



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon House Democrats to Prioritize Building a Robust, Equitable Recovery for Oregon

House Democrats release their Legislative Agenda for the 2022 short session

[House Democrats' Legislative Agenda](#)

SALEM, Ore. - Today Oregon House Democrats released their [Legislative Agenda](#), outlining priorities for the 2022 short session. In this legislative session, Democrats will focus on standing up for working families and small businesses, bringing down the cost of living, supporting teachers and students in the classroom, addressing homelessness across the state, and improving community safety.

“We need to build an economy and support system that works for all of us, not just big corporations,” said [House Majority Leader Julie Fahey](#) (D-West Eugene/Junction City). “That means investing in skills training for workers, reducing barriers for people starting and expanding their small businesses, and making sure the playing field is level *between* those small businesses and large corporations.”

Even while many Oregon families and small businesses have struggled through the pandemic, large corporations and the super-wealthy have [continued](#) to line their pockets. Democrats in the Oregon Legislature are committed to supporting and strengthening our main street businesses, the backbone of Oregon’s economy, as well as the services that families depend on, like schools and healthcare.

“With targeted workforce investments this session, we’ll be able to support those who’ve been on the frontlines through this pandemic, like teachers, childcare providers, and health care workers, so that we can continue delivering critical services to Oregon families,” said [Representative Tawna Sanchez](#) (D-Portland), co-chair of Joint Committee on Ways and Means, the state’s leading budget writing committee. “We’ll also use the state budget to help bring down the cost of living, including investing in housing and healthcare. We’ll also act to quickly address the homelessness crisis impacting every community in the state.”

“I’m proud of the bills we’ve brought forward as a Caucus,” said [Representative Pam Marsh](#) (D-Ashland). “What we do this session will change lives and address Oregonians’ most pressing needs, meeting communities right where they’re at.”

This short session House Democrats will continue last session’s work, supporting those who’ve been impacted most by the pandemic and ensuring that every Oregonian has the opportunity to prosper. Some of House Democrats’ priorities include:

- **Addressing Homelessness and the Cost of Housing:** This session we will address the homelessness crisis through investments and resources for local communities. We’ll also invest in affordable housing to help bring down the cost of housing.
- **Community Safety:** We’ll ensure that law enforcement is able to prioritize addressing violent crime in our communities, rather than focusing on minor infractions like broken tail lights, in addition to investing in violence prevention efforts.
- **Education:** Ensuring that students are able to learn in healthy, safe classrooms five days a week is a top priority, as well as making sure that teachers and schools have the resources, support, and staffing they need to be successful
- **Workforce Development & Training:** Local businesses are having a hard time hiring the workers they need. This session, we will invest in workforce and pipeline development to better support our health care workers and the many other industries facing shortages.
- **Childcare:** Many parents are unable to reenter the workforce because of a shortage of childcare options. This session we will expand the number of spots available and support our childcare workforce.
- **Access to Health Care:** We have made health care more accessible in Oregon, expanding coverage, driving down costs, and making sure everyone can access health care that meets their unique needs. This session a major focus will be on investing in the health care workforce to expand and diversify our community of health professionals. We will also expand mental and behavioral health support for Oregonians.
- **Climate Change:** Last session Democrats passed 100% clean energy by 2040, one of the most aggressive transition timelines in the country. This session we will continue to find ways to build resiliency for communities most impacted by wildfires, heat waves, droughts, and other extreme weather.

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