



Agenda/Notes
Office of Governor Tina Kotek
RJC Environment Equity Committee
January 22, 2026 – Virtual
11:00-12:00pm

MEMBERS

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------|---|----------------|
| E | Dr. Alai Reyes-Santos | X | Cheyenne Holliday | E | Jill Fuglister |
| X | Ana Molina | X | Clara Soh | | |
| X | Dr. Bob Komoto | X | Janet Komoto | | |

OTHER ATTENDEES

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|---|---------------|--|------------------|---|---------------------|
| | Andre Bealer | | Javier Cervantes | E | Chandra Ferrari |
| | Amy Schlusser | | Yasmin Solorio | | Jonna Papaefthimiou |
| X | Anca Matica | | | X | Michael “Mike” Jung |

| Topic/Lead | Notes/Main Points | Decisions/Action Items |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Recap of RJC Meeting Legislative Preview/Legislative Day Meeting | <p>Javier welcomes attendees and provides updates on recent RJC members’ meetings with legislators ahead of short session. Short session commences on February 2nd.</p> <p>Anca provides information on the Environmental Justice Council. Noted Kasey KC was appointed first State Forester pending senate approval.</p> <p>Anca shared the topic of Data Centers. Shared that the advisory committee and noted its recommendations (did not speak to specific recommendations). Javier and Anca share “2026 Caucus Agenda” and “Oregon Short Session Preview” document.</p> | |
| Budget/Bills for Natural Resources | <p>Committee discussed Climate resilience superfund and past pollution. Committee member noted superfund policy as a possible place for advocacy.</p> <p>Committee commented on the Oregon Environmental Restoration dollars/Monsanto Settlement dollars and the budget. Members noted a previous DEQ Cyber Attack, as well as the Legislative Fiscal Office is waiting on budget forecast.</p> <p>Committee members noted concern for Data Center Lab and lack of staffing.</p> | |
| Update Data Center Load-Advisor Committee | <p>Mike Jung, co-chair on the Data Center Advisory Committee, provides information on the structure of the monthly meetings.</p> | |

- Discussed previous work/background
- Looking at Assembly of citizen volunteers-wanted a wide range of perspectives
- Looking at what is best for Oregon
- Data Centers are not new:
 - Oregon is an early adopter of data centers
 - Manage risk data centers provide
 - Will deliver recommendations at the end of the work
 - Job now is to get up to speed and provide recommendations
- There will be six meetings with subject matter experts

Committee Questions:

How does data center committee engage in equity?

Be consistent, ask what has worked well. Inclusivity will be quick and get into the weeds

What has been outdated? i.e., Water usage; There is a bigger footprint

On the power supply side there is a backlog. Acquiring land and power generation. The sequencing of power generation is different

Will this group be looking at what has passed during the short session ex. LC 15 (permitting)?

Flag 1: Data Centers jumping the line ahead of other issues

Flag 2: Impacts of Data Centers working with communities and investing in water systems

Hoping to arrange field visits. Not interested in cutting and pasting from someplace else. Oregon is unique.

Promoting process: what are the legislative tools and gaps to execute analysis? Would like to do a gap analysis on state labs and do the work they need to improve and be careful DC does not jump the line before others. This can be a private-public partnership.

An equity lens, does it makes sense to apply to each area?

Focus on state-wide tools and recognize this is beyond Portland, but what helps local leaders.


Committee member comment: Be intentional about including Central and Eastern Oregon. Visit Central Oregon and see those impacts

The other co-chair is from Bend. Dan Duran is from Umatilla area.

Will there be Pubic Comment?

Will share that information.

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| | <p>Final note/Comments from member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery Technology in Malher County • Lithium mines. EPA chemists: what has been the % of mines that have become superfund sites (something to think about)? <p><i>Meeting concludes 12:02pm.</i></p> | |
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| <p>Materials</p> | <div> <div>  <p>2026 Caucus Agenda (One-Page)</p> </div> <div>  <p>Oregon Short Session Preview_Den</p> </div> </div> <p>OCN 2026 legislative priorities.</p> | |
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2026 AGENDA

House Democrats are focused on lowering the cost of living by expanding affordable housing, growing good-paying jobs, and protecting workers and consumers. We're also pushing back against federal attacks on basic rights and vulnerable communities.

Building an Affordable Future

Housing



Since 2023, Oregon has helped build or finance thousands of new homes. While progress is being made, we must move more quickly to ensure every Oregonian can afford a place to call home.

We must:

- **Expand the housing supply**, ensure the housing market serves Oregonians, not corporations, and address rising utility costs.

Jobs and Economic Development



We must grow our private sector to help local economies thrive and fight back against the Trump Administration's dismantling of labor protections that sustain fair wages and safe working conditions.

We must:

- **Help businesses start and scale in Oregon.** At the same time, we will ask our agencies to reexamine our economic development strategies, our permit application review processes, and program structures to ensure we have a whole-of-government approach to economic development in Oregon.
- **Defend and expand workers' rights** to negotiate for a safe working environment and a livable wage.

Consumer Protection



Oregonians are losing millions of dollars to scammers, predatory lenders, and corporations that cut corners or refuse to honor their commitments. Consumers should get what they paid for and not be taken advantage of by dishonest tactics.

We must:

- **Protect consumers** from deceptive practices and crack down on corporate abuses.

Protecting Oregon's Values

Healthcare



Under President Trump's budget bill, 400,000 Oregonians could lose their Medicaid coverage. With more people uninsured, rural hospitals and clinics will close, wait times will increase, and medical costs will rise for all Oregonians.

We must:

- **Preserve Oregon's historically high insurance coverage rate** and ensure that all Oregonians, no matter what part of the state they live in, maintain access to high-quality care.
- **Defend access to reproductive health care** and protect Oregonians' medical information and right to privacy.

Immigrant Communities



The Federal Government is terrorizing our immigrant communities and doing so without due process or regard to Oregonians' safety. Oregon is a better place because of our diversity, and everyone in Oregon deserves to be treated with respect, dignity, and justice under the law, no matter how they look, what language they speak, or where they were born.

We must:

- **Strengthen Oregonians' rights to protect their private information**, to defend themselves in court, and to know when and where enforcement activities are planned.
- **Ensure that law enforcement is identifiable** to the communities they serve, that families have the right to protect their homes, and that all Oregonians have equal access to our justice system.

Budget



New federal tax loopholes that disproportionately benefit the wealthy have created a budget deficit in Oregon, threatening critical public services such as health care, education, and public safety. We will address this deficit and balance our state's budget once again.

We must:

- **Ensure critical services are delivered**, from safe roads to cancer screenings at Planned Parenthood to emergency 911 response to veterans' benefits.
- **Govern responsibly** by increasing oversight on how agencies spend their budgets, providing regulatory certainty through the preservation of essential and at-risk federal standards in state law, and structuring our tax system to support Oregon's working families and the businesses dedicated to making this state thrive.

Environment



While the federal government continues to roll back environmental protections, expand oil drilling on public lands, and worsen the impacts of climate change, Oregon will protect our natural environment and the communities that live here.

We must:

- **Protect our public lands** from being sold off to the highest bidder whenever the federal government decides to do so.
- **Invest in renewable energy** to keep Oregon green and protect Oregonians from the impacts of climate change.



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2026

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Oregon Short Session Preview: Democrats Fight For Affordability, Against Federal Overreach

The six-week session will focus on the top-of-mind issues for Oregonians: affordability and federal overreach

SALEM, Ore. — Today, Democrats in the Oregon House of Representatives announced their top priorities for the upcoming legislative session. House Democrats will focus on the most pressing issues facing Oregonians: affordability and the attacks on the state from Trump.

“Many Oregonians are feeling scared. Scared that they can’t make ends meet. Scared about federally-directed violence. Scared about the future of our country,” said **House Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D-Tigard, Metzger, & S. Beaverton)**. “We can’t give into the fear. We have to take action. We’re tackling an ambitious agenda because we know Oregonians are counting on us right now.”

In the past year, Oregon experienced various attacks from the federal government: from [sending the National Guard to Portland](#), to [not providing food assistance to Oregonians depending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), and most recently, [threatening to withhold federal funds](#) because of Oregon’s sanctuary state status.

“This session is about steady governance in an unsteady moment,” said **House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene & Veneta)**. “As we prepare for 2026, we’re focused on rebalancing our budget, but also on affordability, stability, and shielding Oregon families from harmful federal policies.”

Meanwhile, legislators have the responsibility to produce a balanced budget, even while [Trump’s budget bill strips crucial dollars away from Oregon](#). Democrats are committed to prioritizing health care, public safety, education, and veterans’ benefits by demanding accountability, smart oversight, and a tax system that works for working families, not just the wealthy.

“We must do everything we can to protect Oregonians and the essential services we all rely on in our daily lives, and we can’t just tax or cut our way out of this hole,” said **Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland)** and co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. “Our long-term solutions must include strategies to grow private sector jobs that stimulate our broader economy and provide good wages to hardworking Oregonians.”

House Democrats are focused on lowering the cost of living by expanding affordable housing, growing good-paying jobs, protecting workers and consumers, and ensuring Oregon’s economy serves people, not corporations or scammers.

“People are experiencing higher costs and predatory practices by corporate bad actors,” said **Rep. Nathan Sosa (D-Greater Hillsboro)**. “Addressing affordability and protecting consumers helps all Oregonians, regardless of party, and we’re focused on finding solutions together.”

According to recent reporting, [immigration arrests in Oregon were five times higher in 2025 than the previous year](#). Despite federal agencies’ claims that this is an effort to arrest convicted criminals, the [share of immigrants detained for violent crimes decreased](#). While the federal administration continues to target vulnerable communities, House Democrats will defend immigrant Oregonians and ensure everyone is treated with fairness, safety, and respect under the law.

“Right now, when federal agents violate your Fourth Amendment rights in Oregon, there’s zero accountability,” said **Rep. Lesly Muñoz (D-Woodburn)** and co-chair of the BIPOC Caucus. “We have seen agents break windows, destroy property and injure members of our community. It is an injustice that they cause damage and then simply walk away. It’s unacceptable and it must stop.”

While the Trump Administration is attacking basic rights, House Democrats are standing up for access to health care, food assistance, reproductive freedom, and privacy.

"Oregon deserves better. We value the freedom to live without fear, and we believe diversity is a strength, not a threat. We will not tolerate unconstitutional attacks on our neighbors or allow hate to take root in our state. That is why we are fighting back," said **Rep. Willy Chotzen (D - SE Portland)**.

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