



SEN. MONNES ANDERSON REP. GORSEK

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East County Legislators Deliver on Priorities in 2013 Session

Passage of bonding, TriMet and job creation bills will benefit East County's economy

SALEM—With the legislature adjourned for the year, lawmakers from East Multnomah County took the opportunity to highlight key successes of the 2013 session for the communities they represent in the Oregon State House and Senate.

“Families in East County sent us to Salem this session with a clear mission: Improve funding for education, help create good paying jobs, and improve access to higher education and job skills training,” said Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham). “Today I’m proud to report we’ve delivered on East County’s priorities with a historic boost for K-12 funding, key investments for higher education and job training, and funding that will spur construction projects and job creation for our community. These are major victories for East County.”

Bonding projects and funding championed by Senator Monnes Anderson and Representative Gorsek for East County include:

- \$8 million in bonds for projects at Mt. Hood Community College, including remodeling projects, expanding student service facilities, centralizing academic advising, career counseling, financial aid, admissions, registration, testing, business office and other functions.
- \$1.7 million in funding for the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team, which cracks down on gang related crime in East County and works with at-risk youth to prevent gang affiliation.

Additional legislation championed by Representative Chris Gorsek and Senator Monnes Anderson will:

- Hold the transit agency TriMet accountable for using taxpayer money to deliver transportation services.
- Attract much-needed job growth to East County by encouraging development on industrial lands. Creation of the Oregon Industrial Site Readiness Assessment Program will provide grants to help local governments survey the availability of industrial sites and create a plan to help develop these areas.

“This session, we’ve increased funding for education, improved transparency of TriMet’s operations and finances, and strengthened Oregon’s economic environment to spur job growth. That’s what East County sent us to the Capitol to do, and I’m proud to say that we’ve accomplished each of these goals,” said Representative Chris Gorsek (D-Troutdale).

The K-12 budget passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2013 provides \$1 billion more over the prior year's allocation for schools across the state, allowing schools in East County to hire teachers, add back school days, and decrease class sizes.

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