



## OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Oregon State Legislature

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner Statement on Adjournment of the 2022 Legislative Session**

SALEM – Oregon’s 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Assembly adjourned the 2022 Legislative Session today at noon, with significant accomplishments in addressing homelessness, driving down the cost of living, supporting kids and teachers in public education, improving public safety and more. [Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner](#) (D-Lake Oswego) made the following statement on the accomplishments of the Oregon Senate Democrats:

“I am incredibly proud of the work we accomplished this Session. I am truly grateful to have joined with my talented and compassionate Senate Democratic colleagues to deliver on the job Oregonians sent us here to do. The past few years have been challenging for everyday Oregonians and working families as we’ve navigated the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we have set our state back on the path to stability – and we passed many pieces of legislation that will respond to homelessness, support small businesses, drive down the cost of living, help kids and teachers in our public schools and improve public safety statewide.

“This year, Oregon Senate Democrats moved forward on a comprehensive package to address statewide homelessness and housing issues. We advanced a [\\$400 million package](#) of investments to reduce homelessness, address the affordable housing crisis and connect people with critical services. We took action to build a [coordinated response to reduce homelessness](#) by providing grants to local governments and nonprofits to build capacity at the local level in many areas that need our support. Creating better access to behavioral health and addiction services will also help many Oregonians on their path to stability and help keep folks off the streets. I’m excited about our recent [\\$132 million investment in behavioral health workforce](#) and our action to direct \$333 million in incoming funds towards evidence-based programs to [treat opioid use disorder and other behavioral health issues](#).

“We entered into the 2022 Legislative Session knowing that we had to take action to build an economy that works for working families and small businesses. That meant making investments in skills training and helping hardworking Oregonians on their paths to good paying careers. I am

excited about the promise of [Future Ready Oregon's](#) \$200 million investment towards building career pathways in targeted sectors to build our economy and diversify our workforce. It meant reducing barriers to people starting and expanding small business. We improved [access to capital for small businesses](#) and created an [Economic Equity Investment Program](#). We made targeted investments to drive down the cost of everyday necessities that eat up the largest portion of Oregonians paychecks, like paying rent, or [maintaining access to health care for lower-income Oregonians](#) and addressing child care costs by [stabilizing Oregon's child care workforce](#).

“We also had many successes, improving and investing in public education. With the increased stress of the pandemic, we knew we had to take action to reduce teacher burnout and help address the shortages of teachers and substitute teachers. We moved a \$100 million package of investments to assist with [recruiting and retaining education staff](#). By addressing these issues, we knew we could help schools stay open for in-person learning five days a week because it's what's best for kids and families. We also worked to make sure that school environments are free and safe from intimidation and harassment by passing legislation to [preserve stability in school district leadership](#).

“We moved forward on legislation to help reduce crime and improve public safety in communities around the state. We know communities need police to be able to focus on preventing and solving crimes, especially violent crimes. That's why we passed legislation to [reduce unnecessary traffic stops](#), while improving law enforcement best practices and distributing funding to culturally-specific, community-based organizations. We also advanced a package of [smart investments in public safety](#), including violence prevention, public clean-up efforts, crime victim support and more.

“With the close of the Session, Senate Democrats will be able to return to their communities, work with their constituents and prepare critical legislation for the year ahead. We have accomplished a lot over a short period of time, and we've set the groundwork to continue to lead towards a productive 2023 Legislative Session.”

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