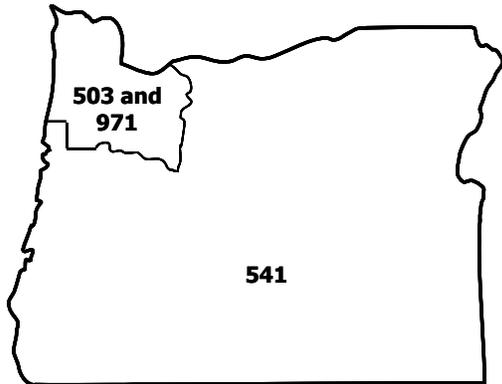


Area Code Overview



Area Code History

In 1995, the Oregon Public Utility Commission approved a new 541 area code for Oregon, which left the state with two area codes—503 and 541. This step was taken to meet the increased demand for telephone numbers.

In 2000, again in response to increased demand, the Commission added a 971 area code to the 503 region.

Currently, the Commission must decide the best way to respond to a projected shortage of numbers in the 541 area code, which is expected to run out of telephone numbers in early 2011.

The Commission will make a decision in fall 2008.

Why a new area code?

Available telephone numbers in the 541 area code are limited. With increased demand for new numbers, available numbers are expected to run out in early 2011.

The Commission must decide how to provide number relief and allow time for network changes and to inform the public.

Impact of the change?

The new area code will apply to all telephones, including wireless and landline. Rates for local calls will not change. And local calling areas will not change. Dialing for **911** emergency calls will not change.

Area code timeline

On June 10, 2008, the Commission opened its investigation. June through August, the Commission will hold Open House events to receive comments from the public.

The Commission will make a decision in fall 2008. The new area code takes effect in late 2010.

How can you comment?

Email

PUC.541@state.or.us

Telephone

1-800-522-2404

TTY

1-800-735-2900

Mail Comments

PUC

PO Box 2148

Salem, Oregon 97308-2148

At public comment meetings in your area

Link to Dates and Locations for Open House Events:

<http://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/Docket.asp?DocketID=14852&Child=calendar>