



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 2017

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**Senate Republicans applaud Joint Ways and Means
Committee budget**
*Co-chairs release statute-based budget, offers glimpse of reality
compared to Brown's La La Land budget*

SALEM, Ore.-Every two years, [the governor proposes a budget](#) for the coming two-year period and co-chairs of the budget-writing Joint Ways and Means Committee releases their version of the budget. [Gov. Kate Brown's 2017-19 budget](#) suggests slashes to services for vulnerable veterans and seniors, the permanent shutdown of a crime lab in Pendleton and the permanent shutdown of a psychiatric facility. Today, the co-chairs of the [Joint Ways and Means Committee](#) released their budget framework. In response state Sens. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, Fred Girod, R-Stayton, Bill Hansell, R-Athena, and Jackie Winters, R-Salem, responded to the Ways & Means budget with a focus on the work ahead in the legislative session.

Ferrioli said:

"We sincerely appreciate the hard-work of the Joint Ways and Means Committee co-chairs in crafting a budget based in reality. It's time Oregonians understood the consequences of explosive growth of government and overspending, coupled with anti-business climate and restrictive anti-land use laws. The only way Oregon will get through the current budget crunch is by setting better spending priorities and demonstrating budget discipline."

Girod said:

"The co-chairs delivered a more realistic budget outlook than did Gov. Kate Brown, and it will allow for us to have a more robust, sound debate on proposed cuts and expansions in the budget. I am looking forward to working together to craft a budget that protects veterans and other vulnerable Oregonians from unnecessary cuts, made only to fund unnecessary programs."

Hansell said:

"I applaud the efforts of the co-chairs to begin to address the budget needs we have. I look forward to helping form the budget in the upcoming session. Two concerns I have with the governor's budget for my district are the closing of the crime lab. This is a huge hit to the criminal justice system in my area. And the lack of funding for the predator depredation fund to the livestock growers. These are two items I am going to watch very closely."

Winters said:

"We will be working together to balance the budget this session and the framework offered by the co-chairs is a good starting point. Now the work begins. We have our work cut out for us to craft a sound, sustainable budget that benefits Oregonians, urban and rural alike."

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