



# OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## NEWS RELEASE

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## WAYS AND MEANS CO-CHAIRS RELEASE 2015-17 BUDGET FRAMEWORK

SALEM- The Co-Chairs of the Legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee, Senator Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin) and Representative Peter Buckley (D-Ashland), released Wednesday their framework for the state budget for the 2015-17 biennium.

The framework is meant to provide context and the general parameters for the coming budget process. Buckley and Devlin said they will work with the Joint Ways and Means subcommittees in the coming months on the hundreds of detailed budget decisions which remain to be made.

The 2015 legislative session officially gets underway Feb. 2 and must adjourn by July 11.

The co-chairs budget framework released Wednesday includes \$7.235 billion for K-12 schools, a nearly \$600 million increase over the budget for the current biennium. Additionally, it includes a \$70 million boost for community colleges and \$114 million increase for the state's seven universities. In addition, the framework also includes more funding for Oregon Opportunity Grants and early childhood education.

The co-chairs budget also continues investments in human services, transportation and economic development, and public safety. In addition, it lists priorities which could be funded if additional revenue becomes available in future economic forecasts.

“Two years ago, we produced what we called a ‘turning point’ budget, as Oregon turned away from the Great Recession and reinvested in schools and other top priorities” said Buckley. “Today we seek to maintain those investments and do everything we can to ensure all Oregonians have the opportunity to prosper.”

“This budget is balanced not just in terms of revenue and expenditures. It’s also balanced in terms of priorities,” said Devlin (D-Tualatin). “Whether it’s a child in our public schools, a senior in need or victim of domestic violence, we worked to ensure that no one was left out.”

To prepare their framework, Buckley and Devlin reviewed current agency budgets; the costs of continuing current programs in those agencies; significant issues that might impact budgets; and potential reductions to find savings and efficiencies.

This is the third budget cycle in which Devlin and Buckley have served together as co-chairs of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

The entire budget framework and accompanying narrative are available

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/Documents/2015-17%20Co-Chair%20Budget%20Framework.pdf>

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