



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner on the Close of the First Special Session of 2020

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Legislature declared sine die on the First Legislative Session of 2020. This special session was declared by Governor Brown to address police accountability measures and to respond to the needs of Oregonians resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) issued the following statement:

“This Special Session was like one we have never seen before. Not only were we challenged to create unique ways to engage the public, we took on the needs of struggling Oregonians during a global pandemic and took necessary first steps to address long overdue police accountability measures.

“I am incredibly proud of the Oregon Senate Democrats. They put in long hours and adapted to a new way of doing business to bring relief to Oregonians during a public health crisis. We gave renters greater housing security, provided protections against foreclosures, passed vital regulations to protect vulnerable COVID-19 patients and safeguarded Oregonians’ CARES Act relief dollars.

“Most notably, the Oregon Senate Democrats centered the work and lived experiences of the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus to make necessary police accountability reforms and to say, unequivocally, that Black Lives Matter. The dedicated and unceasing efforts of the BIPOC Caucus have been instrumental in the progress we made today to advance justice in Oregon and act against centuries of institutional racism. Senator Lew Frederick (D- Northeast Portland) and Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D-Eugene) leadership within our caucus was a direct reason for our success, I cannot thank them enough.

“This Special Session marks the beginning of critical change for Oregon and within the Legislature. I will ensure this effort is sustained and this work is ongoing. The Oregon Senate Democrats are committed to a better future for all Oregonians.”

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