



**SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE
HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE**

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**Drug Crisis, Summer Learning, Wildfire Preparedness:
Democratic Leadership Working for Oregonians During May
Legislative Days**

SALEM, OR – This week, legislators will return to Salem for May Legislative Days (May 29 - 31). Democratic committee chairs in both the House and the Senate are listening to Oregonians and focusing their work on what matters most to communities across the state. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to, the drug crisis, homelessness and affordable housing, school funding and summer learning, wildfire preparedness and winter storm recovery, drought, and payment delays from the Oregon Employment Department.

“Oregonians’ priorities are Democrats’ priorities, which is why we’re putting in the work to make every corner of Oregon a great place to live, work, and raise a family,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton & SW Portland)**.

“The people of Oregon need to know that we’re listening, and the work that’s on deck during legislative days this quarter is proof that we are. We’re taking action to make sure that the state is moving in the right direction,” said **House Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D - Tigard, Metzger, & S Beaverton)**.

Highlights of this week’s work:

[Joint Interim Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response](#)

5/30/2024 2:30 PM, HR E

Legislators are closely monitoring **implementation of the Oregon Drug Intervention Plan** (HB 4002, HB 5204). They will hear about the work to set up deflection programs around the state, a proposal from OHSU, and updates on pretrial release guidelines from the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee.

[Senate Interim Committee On Finance and Revenue](#)

5/29/2024 9:00 AM, HR A & 5/30/2024 2:30 PM, HR A

This committee will be hearing the **June Economic and Revenue Forecast** on May 29th. The next day, the senators will speak with the Legislative Revenue Office about the **state money available for schools and local option levies**.

[Senate Interim Committee On Labor and Business](#)

5/29/2024 2:30 PM, HR B

Legislative leadership is very concerned about the **delays in payments for Oregonians relying on unemployment insurance and Paid Leave Oregon**. They will be focused on finding solutions as they meet with the Oregon Employment Department.

[Senate Interim Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire](#)

5/30/2024 8:30 AM, HR D

Wildfire season is just around the corner, and senators on the Natural Resources and Wildfire committee will be hearing updates about preparedness for this year's season and next steps on finding a **stable funding model for wildfire prevention and response**.

[Senate Interim Committee On Housing and Development](#)

5/30/2024 8:30 AM, HR A

The Legislature's commitment to fixing the **homelessness and affordable housing crisis** continues. Senators will hear several critical updates on the work that's been done to make sure every Oregonian has safe, affordable housing, especially in the housing production arena.

[Senate Interim Committee on Energy and Environment](#)

5/30/2024 11:30 AM, HR C

Many Oregonians are stretching their budgets to keep up with significant **utility rate hikes**. The Energy and Environment Committee will be digging in on this issue with the Oregon Public Utility Commission and Oregon Citizens' Utility Board. They will also be looking at the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative 2023's Annual Report and considering issues with the **Bottle Bill** raised by constituents.

[Senate Interim Committee On Education](#)

5/30/2024 2:30 PM, HR B

With so many Oregon kids still struggling to keep up in school, **summer learning programs** are needed now more than ever. After passing HB 4082 to restart summer learning programs after pandemic funding ran out, Senators will receive an update on these programs from the Director of the Oregon Department of Education, Dr. Charleme Williams, and others.

[House Interim Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment](#)

5/29/2024 11:30 AM, HR F

Democrats are committed to making sure Oregon has stable, affordable access to energy as we transition to a more stable, greener economy. Leaders on the Climate, Energy, and Environment committee will be digging in on **renewable energy needs and energy facility siting** during their meeting this week,

[House Interim Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans](#)

Meeting Details 05/29/2024 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, HR C

The winter storms this year had a major impact on Oregonians' day-to-day lives, and they are only going to get more intense. That's why Democratic leaders of this committee are putting together a full **2024 Winter Storm After Action** discussion and are looking ahead to the 2024 Wildfire Forecast.

[House Interim Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services](#)

5/29/2024 2:30 PM, HR A

Child care remains a critical issue for many working families across the state. The committee will be hearing about intergenerational child care facilities and survey results for the Oregon Preschool Development Grant. Additionally, they will be having important conversations with those tasked with overseeing **state long-term care and foster care**.

[House Interim Committee On Education](#)

5/30/2024 8:30 AM, HR B

House education leaders are prioritizing the issues most likely to impact kids' trajectory for success. will get updates on the **summer learning program** and **literacy efforts**. The Committee will also hear testimony from local teachers, parents, and experts who know the impact **cell phones** have on the mental health, learning capacity, and educational environment in Oregon schools.

[House Interim Committee On Housing and Homelessness](#)

5/30/2024 11:30 AM, HR A

Legislators are keeping their foot on the gas when it comes to the affordable housing and homelessness crisis. In this next meeting, they will continue to keep tabs on **housing**

investments and healthy homes programs by holding hearings with agencies implementing funding and policy to increase housing supply and sustainable communities across Oregon.

House Interim Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

5/30/2024 2:30 PM, HR D

*Democrats know that **policies around Oregon's water supply** need to be sensible and sustainable. Oregonians need safe and available drinking water everywhere across the state and industries need water to keep running. Water policy experts and advisors will present on improvements to Oregon's water supply now and into the future.*

All meetings will be streamed live on OLIS, and a comprehensive list of meeting agendas can be found [here](#).

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