



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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Marion and Polk County Democrats Secure Vital Funding for the Region

SALEM – Marion and Polk counties will receive much-needed investments to build stronger communities following this year’s legislative session and the advocacy of House Democrats.

Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem), Rep. Paul Evans (D-Monmouth) and Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon (D-Woodburn) fought hard to ensure transformative investments in the region.

“I joined the legislature to fight for my community and everyone who calls it home,” Rep. Evans said. “As a former mayor and current educator, I know how important these investments will be in making sure our communities are able to build strong economies and an educated workforce. We proved this session that together, we can build for the future.”

Among the funding secured for Marion and Polk Counties is:

- \$14 million for capital improvements to the Oregon State Capitol building, including ADA accessibility and safety
- \$6 million to renovate the Oregon Supreme Court building, including seismic updates, energy efficiency improvements, and various systems and safety code upgrades
- A portion of the \$8.5 million for armory upgrades, including the Anderson Readiness Center in Salem, to bring these facilities up to seismic standards
- \$15.2 million to renovate and remodel seven living units at the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility
- \$4.3 million to renovate buildings at the Oregon School for the Deaf, including roof replacements at six buildings and ADA upgrades at eight facilities
- \$5.5 million to renovate Western Oregon University’s Information Technology Center, and \$7.7 million to renovate the Oregon Military Building
- \$6 million to construct a new agricultural complex on Chemeketa Community College’s main Salem campus
- \$1 million to continue developing the Independence Landing site in the City of Independence
- \$1 million to develop the Woodburn Community Center
- \$12 million for the construction of a new YMCA facility in Salem

“One of the most important things that legislators do is fighting to make sure that investments are being made in our communities,” Rep. Alonso Leon said. “These investments will mean good jobs and better opportunities right here in our region, in both the short and long term.”

In addition, following two years of intensive work, the legislature passed a transportation package that will repair, replace and improve transportation infrastructure and public transportation throughout Polk and Marion Counties.

The transportation package funds specific infrastructure projects and sends 50% of new revenues to cities and counties for local maintenance and improvements. Among the projects that will receive funding is:

- \$60 million for seismic retrofit work on Hwy 22 and Center Street bridge
- \$2.6 million to extend the Brooks rail siding
- \$4.1 million per year in new maintenance funding for Salem
- \$234,000 per year in new maintenance funding for Independence
- \$246,000 per year in new maintenance funding for Monmouth
- \$626,000 per year in new maintenance funding for Woodburn
- \$8.3 million per year in new maintenance funding for Marion County
- \$2 million per year in new maintenance funding for Polk County
- \$9.3 million per year in new transit funding to the Salem Area Mass Transit District

“I’ve been fighting to get adequate funding for the critical transportation needs of my constituents since my first day in office,” Rep. Clem said. “We are long past due for the restoration of weekend bus service.”

These regional projects are in addition to major statewide investments that will benefit every community in the state, including:

Bond Funds:

\$100 million for seismic rehabilitation at public school buildings statewide
\$20 million for seismic rehabilitation at emergency services buildings
\$80 million for the LIFT housing program
\$10 million for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Lottery:

\$30 million for Connect Oregon to finance transportation projects across the state
\$25 million for affordable housing preservation
\$5 million for the Oregon Main Street Revitalization grant program
\$10 million for levee projects around the state

Transportation:

\$130 million per year for transit
\$10 million per year for Safe Routes to Schools
\$1.2 million per year for bike and pedestrian projects

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