



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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House Democrats evaluate 2013 legislative successes

SALEM – Oregon lawmakers completed the 2013 Oregon Legislative Session today, five days ahead of the constitutional deadline.

“This session was an important turning point for Oregon,” House Majority Leader Val Hoyle (D – Eugene) said. “After years of painful budget cuts, we were finally able to give our public schools more resources than ever before. House Democrats protected seniors and took care of the most vulnerable Oregonians. We brought back opportunities for Oregon’s middle class families, and focused on issues that will continue leading our state in the right direction.”

House Democrats led the way on many important issues, including:

Education – We secured the largest investment ever made in Oregon’s public schools; redirected corporate tax refunds to increase funding for community colleges; protected student privacy on social media websites; expanded access to college through Tuition Equity; and created a Pay It Forward pilot project to explore ways we can save Oregon’s students from crushing debt loads.

Job creation – We made it easier for small businesses to navigate state regulations; helped local farmers connect with schools and families who want to buy Oregon-grown food; expanded opportunities for Oregon’s wine, beer, and distillery industries; encouraged in-state contracting; and boosted funding in career and technical education programs that help graduates enter the workforce.

Government efficiency – We cracked down on offshore tax shelter abuse in Oregon; closed loopholes for out-of-state banks; and removed many outdated, unnecessary, and cumbersome laws in order to save time and money for real state priorities.

Critical services and family priorities – We defended Oregonians from unfair health insurance rate hikes; strengthened support for homeless veterans; expanded foreclosure relief to help struggling Oregonians keep their homes; protected Oregonians from mistreatment by insurance companies; helped neighborhoods deal with blighted, vacant properties; and supported seniors and disabled Oregonians who were in danger of losing their homes.

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