



Duane Stark House District 4 State Representative

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House Speaker Gives Public Safety Gavel to Representative Stark *Southern Oregon lawmaker named budget subcommittee co-chair*

(Salem) "It is an honor to be asked to serve as the Co-Chairman of the [Public Safety Subcommittee](#) for the Legislature's Joint Committee on Ways and Means," said, [State Representative Duane Stark](#) (R-Grants Pass) today. [House Speaker Tina Kotek](#) (D-North/Northeast Portland) appointed Representative Stark to Co-Chair that subcommittee and also made him a member of the **Full Committee on Ways and Means**. Committee assignments for the [House](#) and Senate were announced today.

The topic of law and order will also be an important one for Representative Stark in another assignment by the Speaker to the [House Judiciary Committee](#). He will also continue to be the **Vice-Chairman of the [House Committee on Human Services and Housing](#)**. "For the past two years I've had a strong focus on the child welfare and foster care system," noted Representative Stark. "However, many of those issues overlap into the criminal justice arena so I hope to make a difference in both areas."

"For the past several years I have worked side-by-side with Rep Stark on several projects involving public safety and human services including creation of the new [Grants Pass Sobering Center](#)," said [Grants Pass Police Chief Bill Landis](#). "I'm excited to see these committee assignments for Rep Stark so he can take his real world experiences to the capitol and use his leadership skills to work on good public policy for Southern Oregon and the rest of the state."

"Josephine County is a prime example of the cuts to essential criminal justice systems in the lack of revenues from timber," said **Josephine County Commissioner-elect Lily Morgan**, who is currently a parole/probation supervisor for the county's community corrections program. "We are very fortunate to have an advocate in Salem working towards finding solutions for public safety and judicial reform."

"Rep Stark has been and continues to be a staunch supporter for the need for funding law enforcement which we have seen dwindling for the past two decades," explained [Central Point Police Chief Kris Allison](#). "Law enforcement leaders throughout Southern Oregon are concerned with the current funding levels that have an effect on both municipal, county and state jurisdictions. We are hopeful with these appointments for Rep Stark he will be able to impact, by bipartisan support, funding issues for the future of law enforcement in our state."

In addition to the committees that meet during the regular legislative session, Representative Stark was recently appointed by the House Speaker to the [Oregon Criminal Justice Commission](#) which administers funds distributed to community programs to manage offenders at the local level. He is also a member of the [Oregon-China Sister State Committee](#) and the [Legislative Commission on Indian Services](#).

During most of 2016, Representative Stark served on a special [Governor's committee](#) investigating problems with the Department of Human Services foster care system and a task force to look at challenges facing [legal representation for families](#) in the child welfare system.

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