



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

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House Democrats Announce 2025 Priorities to Deliver for Oregonians

The six-month session will focus on addressing Oregon's top needs: making Oregon affordable, government work and communities safe while protecting basic rights and freedoms

SALEM, Ore. — Today, Democrats in the Oregon House of Representatives announced their [top priorities](#) for the upcoming legislative session. House Democrats will focus on the most pressing issues facing Oregonians: making Oregon more affordable, ensuring our government is delivering for people, and keeping our communities safe while protecting basic rights and freedoms.

“The legislature’s job is to improve Oregonians’ lives. Solving Oregon’s most important problems means our government has to work effectively,” said **House Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D-Tigard, Metzger, & S. Beaverton)**. “We believe that every Oregonian should feel safe and at home in our state, and the values-driven leaders in our caucus will work hard to deliver results for working people.”

House Democrats will focus on addressing homelessness, increasing housing supply, and holding agencies accountable. Because of the investments the legislature made early in the 2023 session, Oregon met its homelessness goals last year – creating 817 new shelter beds, re-housing more than 1,000 households, and preventing more than 7,600 households from becoming homeless.

“Our job is to make sure that Oregon is affordable and remains a great place to live, work, raise a family, and retire,” said **House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene & Veneta)**. “We are fortunate in this state that we have legislators who are serious about getting the work done, both Democrats and Republicans. We won’t always agree with each other, but I truly believe that

legislation is improved when it reflects the needs of the whole state and all perspectives are considered.”

Oregonians want their government to deliver on its core functions including an education system that prepares students for a lifetime of success. Education remains a key pillar of the House Democrats’ agenda as the state looks to improve student outcomes including test scores and attendance.

“It’s not enough to make investments today, we have to make strategic adjustments that will invest in the long term well being of our education system,” said **Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland)** and co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. “We know the economic future of Oregonians depends on the improvement of this system.”

Public health is top of mind for many Oregon communities, and House Democrats will keep working to address the increased use of harmful drugs in the community and connect people struggling with addiction to needed treatment options.

"Our past work has taken steps to address the addiction crisis and support those experiencing homelessness. It’s clear that we have more work ahead of us, but together, we can and will make a healthier, safer Oregon for all," said **Rep. Jason Kropf (D-Bend)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response.

Across the country, the impacts of inflation continue to impact household budgets. A recent study showed Oregonians need to spend more than \$9,000 to maintain the same standard of living as they did in 2019.

“People are frustrated. People are struggling to keep up with growing costs and they want the legislature to do something about it,” said **Rep. Nathan Sosa (D-Greater Hillsboro)**. “This is not a partisan issue. It is affecting all Oregonians and we will work together to come up with solutions.”

Going into the 2025 session, funding for Oregon’s transportation system is at a critical inflection point. Previously funded by the gas tax, the movement to electric and more gas efficient cars has left a hole in the budget that lawmakers will need to address this session.

“Oregon needs a transportation system that is safe, functional, and efficient. Inaction is not an option. This is a challenge that we will continue to tackle in a bipartisan fashion, using a statewide approach that is led by local perspectives we received prior to session,” said **Rep. Susan McLain (D-Western Washington County)**.

View the full House Democratic Caucus Agenda here: oregonlegislature.gov/housedemocrats

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