



## OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE NEWS FROM **Barbara Smith Warner**

### One Month Remaining: We Stand Together

Friends and Neighbors,

Our community was changed forever on Friday May 26th, when two men lost their lives and one was injured as they attempted to stand up to a known White Supremacist who was verbally abusing two young women of color on the MAX with racist and Islamophobic hate speech. These losses are tragic, and strike at the intersections of race, religion, and discrimination that impact Oregonians every day.

While hate crimes are not a new phenomenon, I am increasingly concerned about the rising magnitude and blatant nature of hateful actions, language, and violence that we have been experiencing in Oregon and across the country. As we mourn the men we have lost and the women for whom they spoke up for, we must work together to celebrate the values of acceptance, support, and bravery that they embody.



### Revenue Solutions are On the Table

If we don't act now, Oregon students face more budget cuts to schools, community colleges and universities. The Oregon Education Investment Initiative (OEII) will allow our state to invest in the education system our kids deserve. The details are still in

flux, but the proposal in its current state would raise over \$2 billion dollars in revenue – with 75% dedicated to education -- using a broad base and a low rate to reform the state's business tax structure.

With the OEII, we can bring down class sizes, add weeks to the school years and offer programs, like technical and vocational education, that were cut during the recession. Crucially, the OEII will invest in proven strategies to improve Oregon's graduation rates. Read more about the OEII and pledge your support here!

Other proposals have been suggested, and I am extremely supportive of bringing forward revenue reform, in its strongest form possible, this session.

## **Oil Train Safety**

My bill, HB 2131 passed out of the Rules committee on May 25th and is now being considered in the Joint Ways & Means committee for budgeting purposes. After the derailment in Mosier, it became all too clear that Oregon needs further resources at its disposal to protect our citizens and environment from the dangers of transporting oil by rail. Mosier could have been far worse, and for the future safety of Oregonians it is essential to have the comprehensive planning, training, and safety procedures in place like the ones outlined in HB 2131.



## **Affordable Housing**

House Bill 2004 has passed out of the Senate Committee and will be heading to the floor shortly. The bill has been amended somewhat, and the changes are detailed in the -9 amendments. While I am disappointed that the amendment has removed the opportunity to implement rent stabilization and other techniques to push back against the affordable housing crisis, I still believe that it is a good bill that will provide important protections for tenants.

## Education Budget

The Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means is beginning to work through the budgeting process in earnest, now that we have had the final May revenue forecast. It is my sincere hope that we will have further revenue to invest in education, but at the moment we have announced a \$8.2 billion budget for the State School Fund. The legislature is constitutionally required to balance the state budget by July 10, and school districts need some level of certainty in order to move forward in their budgeting processes. As a parent of two kids in Portland Public schools, I will keep working hard every day to pass a balanced plan that will contain costs, reform our revenue structure, and allow for greater investments in school funding.

In the Committee on Joint Tax Reform, I told a representative from the Oregon Business Plan that Oregon's students cannot wait another biennium. They deserve investment now, and we have thoughtful plans that can work. Check out this video of my comments! (It was my birthday, hence the tiara)



## Transportation

The Transportation Package Bill, HB 2017, has been put forward in the Joint Committee for Transportation Preservation and Modernization. We are finalizing

details of the bill and I am working to make it a sustainable, equitable, and comprehensive approach to congestion relief. I believe that the Clean Fuels and Safe Routes to School program are essential aspects of the future of Oregon's transportation, and I am working hard to protect and support them both.

## Upcoming Event: Saturday 6/10 2-3:30pm



I am hosting an East County Revenue Town Hall this Saturday 6/10 from 2-3:30pm at Centennial High School in the community room. Please bring neighbors, friends, and children (there will be coloring), and come hear updates about the budget and share your thoughts with me and Rep. Diego Hernandez, Rep. Jeff Reardon, Rep. Janelle Bynum, Senator Monroe, and Rep. Carla Piluso. Hope to see you there!

*Barbara*

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