannot legally be approved, staff should explain the reasons and, whenever possible, identify alternatives or modifications that may allow the proposal to move forward.

Section 3. Efficient Government

The Board encourages departments to:

- Reduce unnecessary delays.
- Eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Improve coordination between departments.
- Review internal processes for efficiency.
- Provide timely responses to public inquiries.

Section 4. Partnership with the Community

Columbia County values partnerships with:

- Local businesses
- Entrepreneurs
- Farmers and ranchers
- Forest landowners
- Manufacturers
- Developers
- Nonprofit organizations
- Cities
- Community members

The County recognizes that these partners create jobs, strengthen communities, and contribute to the County's long-term success.

Section 5. Compliance with Law

Nothing in this Resolution authorizes approval of applications that conflict with federal, state, or local law. All County decisions shall remain consistent with applicable statutes, ordinances, regulations, and adopted comprehensive plans.

Section 6. Commitment

The Board of County Commissioners affirms that Columbia County's goal is to be known as a County that is responsive, professional, welcoming, and committed to helping people succeed.

Whenever possible and consistent with the law, the County will strive to **find a way to say "Yes," rather than simply explaining why something cannot be done.**

Adopted this 6th day of January 2027.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Columbia County, Oregon