The formation of the 2019-21 budget was guided by three core principles:
- Align spending with the desire to meet critical needs and provide long-term budget stability.
- Prioritize K-12 education funding and the Oregon Health Plan. Evaluate all other expenditures based on their short-term and long-term outcomes.
- Maintain a prudent level of resources to guard against program and service reductions in the event of economic downturns in future biennia.

We were able to hold to these principles and delivered the following:
- Prioritized, retained, and created critical programs and services.
- Retained 2.3% of General Fund expenditures as an ending balance (roughly $520 million) to inoculate against revenue declines and address critical needs or emergencies.
- Enhanced the State School Fund, including passage of the Corporate Activity Tax, to invest in Oregon’s children.

The principles to be followed during the 2020 session are:
- Maintain a prudent level of resources.
- Balance the focus on future budgets with the use of current resources to address emergencies, critical needs, and strategic investments.
- Evaluate the effect of 2020 session expenditures on the sustainability of future budgets.
Potential Risks to Budget Sustainability

- **Downside risks/issues**
  - Spending that exacerbates a deficit budget position for future biennia (budget rollup)
  - Lawsuits or ballot measures that result in costs to the state
  - Revenue estimates are lower than what was used to build the budget
  - Federal changes reduce funding for services or programs that may require state backfill
  - Other risks/issues including natural disasters, management actions/inactions, and the care, maintenance, and usage of state facilities and infrastructure

- **Upside risks**
  - Lawsuits that provide funds to the state for programs
  - Ballot measures that provide resources for state-funded programs
  - Revenue estimates increase beyond what was used to build the budget
  - Federal changes increase funding for Oregon services and/or programs
  - Past investments that have reduced costs going forward

2020 Budget Issues

- Department of Human Services
- Oregon Health Authority
- Department of Forestry
- Community Corrections
- Bonding projects
- Homelessness services
- Carbon policy
- Other critical issues that may be identified

Early Messages for 2021-23 Budget Process

Looking forward to the 2021 session, we believe it is beneficial to those relying on the programs and services provided for in the state budget to understand how we anticipate conducting the 2021-23 biennial budget process. Following are key elements of that process:

- Address any budget deficit that exists in order to continue programs and services funded in the 2019 and 2020 sessions.
- Evaluate programs and services to determine if they are performing as expected and, if not, eliminate programs or modify them to better serve Oregonians.
- Continue to focus on addressing long-term issues and problems.
- Evaluate new or enhanced programs and services that can be funded within forecasted revenues both in 2021-23 and into the future, with a focus on long-term budget stability and sustainability.
- Continue and enhance a disciplined approach to evaluate and address long-term investments in infrastructure needs.