



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2026

Press Contact:

Elizabeth Cronen, elizabeth.cronen@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama Will Not Seek Reelection as Caucus Leader

SALEM, Ore. – Today, **Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – E Portland, Damascus & Boring)** spoke with colleagues in the legislature and told them he does not intend to seek reelection as Democratic caucus leader. Leader Jama shared his decision amid Senate Democratic Caucus preparations to elect its full leadership team for the 2027 Legislative Session. Although he will not seek another term as caucus leader, Senator Jama will continue serving in the Oregon Senate and working to improve affordability, economic opportunity, and quality of life for Oregonians.

Senator Jama's tenure as Majority Leader made history in Oregon. As the state's first Muslim and former refugee to serve as Senate Majority Leader, his election was powerful proof that in Oregon, people from all backgrounds have opportunities to serve, lead, and help shape the future of our state. Senator Jama was first appointed to the Oregon Senate in January 2021 and then was elected to the Senate in November 2022. In November 2024, Democrats in the Oregon Senate elected Senator Jama to serve as their caucus leader for a two-year term ending on Friday, November 13.

"It has truly been the honor of a lifetime to serve in this role. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me by my peers over the past two years," said Leader Jama. "We have major opportunities to deliver for Oregonians in the 2027 Session. I know I'll be shoulder-to-shoulder in the Senate with my colleagues, pushing forward the solutions Oregonians need most right now."

"I want to thank Leader Jama for his steadfast commitment to Oregonians and to leading our caucus with compassion, dignity and respect, bringing his remarkable life story and experiences to his leadership style," said **Senate President Rob Wagner (D – Lake Oswego)**. "Senator Jama approached this role in the spirit of partnership and collaboration, and I have enjoyed

working closely with him over the last two years. While he will not be seeking another term as Majority Leader after this election, we are all grateful that he will continue to serve and provide leadership in the Oregon State Senate.”

As a former chair of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development, current chair of the Senate Committee on Rules and Executive Appointments, and now with two years of experience as caucus leader, Senator Jama will continue to bring his knowledge and expertise to support the caucus’ legislative agenda.

“Affordability and economic opportunity are crucial in the lives of my constituents and the lives of all Oregonians. We have an incredible team of Senate Democrats committed to finding solutions to these issues and more in the year ahead,” said Senator Jama. “I will stay dedicated to these issues through my personal legislative work for my community, particularly around fair pay and workplace protections for some of the most vulnerable workers.”

During Senator Jama’s tenure as Senate Majority Leader, Senate Democrats passed important legislation improving the lives of Oregonians, promoting affordability and making progress on housing, health care, worker protections, and economic opportunity.

Measures to blunt rising household costs—including the Protecting Oregonians With Energy Responsibility (POWER) Act—[passed in 2025](#), along with measures making housing more plentiful, strengthening renter and worker protections, and making health care more accessible.

During the [2026 Legislative Session](#), the caucus produced a comprehensive immigrant justice package with investments in legal representation and food assistance, alongside protections for students, families, and patients in health care settings. The caucus also expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit benefiting more than 200,000 Oregon working families, protected more than \$300 million in state revenue for critical services, strengthened consumer protections, advanced homeownership opportunities, and expanded access to preventive health care.

“I am proud of what we have accomplished together over the past two years, and I am deeply grateful to my colleagues and the staff who made this work possible,” said Leader Jama.

Leader Jama also takes pride in the team he assembled in the Senate Majority Office, bringing together talented staff with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and areas of expertise.

“I especially want to thank the Senate Majority Office staff for their dedication, hard work, and partnership. They have worked tirelessly to support our members and help move important legislation forward for Oregonians. I am grateful for all they have done and will continue to do for the people of Oregon.”

The Senate Democratic Caucus will hold elections for the next full leadership team on Friday, November 13.

###