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NEWS RELEASE

For release: **February 18, 2010**

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County seeks community input to inform FY 2011 budget

Public meetings March 4 and March 18 will help guide Executive Budget choices

Multnomah County Chair [Ted Wheeler](#) and the Multnomah County [Citizen Involvement Committee](#) (CIC) will collect community input on the county's Fiscal Year 2011 budget in two public meetings in March.

On Thursday, March 4, the "Creating a Safe Community" meeting will focus on public safety, and on Thursday, March 18, the "Creating a Healthy Community" meeting will address health and human services. Both meetings will take place in the Boardroom at the [Multnomah Building](#), at 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. in Portland, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The public meetings are meant to be informal, small group discussions to gather the community's priorities and questions. County leaders will provide insights on the county's annual budget process, as well as the latest updates about the decrease in revenues.

"Important services for our community continue to face cuts as our region and nation weather a difficult economic situation," said Chair Wheeler. "We must take responsible steps to prioritize our resources and the perspectives we hear from our community are more important than ever to inform this process."

For the tenth year in a row, Multnomah County must make cuts to programs and services in the community. The county faces budget cuts because of a projected \$10 million general fund shortfall over the next two years. This shortfall is due to decreases in the county's major revenues sources, the rising costs of doing business and economic conditions that have yet to improve.

The community input gathered at these meetings and elsewhere will help shape Chair Wheeler's Executive Budget, to be released in late April. The full Board of County Commissioners will then deliberate the content of the budget, accepting further public testimony at meetings in May, and ultimately adopt the county's Fiscal Year 2011 budget in early June.

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