



OFFICE OF SENATOR ELIZABETH STEINER

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Senator Steiner Announces Decision to Step Down as Co-Chair of Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Under her leadership, Oregon has nearly tripled its Rainy Day Fund, found innovative solutions to fund major projects, and invested in key services to support Oregonians

SALEM, OR – Today, **Senator Elizabeth Steiner (D - NW Portland/Beaverton)** announced her decision to resign as co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means effective July 15. In her resignation letter, Senator Steiner said the people of Oregon would be best served by a co-chair who can commit their full time and attention to this critical position. In addition to still serving the people of her district, Senator Steiner is currently seeking statewide office.

Senator Steiner also indicated her interest in assisting the next Ways and Means co-chair in their transition into the role.

Senator Steiner was appointed as co-chair in fall 2018 after years serving on and chairing Ways and Means subcommittees. She led in the creation of three biennial balanced budgets that prioritized prudent fiscal management of tax dollars, investment in key services to support Oregonians, and ensuring Oregon had sufficient reserves to weather the next economic recession.

Senator Steiner is releasing the following statement:

"It has been an honor to serve in this critical role to ensure that state revenues go toward the maximum benefit for all Oregonians. I've held this position through historic surpluses and historic deficits, times of extreme uncertainty and times when hard decisions needed to be made. Through it all my focus has been on finding fiscally responsible ways to help as many Oregonians as possible.

I'm proud to say that Oregon is in a much more fiscally secure position now than it was when I was appointed co-chair in the fall of 2018. Six years ago, Oregon had about \$671 million in the Rainy Day Fund; today, it has an estimated \$1.87 billion. That money will be critical when the next economic downturn strikes our state.

When I look back on my time as co-chair, I will remember the innovative solutions we were able to use to fully fund Oregon's portion of the I-5 bridge replacement and the Roseburg veterans' home. As a physician, I'm also personally very proud that we fully funded Healthier Oregon, which ensured that almost every Oregonian has health insurance.

I want to thank co-chair Tawna Sanchez, the unmatched professionals in the Legislative Fiscal Office, my fellow legislators, and the presiding officers for their support and partnership over the years. I'm going to do everything in my power to ensure a smooth transition to the next co-chair in the coming months."

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