



## OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Lawmakers adjourn session of “missed opportunities”**

*Highlights overshadowed by lack of spending reforms, budget leadership*

**Salem, Ore.** - Oregon lawmakers today adjourned the 2017 legislative session without taking any meaningful action to address runaway spending and to put the state on the path to a stable financial future. House Republicans consistently advocated for a balanced, three-step approach to budgeting and policymaking that would allow lawmakers to finally achieve real investments in education and other core services. In the end Democratic leaders punted on major reforms and set Oregon up for additional budget crises in future budget cycles.

“Before this session started Republicans and Democrats voiced support for revenue and spending reforms that would finally put our state on the road budget stability,” said House Republican Leader Mike McLane. “Republicans specifically outlined a three-step approach that consisted of: 1) Development of a clear strategy for maintaining economic growth over the next decade. This requires agreement on a target economic growth rate and increasing good-paying jobs, and a commitment to conform state policy to those ends. 2) Delivery of structural spending reforms that result in significant savings in the long term. 3) Targeted investments in career and technical education and workforce development programs that both support economic growth and fulfill the objectives of our voters, which could be funded by new revenues as needed.”

Absent a serious effort to rein in the growth of government and curb spending, efforts to pass a multi-billion tax increase gained little traction among Republicans.

“Unfortunately, this balanced plan never received serious consideration from Democratic leaders,” continued Rep. McLane. “Instead, they relentlessly pushed for billions of dollars in new taxes that would punish Oregon employers and drive up the cost of living for working families. This approach would have asked hardworking Oregonians and the businesses that employ them to hand over more of their money to bail out our broken government, which is not a plan House Republicans were willing to support.”

House Democrats ultimately attempted to increase [\\$667 million in new taxes](#) on the backs of the smallest of Oregon small businesses by circumventing the Oregon Constitution's supermajority requirement for revenue raising bills. That effort was thwarted in the Senate, as Democratic leaders in the upper chamber declined to pass the bill. Several other partisan bills passed by House Democrats also met their demise in the Senate, including [controversial rent control legislation](#) and a bill establishing a [national popular vote](#) in Oregon.

Republicans and Democrats were able to come together to [pass a transportation package](#) in the closing days of the session. The package included \$5.3 billion in funding for preservation and maintenance of roads and bridges as well as congestion relief projects. Republicans also secured [modifications to the low-carbon fuel standard](#) focused on protecting consumers in addition to [strengthening accountability and oversight](#) of transportation agencies.

“Passage of the transportation package was among few positive highlights this session,” concluded Rep. McLane. “In the end, the 2017 session will be remembered more for missed opportunities and our failure to get our state’s financial house in order. Soon, we will realize what a mistake it was to kick our budget problems down the road yet again.”

Following today’s adjournment, House Republicans will return to their legislative districts to engage in town halls and other discussions with their communities about the successes and failures of the 2017 session. Specific town hall details will be released in the coming days.

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