



*from the*  
**Oregon Senate Republican Office**

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**Senate Republican Office Announces**  
**2019 Caucus Staff**

Salem, Ore. - Today, the Oregon Legislature formally organized for the 80th Legislative Assembly. Senate Minority Leader Herman Baertschiger Jr., (R-Grants Pass) has announced the following staff that will assist the Senate Republican Caucus throughout the 2019 Legislative Session:

- Michael Sellers joins the Senate Republican Office as Chief of Staff. He has worked as the Chief of Staff for Senator Herman Baertschiger since 2012. Michael brings years of business and finance experience serving as a COO and CFO for several companies. With a diverse background that includes business consulting, project management, human resources, and information technology he will lead a talented group of analysts and directors in the caucus office. Michael has a bachelor's degree in business with minor in computer science and a master's degree in business administration. Michael returned to Southern Oregon after his military career. He is married and has 5 children.
- Andrea Chiapella is the Senior Policy Analyst in the Oregon Senate Minority Office. She has been with the Minority Office for the last four years and has worked in the Oregon Legislature

since 2007. Prior to her current position, Andrea worked in the House of Representatives for several members who represented different areas around the state. Andrea graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in politics from Willamette University. She lives in Sherwood and enjoys spending time with her husband Tom, puppy Meeka, and cat Koshka. Andrea will focus on Judiciary, Human Services, Health Care, Capitol Culture, Audits and Housing.

- Tayleranne Gillespie is the Communications Director for the Senate Minority Office. She has worked for the caucus since 2015 in various roles and has been the Communications Director since November of 2017. Prior to her time in the caucus office Tayleranne worked for the Secretary of the Senate as a Senate Page. Tayleranne has a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in communications from Western Oregon University. She lives in Keizer with her cat Ike, where she is working to renovate her first home.
- Branden Pursinger joins the caucus office as a policy analyst. Branden is a native Oregonian and grew up in Troutdale. Before joining the Senate Republican Office, he served in Senator Hansell's Office as his Legislative Director for 4 years. Before his time in Sen. Hansell's office he worked in the Business Office at Lewis & Clark College, and Committee Services as the House Business and Labor Committee Assistant. Branden will be focusing on the Education and Workforce policy committees and the Ways and Means budget committees. Branden has a bachelor's degree in political science from Lewis & Clark. He now lives in Tualatin with his wife Carolyn, daughter Natalie, and dog Lily.
- Policy analyst Justin Brecht is new to the caucus office, but not new to the building. He has worked as Senator Kim Thatcher's Policy and Media Director since 2015. During this session, Justin will be working on Environment and Natural Resources, Finance and Revenue, Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Tax Expenditures, Joint Transportation, Student Success, and the Carbon Reduction Committees. Justin has a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in law and legal studies.
- Katharine Hoehne joins the caucus staff as the Member Services and District Outreach Coordinator. Katharine previously worked at Willamette Law School where she was a recruiter and planned student orientations. Prior to that, she worked in the Idaho Legislature for five sessions. She worked in many different areas, most recently with both the Speaker of the House, Speaker

Bedke, and the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee Co-Chair, Senator Cameron. Katharine was born and raised in Idaho, is a graduate of the College of Idaho, and has a degree in international political economy with a minor in Spanish. In the Caucus, Katharine will be coordinating member services and district outreach. She also will take on the policy areas of IT, General Government, and Rules Committees.

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