

Oregon earns a C for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Higher bar to forfeit in limited cases: Weak conviction provision falls short of criminal forfeiture (see page 41). It applies only if an owner contests forfeiture, putting the burden on owners to engage in a costly legal battle and making it easy for the government to forfeit without a conviction. It does not require conviction of the owner, only of “a person.” Once the conviction provision is satisfied, personal property must be linked to the crime by preponderance of the evidence; real property by clear and convincing evidence.
- Stronger protections for the innocent: Generally, the government must prove third-party owners knew about criminal activity connected to their property, but if cash, weapons or negotiable instruments were found near drugs, the owner bears the burden.
- Large profit incentive: 52.5% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement when forfeiture is pursued by local agencies; 47% when forfeiture is pursued by the state.

Recent Reforms

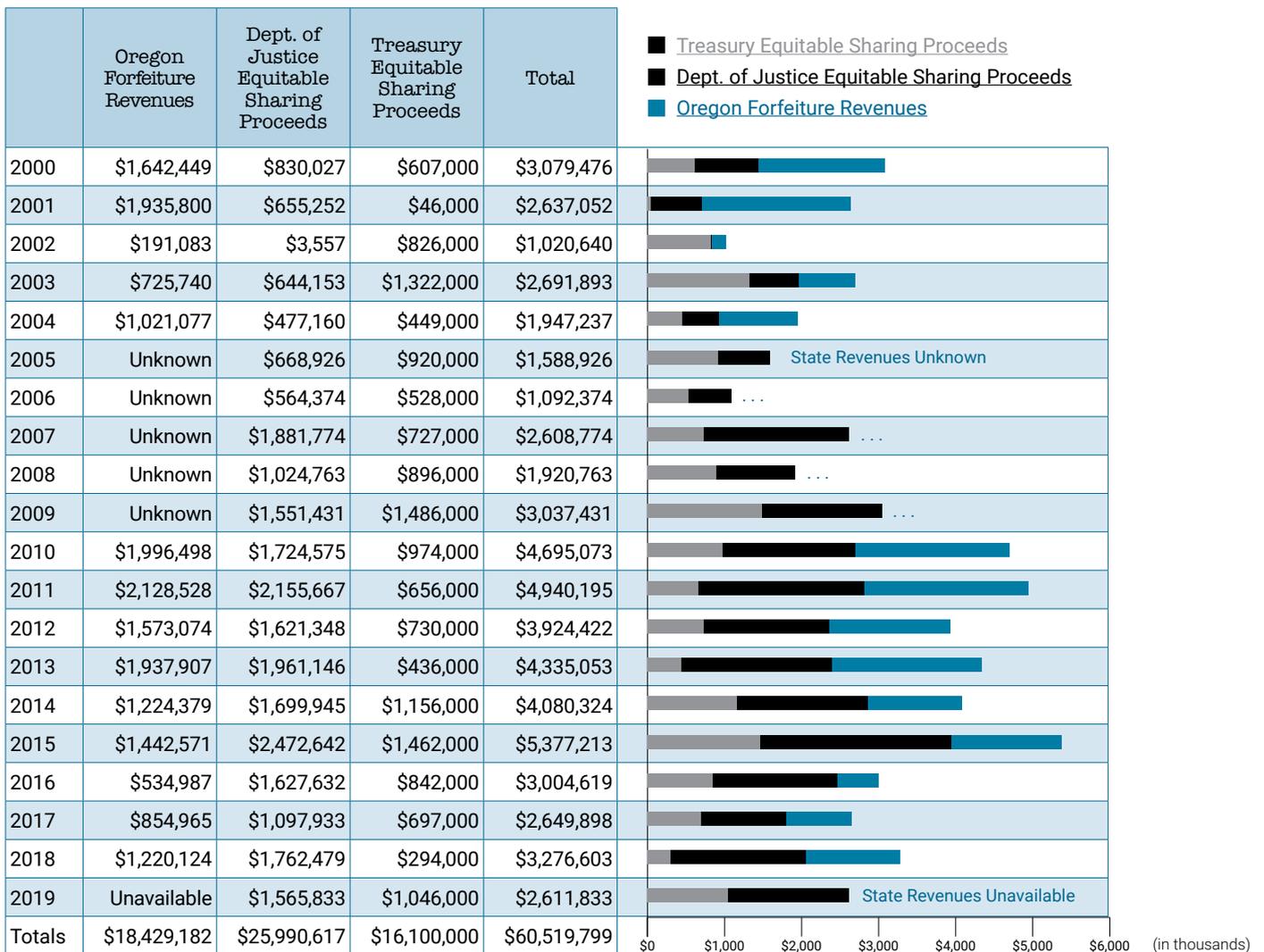
- None.

State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

From 2000 to 2004 and 2010 to 2018, Oregon law enforcement agencies forfeited more than \$18 million under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$42 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$60 million in forfeiture revenue. Oregon ranks 20th for its participation in the Department of Justice’s equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$60 million
in state and federal
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

Oregon's Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	B	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	B
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	A	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	F
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	A	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	F

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards.

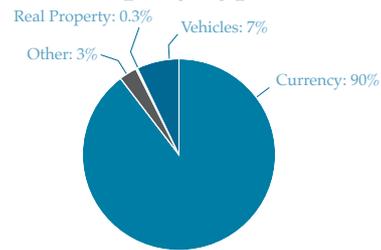
Forfeitures Under Oregon Law: Key Facts

Median Value



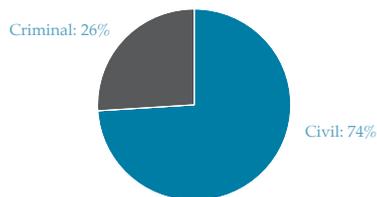
From 2015 to 2018, half of Oregon's currency forfeitures were worth less than \$2,128.

Property Types



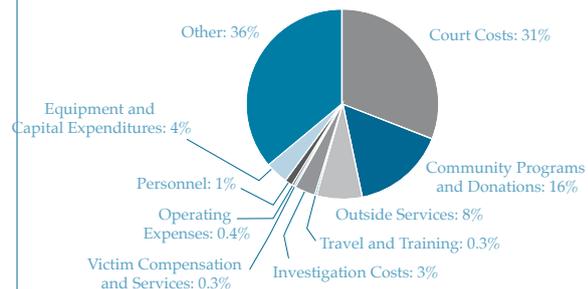
From 2010 to 2018, nine out of every 10 forfeitures in Oregon were of currency.

Civil vs. Criminal



From 2010 to 2018, at least 74% of forfeited properties were processed under civil, not criminal, forfeiture laws.

Expenditures



From 2010 to 2018, Oregon law enforcement spent \$7 million from forfeiture funds—36% on other expenses, mostly interagency transfers.

Data Notes

Forfeiture reports and data are from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Figures for 2000 through 2004 represent forfeitures of cash and proceeds from sales of forfeited property. Figures for 2010 through 2018 represent currency forfeited and value of other forfeited property. All figures are in calendar years. OCJC reportedly lacked funds to produce reports for 2005 through 2009. Expenditures are based on the calendar year property was forfeited. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state or cover the same 12-month period as the federal data.