



State Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 78th Legislative Assembly has proceeded full steam ahead, despite our sudden Gubernatorial transition. While I am saddened by the events that led to Governor Kitzhaber's resignation and appreciate his significant contributions to Oregon over the past 36 years, his stepping aside enables us to fully focus on pending legislation with Kate Brown as our new Governor.

I have known and admired Governor Brown for years. Having served as a lawyer, state representative, state senator, majority leader and Secretary of State, she is well equipped to hit the ground running - and that she has! Watch her [video](#) to learn about her priorities, which echo my own.



Gov. Kate Brown at Chinese New Year celebration at Wong's King Seafood Restaurant in my district!

Tracking our Legislative Agenda

Our agenda for the five-month legislative session is full to the brim. Speaker Tina Kotek has kept the House fully focused on it, despite the gubernatorial transition. Click [here](#) to watch a clip about our caucus priorities.

I am proud that several big bills that were close to passing last session have already passed their first chamber, including [HB 2177](#) Motor Voter Registration, [HB 2700](#) Class Action Law Suit, and [SB 324](#) Clean Fuels. SB 1, which abolishes Cover Oregon and transfers its functions into the Department of Consumer and Business Services, passed the Senate and House (today!) and is headed for Governor Brown's signature.

See this [list](#) for information about these and other bills I support. I will update and email this list periodically, adding new bills and removing ones that have died. To

keep up frequently, sign up for my twitter, [@alissakg](#) and/or "like" my [public Facebook page](#).

To discuss bills in depth, I'll have constituent coffees every three weeks: March 14, April 4, April 25 (after the Avenue of Roses Parade), May 16, June 7 (Sunday), and June 27. Stay tuned for time and place, and for a joint Town Hall with Sen. Michael Dembrow and Rep. Barbara Smith Warner.



Great turnout at my Laurelhurst Café constituent coffee last Saturday.

The [Oregon Legislative Information System](#) is a comprehensive way to read and track bills, amendments, and testimony. You can submit written testimony for the public record even if you can't come to Salem to testify in person. You can also click to get email alerts when a bill moves, and watch live or taped video recordings of hearings!

My Priorities and Committees

With a background in public health, I am passionate about improving the health of Oregonians, thereby reducing costs to families, small businesses, and the State. We must find ways to reduce cancer, diabetes, mental illness, and other chronic diseases.

In addition to advocating for the "Fair Shot" principles of providing financial security for all Oregonians, I promote prevention strategies that have the greatest returns - from prenatal care to environmental and public health - with a special focus on women and children. My bills (such as the Toxic-Free Kids Act) and my committees reflect those priorities.

I now chair the Human Services & Housing Committee, following the retirement of Rep. Carolyn Tomei, who chaired that committee with great heart and soul for years. We are considering bills to expand childcare and affordable housing and to ensure that self-sufficiency programs like ERDC and TANF help families get back on their feet. We wrestle with how to support foster kids, domestic violence victims, vets, seniors, people with disabilities, and the most vulnerable Oregonians.

I am returning to the Health Care Committee for the fourth time, and serving on the Joint Human Services Subcommittee of Ways and Means for the first time. I appreciate the opportunity to follow the policy bills we pass in the Health Care and the Human Service & Housing committees through the budget process. Finally, I serve on the Joint Committee on Health Insurance Transition, overseeing the transition of Cover Oregon.

Budget Priorities

One of our top priorities in 2013 was to add nearly \$1 billion dollars to the K-12 budget; maintaining that level of funding while adding full day Kindergarten requires a steadfast commitment to boosting our investment.

We are in dire need of rebuilding our transportation infrastructure; our last transportation package passed in 2009. I am especially interested in funding for orphan highways and transit for youth, seniors, and people with disabilities. Choosing transportation priorities and revenue streams will be a significant focus this session.

Another major infrastructure need is affordable housing, so I applaud the \$100 million in bonding proposed in Governor Kitzhaber's budget. And there are many other needs to meet after years of the recession...

The good news is that our economy has been steadily improving and revenue is increasing. The bad news is that our kicker may "kick" for the first time since 2007. If our revenue exceeds the projected revenue by over 2%, we give taxpayers everything over the projected amount. The quarterly forecast last week predicted a kicker of roughly \$350 million, which must come out of our budget. We will learn the final projection in May.

We need more revenue to meet our needs. Unfortunately it is hard to pass tax bills since they require a 3/5 majority. Without new revenue, we may have to cut programs and hold off on starting new ones. This is the most frustrating part of my job. While many of us are still trying to raise revenue in the legislature, we are

also planning initiatives at the ballot box in 2016. Please stay engaged and help us with these efforts!

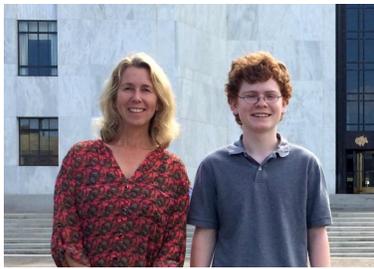
My Staff

Roberto Gutierrez will again lead my legislative team for the 2015 session. We are delighted to welcome Jen Corbridge as the second full time staff, as well as two Legislative Fellows: Emily Langston from Portland State University on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Sonya Essadi (returning from last year!) from Willamette University on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Jennifer Lewis is working part time as my in-district liaison while I'm in Salem during the week.



Roberto, Emily, Jennifer, Alissa, Sonya, and Jen

I also want to thank my two high school interns who volunteered for me during the interim. Jake Smith, a



senior at Central Catholic High School, worked during the summer, and Caitlin Fouts worked over the summer. They provided invaluable administrative support and constituent outreach, and I wish them well as they wait

to hear from colleges. It is truly an honor to serve you in Salem. I appreciate your feedback; please contact us about neighborhood events, issues, and legislation!



Warmly,

Alissa

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