

OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Opening Ceremony Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in participating in the proceedings of the Oregon State House of Representatives. Opening Ceremonies of the House are a time-honored tradition where the House takes a moment to recognize the talents of Oregonians and the various cultural aspects of our shared state. In order to facilitate your participation and to ensure the orderly conduct of business before the House, we ask that you be mindful of and adhere to the following:

- 1) The purpose of Opening Ceremonies is to provide for contemplation, inspiration and/or reflection; it is not meant for proselytizing or persuasion. Requiring others to join or participate in prayer or conducting ceremonies or using props is inappropriate.
- 2) The members of the House, their staff, and the citizens of Oregon whom they serve, hold a wide variety of beliefs and viewpoints. You are addressing everyone, and we ask that you be respectful to followers of all faiths and to those who profess no religious faith.
- 3) Opening Ceremonies are conducted after the Call to Order and the presentation of the colors but before the Quorum Call. These are not always religious prayers, but may also be a performance of music, poetry, dance or a moment of silence depending on the many factors that affect our schedule. Please note the following time limitations:
 - a) Two minutes or less for an invocation or reading;
 - b) Four minutes or less for a performance.
- 4) Our time on the House floor is strictly scheduled but the specifics of that schedule are subject to change depending on unpredictable circumstances that might arise. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.
- 5) Please do not use this opportunity to present your political views or interests. Lobbying in the House chamber is strictly prohibited.
- 6) House Rules provide that only legislators and certain employees may be on the floor while the House is in session.
- 7) Ordinarily, the dress code of the House chamber is contemporary business attire. We encourage guests of the House to dress in traditional attire and regalia as appropriate.

We appreciate your interest in the legislative process and are happy to welcome you into the House chamber. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can assist you in any way.

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