



Legislative E-Newsletter

**Rep. Phil Barnhart**

73rd Legislative Session, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005



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**Welcome**

This is the third of many e-newsletters that I will be sending out during the 2005 session of the Oregon State Legislature. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about the progress that the Legislature is making, and about the work

that I am doing to represent House District 11 and to support the values that we all hold dear: educating and nurturing our children, supporting our seniors, and protecting our communities.

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**Time to fight for efficiency and accountability**

Bills would increase transparency and reduce government waste

The Oregon House of Representatives has begun considering three bills I introduced, which would improve accountability and efficiency in the state government while freeing resources for such important priorities as education and veterans' welfare.

We must ensure that our state uses its money efficiently. Voters should know what they are paying for, and the rules should be simple, effective and efficient.

House Bill 2649 will allow municipal corporations to save money by posting their full budgets online, instead of buying costly newspaper space for that purpose. Presently, school districts and municipal

***Town Halls***

This **Saturday, March 5**, I will be holding two Town Hall meetings. I invite you all to attend.

**Springfield Town Hall Meeting:**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Saturday** – At the Springfield City Council Chambers

**Brownsville Town Hall Meeting**

**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday** – At the Brownsville Public Library meeting room

- Some subjects we will talk about include: education funding for K-12 and our university system, tax breaks and giveaways, and guardsmen returning from deployments
- We hope to have an open forum to discuss any relevant issue to our communities

corporations must publish their entire budget summaries in local newspapers. School districts, cities and other public agencies should be able to save money by posting their budgets online. The newspaper notifications should consist of a short budget title and the web address.

Another bill, HB 2645, would give taxpayers a better idea of where their dollars go. It requires organizations that receive state funds to notify taxpayers that they receive partial or complete funding with tax money by posting a notice in a prominent place where taxpayers are likely to see it if they use the organization's services.

The third bill, HB 2642, would move the state government toward the use of open standards when it purchases software for government computer systems. Doing so would save money and improve the state's technical capabilities.

I plan to fight for every dollar we can save and put it towards funding our schools and strengthening our communities. Increasing transparency of our system also allows voters to decide whether the Legislature should do things differently. If taxpayers know about which organizations and services their taxes pay for, they can better participate in the dialogue about our state's budget.

Stay tuned. More to follow.

Sincerely yours,



Phil Barnhart  
State Representative  
Central Lane and Linn Counties  
Assistant Democratic Leader

This may be the first email that you have received from me. If you allow me, you will receive a newsletter no more often than once per week about the work of the Legislature. If you do not want to receive future emails, please reply with the subject UNSUBSCRIBE.

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