



# Oregon Senate Republicans

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2020

Contact: Kate Gillem

[kate.gillem@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:kate.gillem@oregonlegislature.gov)

503-931-4529

## **Senate Republican Leader Statement on the Special Session**

SALEM, Ore. – Today, Governor Kate Brown called the Oregon Legislature in for a special session on June 24.

Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod (R-Stayton) issued the following statement:

“I fail to understand why the Governor is calling the legislature in for a special session, an expensive undertaking for taxpayers, in the middle of a pandemic, when it is not intended to address the state budget deficit. The intent of this special session should be to balance the state budget, which is the fundamental job of the legislature, and provide relief to Oregonians suffering from the ongoing COVID-19 economic disaster. Instead, the Governor is prioritizing policy bills.

“Marion County is still in Phase 1, and by Governor Brown’s own rules, gatherings of more than 25 people are not permitted. The legislature alone, without support staff, is comprised of 90 people. Why not address the budget, the legislature’s first priority, instead of opening the door to costly follow-up sessions?

“The Oregon Supreme Court recently upheld the Governor’s executive orders during the pandemic, giving her unrestricted power and the ability to make almost any of the policy bills slated for the special session into law without the legislature. The legislature is needed to balance the budget, and failing to make that the priority is disastrous for the state and Oregonians.”

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