



Senator Alan Olsen

Oregon State Capitol
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Olsen fought for veterans, environment, jobs, classrooms in 2013 session

Salem, OR – Senator Alan Olsen leaves the 2013 legislative session with several successes for Oregon veterans and the environment. Olsen also continued to fight for increased funding for local schools and job creation across Oregon.

“I’m proud of what we were able to accomplish this session,” said Olsen, who is in the third year of his first term in the Oregon Senate. “Hard work goes a long way, and I think we were able to secure some important legislation that will help our state’s veterans and our streams and rivers.”

Olsen sponsored and helped pass a set of bills to aid Oregon veterans. House Bill 2158-B gives honorably discharged veterans access to cheaper in-state tuition rates at Oregon universities. Senate Bill 1 gives veterans the option of taking the day off on Veteran’s Day.

“I have such a high respect and appreciation for the bravery and sacrifice of our veterans,” said Olsen. “I will do everything in my power to honor them and show them the appreciation they deserve. These are small ways that we as a state can salute them.”

Olsen also successfully passed a trio of bills to protect Oregon’s rivers and oceans. House Bill 2396 protects fallen trees in waterways that capture gravel, provide stream stability and create fish habitat. House Bill 2697 will allow a person to return a fish carcass to water where the fish was caught to help enhance the waterway’s nutrient supply and aid native fish stock. House Bill 3262 prohibits a person from leaving a crab pot used in ocean more than 15 days after close of the season.

“These are smart, simple policies that will help protect Oregon’s beautiful and clean rivers and ocean,” said Olsen.

Olsen fought hard for increased funding for Oregon classrooms, voting for a \$7 billion K-12 budget, though Democrats elected to approve a lower budget of \$6.55 billion. Olsen’s push for higher school funding was built on reforms to Oregon’s broken public employee retirement system, currently facing an \$11 billion deficit.

“We had the opportunity to add more teachers, lower class sizes, and add back school days,” said Olsen. “We need a game-changing investment in classrooms, and the way to do it is through serious PERS reforms.”

Olsen also continued to work on getting Oregon families back to work, specifically fighting for tax certainty for small business owners.

Olsen and his wife Juanita make their home in Canby. Olsen is a veteran of the United States Army, serving from 1969 to 1971. He is a general contractor and small business owner building homes and structures across Oregon. Senate District 20 includes Canby, Oregon City, Damascus, Estacada and rural parts of Clackamas County.

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