

Sample Newsletter: School Funding from March 2014 Revenue Forecast

Dear Friends,

This morning, Oregon's Office of Economic Analysis released its quarterly revenue forecast and presented their findings to the Oregon Legislature. I'm thrilled to say that this forecast brought some very welcome news for Oregon's schools: improvements in local property tax estimates mean that **Oregon schools will receive almost \$100 million in additional funding next year. This means Gresham Barlow will receive \$1,230,293; Reynolds will receive \$1,160,958; and Centennial will receive \$660,821 in additional funds** that will help reduce class sizes, stop teacher layoffs, and return lost school days. I'm glad to say that this new funding adds to **the \$1 billion reinvestment the Oregon Legislature made our schools in 2013.**

Job growth is another policy area I'm always focused on. Just last month, I learned that Oregon had the third-fastest rate for job growth of any state in the nation. But we can do more to accelerate the creation of family-wage jobs in both urban and rural communities. Oregon's steady economic growth is expected to continue through the rest of the 2013-15 biennium, **which means continued job growth around the state.** The Portland metropolitan area was responsible for nearly all jobs gained statewide early in Oregon's recovery, but Bend and Medford also began adding jobs in 2013 and the Columbia Gorge is at an all-time employment high since the start of the recession. Furthermore, Portland has regained most all of its recession-related job losses.

While polarized politics in Washington D.C. have frozen meaningful action there, here in Oregon we're working together to find common ground and move our state forward. We still have work to do, and I'm hard at work this session with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fund schools, help small businesses expand job training programs so more people can get back to work.

Please contact my office with your ideas, priorities and concerns. I'm always eager to hear from you! You can keep in touch with my office by following my Facebook page, by emailing us at sen.lauriemonnesanderson@state.or.us, or calling us at the State Capitol, at (503) 986-1725.

Regards,

Laurie