



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

PRESS RELEASE

May 21, 2020

CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick Announces She will Step Down as Caucus Leader

SALEM – Last night, at a remote meeting of the Senate Democratic Caucus, Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) announced that she will step down from her duties as the caucus' Majority Leader. She will continue to serve until this Friday, when the caucus will elect a new leader.

“It has been an honor to lead this dynamic caucus,” said Senator Burdick. “Senate Democrats are united by our dedication to the people of Oregon and our willingness to pass bold legislation in service to this great state. I look forward to working with the new Majority Leader to address our state’s greatest needs and support Oregonians everywhere.”

Senator Burdick was first elected to the Oregon Senate in 1996. In 2011, the Senate elected her to serve as Senate President Pro Tempore. In 2015, she was elected by her caucus to serve as the Senate Democratic Leader. As the most veteran member of the Senate, she will continue to bring her knowledge and insights to support her caucus and her constituents in Senate District 18.

“I am proud to be a member of the Senate Democrats and I look forward to what we will continue to accomplish together,” said Senator Burdick. “We are facing a tough road ahead. I will bring my experience from past economic downturns in 2002 and 2008 to do the necessary and difficult work to ensure health, economic well-being and opportunity for all Oregonians. I also plan to work on tax reform and will continue to champion common-sense gun safety measures.”

Under Senator Burdick’s leadership, Democrats passed significant legislation to improve the lives of Oregonians and secure a more equitable future for Oregon’s children.

Among those accomplishments, Oregon adopted the landmark Student Success Act to make meaningful investments in schools and students. Oregonians saw improved opportunities and financial security with the passage of a statewide minimum wage increase. And families can look forward to the implementation of the

nation's most significant Paid Family and Medical Leave program. Oregon also passed the Equal Pay Act and Fair Work Week laws providing greater fairness in compensation and hours.

With Senator Burdick as Majority Leader, Oregon enshrined access to comprehensive reproductive health care including abortion. She also led life-saving efforts to keep firearms and ammunition away from convicted criminals, stalkers and perpetrators of domestic violence. She championed critical suicide-prevention efforts by passing the Extreme Risk Protection Order law. And Oregon passed criminal justice reform and community safety measures, including the implementation of a new law against hate crimes.

With Senator Burdick at the helm, Oregon approved a transportation deal that was a milestone for Oregon. This package is considered the most ambitious investment in Oregon transportation infrastructure, and it was passed without jeopardizing critical investments in the environment, including Oregon's Clean Fuels Program.

In addition, Senator Burdick sponsored landmark legislation limiting rent increases and no-cause evictions, giving individuals and families greater stability. Oregon improved access to the ballot and fairness in elections. And Democrats stood strong to protect the environment and will continue to fight for a future Oregon's children can depend on.

"As Majority Leader, I have had the honor of leading a dedicated team," said Senator Burdick. "And that team includes the talented staff in the Senate Majority office, who contributed mightily to our success as our caucus passed meaningful legislation and fought for our constituents and against attacks on democracy. We are facing difficult times ahead, but I am confident in the strength and resilience of our team under new leadership."

On Friday, the Senate Democratic Caucus will meet remotely in order to elect a new Majority Leader.

###