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NEWS RELEASE

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Joint Ways and Means Co-Chairs Release 2023-2025 Budget Framework

Framework Prioritizes Funding to Address Education, Other Critical Workforce Shortages

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means released their [budget framework for the 2023-2025 biennium](#), outlining priorities for the state budget. The framework includes \$9.9 billion for the State School Fund to help give schools stable and sufficient funding to improve literacy and graduation outcomes. It also makes meaningful and targeted investments in key priorities like housing and homelessness, health care, and behavioral health. The framework allocates money to address several critical workforce shortages in key sectors, as well as addresses initiatives aimed at making sure Oregonians who got on the Oregon Health Plan during the pandemic are still able to access the coverage and care they need.

The Oregon Constitution requires the Legislature pass a balanced budget for each biennium. The framework is a starting point for the legislative process of developing and passing the finalized budget for the upcoming 2023-2025 biennium. The process will take place over the course of the 2023 legislative session and conclude by the end of June.

“At a moment when Oregonians are unified around common priorities such as housing and homelessness, behavioral health, educational outcomes, and addressing multiple workforce shortages, our north star is clear,” said Representative Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland), Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee. “We must spend wisely to make sure state government can deliver for all Oregonians on the most pressing issues facing our state.”

“This is a very uncertain time for Oregon’s economy. Oregonians deserve to know their tax dollars are funding the state’s highest priorities,” said Senator Elizabeth Steiner (D-Portland), Co-Chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee. “Our framework budget focuses on maintaining critical services for Oregonians while also protecting our reserves in case of economic downturn. The last few years have been good for Oregon, but rain clouds could still be on the horizon.”

The next step in the legislative budget process is a series of public hearings at various locations across the state where members of the public will have the opportunity to testify regarding their perspectives and priorities on the state budget.

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