



## HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

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**Press Contact:**

Mack Smith, [mack.smith@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:mack.smith@oregonlegislature.gov)

# Oregon Short Session Preview: Democrats Fight For Affordability, Against Federal Overreach

*The six-week session will focus on the top-of-mind issues for Oregonians: affordability and federal overreach*

**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: affordability and the attacks on the state from Trump.

“Many Oregonians are feeling scared. Scared that they can’t make ends meet. Scared about federally-directed violence. Scared about the future of our country,” said **House Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D-Tigard, Metzger, & S. Beaverton)**. “We can’t give into the fear. We have to take action. We’re tackling an ambitious agenda because we know Oregonians are counting on us right now.”

In the past year, Oregon experienced various attacks from the federal government: from [sending the National Guard to Portland](#), to [not providing food assistance to Oregonians depending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), and most recently, [threatening to withhold federal funds](#) because of Oregon’s sanctuary state status.

“This session is about steady governance in an unsteady moment,” said **House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene & Veneta)**. “As we prepare for 2026, we’re focused on rebalancing our budget, but also on affordability, stability, and shielding Oregon families from harmful federal policies.”

Meanwhile, legislators have the responsibility to produce a balanced budget, even while [Trump’s budget bill strips crucial dollars away from Oregon](#). Democrats are committed to prioritizing health care, public safety, education, and veterans’ benefits by demanding accountability, smart oversight, and a tax system that works for working families, not just the wealthy.

“We must do everything we can to protect Oregonians and the essential services we all rely on in our daily lives, and we can’t just tax or cut our way out of this hole,” said **Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland)** and co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. “Our long-term solutions must include strategies to grow private sector jobs that stimulate our broader economy and provide good wages to hardworking Oregonians.”

House Democrats are focused on lowering the cost of living by expanding affordable housing, growing good-paying jobs, protecting workers and consumers, and ensuring Oregon’s economy serves people, not corporations or scammers.

“People are experiencing higher costs and predatory practices by corporate bad actors,” said **Rep. Nathan Sosa (D-Greater Hillsboro)**. “Addressing affordability and protecting consumers helps all Oregonians, regardless of party, and we’re focused on finding solutions together.”

According to recent reporting, [immigration arrests in Oregon were five times higher in 2025 than the previous year](#). Despite federal agencies’ claims that this is an effort to arrest convicted criminals, the [share of immigrants detained for violent crimes decreased](#). While the federal administration continues to target vulnerable communities, House Democrats will defend immigrant Oregonians and ensure everyone is treated with fairness, safety, and respect under the law.

“Right now, when federal agents violate your Fourth Amendment rights in Oregon, there’s zero accountability,” said **Rep. Lesly Muñoz (D-Woodburn)** and co-chair of the BIPOC Caucus. “We have seen agents break windows, destroy property and injure members of our community. It is an injustice that they cause damage and then simply walk away. It’s unacceptable and it must stop.”

While the Trump Administration is attacking basic rights, House Democrats are standing up for access to health care, food assistance, reproductive freedom, and privacy.

"Oregon deserves better. We value the freedom to live without fear, and we believe diversity is a strength, not a threat. We will not tolerate unconstitutional attacks on our neighbors or allow hate to take root in our state. That is why we are fighting back," said **Rep. Willy Chotzen (D - SE Portland)**.

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