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House Democrats Announce 2023 Caucus Agenda: Rebuilding for the Future

SALEM - Today, Oregon House Democrats announce their 2023 Caucus Agenda: [Rebuilding for the Future](#). Having heard from people in every corner of the state, House Democrats have clear direction on the priorities Oregonians want addressed: homelessness and housing affordability; improved behavioral health and addiction services; stronger schools; safer neighborhoods and communities; a robust and fair economy that uplifts working and low-income families, champions small businesses, and supports every worker's right to organize; and more.

“As we emerge from challenging times, we have an opportunity to rebuild stronger and better,” said [House Majority Leader Julie Fahey](#) (D-West Eugene & Veneta). “When Oregonians have a place to call home and our basic needs met—from access to health care to a stable job and education—we can foster vibrant and safe communities based on trust, respect, and mutual understanding.”

With new leadership in the Governor's office and the Legislature, as well as 11 new first-term caucus members, House Democrats will use this moment to turn a page, fix what's broken, ensure that investments are fulfilling their promises, and hold government accountable.

“Oregonians from all political perspectives agree on what issues we need to address,” said [House Speaker Dan Rayfield](#) (D-Corvallis). “Together, Democrats and Republicans will

2023 Priorities At a Glance

Housing: Removing barriers to construction to address our shortage of 100,000+ housing units; protecting those facing eviction or foreclosure

Homelessness: Working with local governments and investing in programs that work to get people off the streets, connected to services, and in stable housing

Behavioral Health: Addressing the workforce shortage, increasing residential treatment facilities, and ensuring that agencies are rolling out programs effectively

The Economy: Supporting the semiconductor industry, boosting local economies, addressing workforce shortages, and championing workers' rights

Safe Communities: Holding people accountable for their actions; investing more in resources for solutions proven to prevent crime and keep us safe

Schools: Ensuring that investments are having a real impact in our classrooms; supporting students whose needs weren't met during the pandemic

Climate: Continuing to lead the way on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions; strengthening community resilience against climate-caused disasters

Other Focus Areas: Protecting access to reproductive health, strengthening our democracy, increasing access to health care

take on tough issues from homelessness to behavioral health this session—we will work to make things better while having challenging conversations to deliver on these and many other issues.”

Low-income families, small businesses, communities of color, veterans, and rural and coastal areas have borne the burden of Oregon’s economic, educational, and social disruptions. A key component of the Caucus’ agenda will be to bring forward solutions that are centered and rooted in equity, so that every corner of the state is taken care of and served.

“This isn’t a zero-sum game. When we work to center our most vulnerable and historically marginalized communities, the result is that everyone wins,” said [Representative Ricki Ruiz](#) (D-Gresham), House co-chair of the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus. “Together, with my colleagues in the BIPOC Caucus, I look forward to working with House leadership to ensure we are fulfilling our promise and achieving equitable results.”

This session House Democrats bring back a strong majority with 35 members, as well as one of the most diverse caucuses in state history.

In a [historic and celebratory moment](#), Oregon now has the largest Vietnamese American representation of any state legislature in the country, following the swearing in of [Representative Hai Pham](#) (D-S Hillsboro & W Beaverton), [Representative Daniel Nguyen](#) (D-Lake Oswego & SW Portland), [Representative Khanh Pham](#) (D-Outer SE Portland), [Representative Hoa Nguyen](#) (D-E Portland & Damascus), and [Representative Thuy Tran](#) (D-NE Portland).

Within the House Democratic Caucus there are nurses, doctors, dentists, firefighters, teachers, veterans, small business owners, and single parents, as well as members who know what it means to struggle to pay the rent, face food insecurity, or barely be able to afford child care. Caucus members come from urban, suburban, rural and coastal areas, and our leadership team mirrors that geographic diversity with members from inside and outside the Willamette Valley.

House Democrats will bring their unique and shared lived-experiences to the policy making table this session to tackle the state’s most pressing issues and provide Oregonians with the stability, safety, and opportunity they deserve. A full list of Caucus members and their committee assignments can be found [here](#).

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