

## **OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Opening Ceremony Guidelines**

Thank you for your interest in participating in the proceedings of the Oregon State House of Representatives. In order to facilitate your participation and to ensure the orderly conduct of business before the House, we ask that you be mindful of the following:

- 1) Our time on the House floor is scheduled but the specifics of that schedule are subject to change depending on unpredictable circumstances. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.
- 2) After the Call to Order and presentation of the colors, we conduct "Opening Ceremonies." These are not always religious prayers, but may also be a performance of music, poetry, or a moment of silence depending on the many factors that affect our schedule. Please adhere to the following time limitations:
  - a) Two minutes or less for an invocation or reading
  - b) Three minutes or less for a performance
- 3) The purpose of prayer in the opening ceremonies is to seek guidance and to provide for contemplation, inspiration and reflection; it is not meant for entertainment, proselytizing or persuasion. Requiring others to join or participate in prayer, or conducting ceremonies or using props is inappropriate.
- 4) The members of the House, their staff, and the citizens of Oregon, whom they serve, hold a variety of beliefs and opinions. You are addressing everyone and we ask that you be respectful to followers of all faiths.
- 5) House Rules provide that only legislators and certain employees may be on the floor while the House is in session.
- 6) The dress code of the House provides for contemporary business or traditional attire. Additionally, we encourage guests of the House to dress in traditional attire and regalia when 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 there is any way we can assist you.

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