

# Basics<sup>+</sup> of Community Engagement with the Oregon Legislature

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# Information

- Policy basics
- Legislative session details
- State budget
- Ways to engage

# Definitions



- **State legislature** – made up of House of Representatives and the Senate. In charge of making state laws.
- **Legislation** - creation and enactment of laws by a legislative body through formal lawmaking process.
- **Revenue forecast** – estimate of how much money the state will have over a set period of time.



## More definitions....

- **Legislative Concept** – Idea or proposal for law before it is drafted as a bill and introduced to the legislature.
- **Policy Option Package** – Proposal for a budgetary change.
- **Advocacy** – Wide range of activities that can bring attention to or influence public opinion and policy.
- **Lobbying** – Form of advocacy that attempts to influence specific legislation.

# Why policy?

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Policy impacts every aspect of our lives, whether we know it or not!

Engaging in policy allows you to:

- highlight needs
- impact funding
- educate state law-makers, and
- work with others who are connected to your work



# Oregon legislative session

## **Short legislative session**

- 35 days in even-numbered years (2026, 2028, 2030)
- Limited number of bills introduced
- Budget adjustments
- Fixing errors in existing laws and addressing urgent policy needs

## **Long legislative session**

- 160 days in odd-numbered years (2027, 2029, 2031)
- Two-year budget cycle is passed
- Can see thousands of bills introduced

# Legislative timeline

## **2026 Legislative session**

- Mid-late January 2026- Bill drop
- Feb. 2, 2026 – Session begins
- March 9, 2026 - Sine Die (end of session)

## **2027 Legislative Session**

- Legislative agenda building – happening now!
- Dec. 2026 - Governor's recommended budget
- Jan. 2027 - Long Session begins
- June 2027 Sine Die

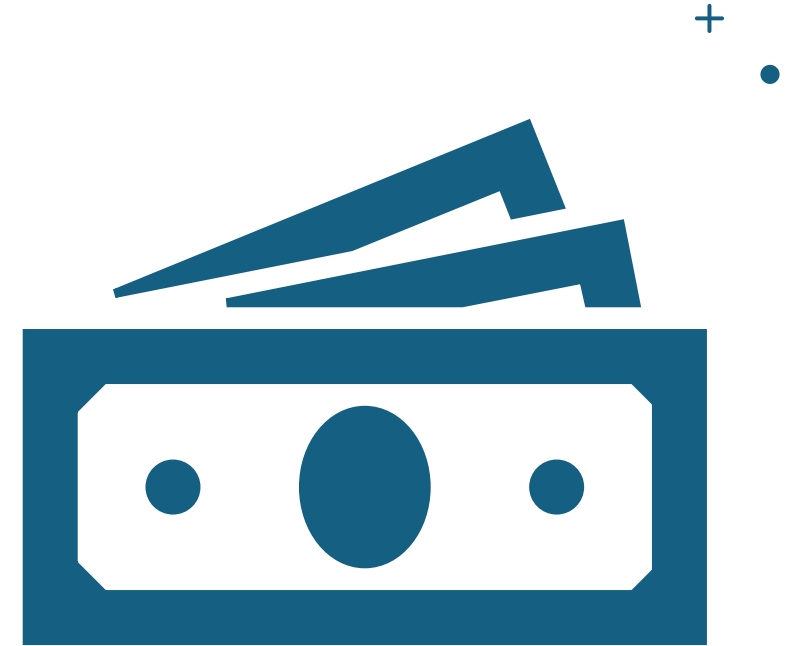
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# State budget

The state budget operates on a biennial cycle, which means the budget is set for two years. Current biennium is July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027.

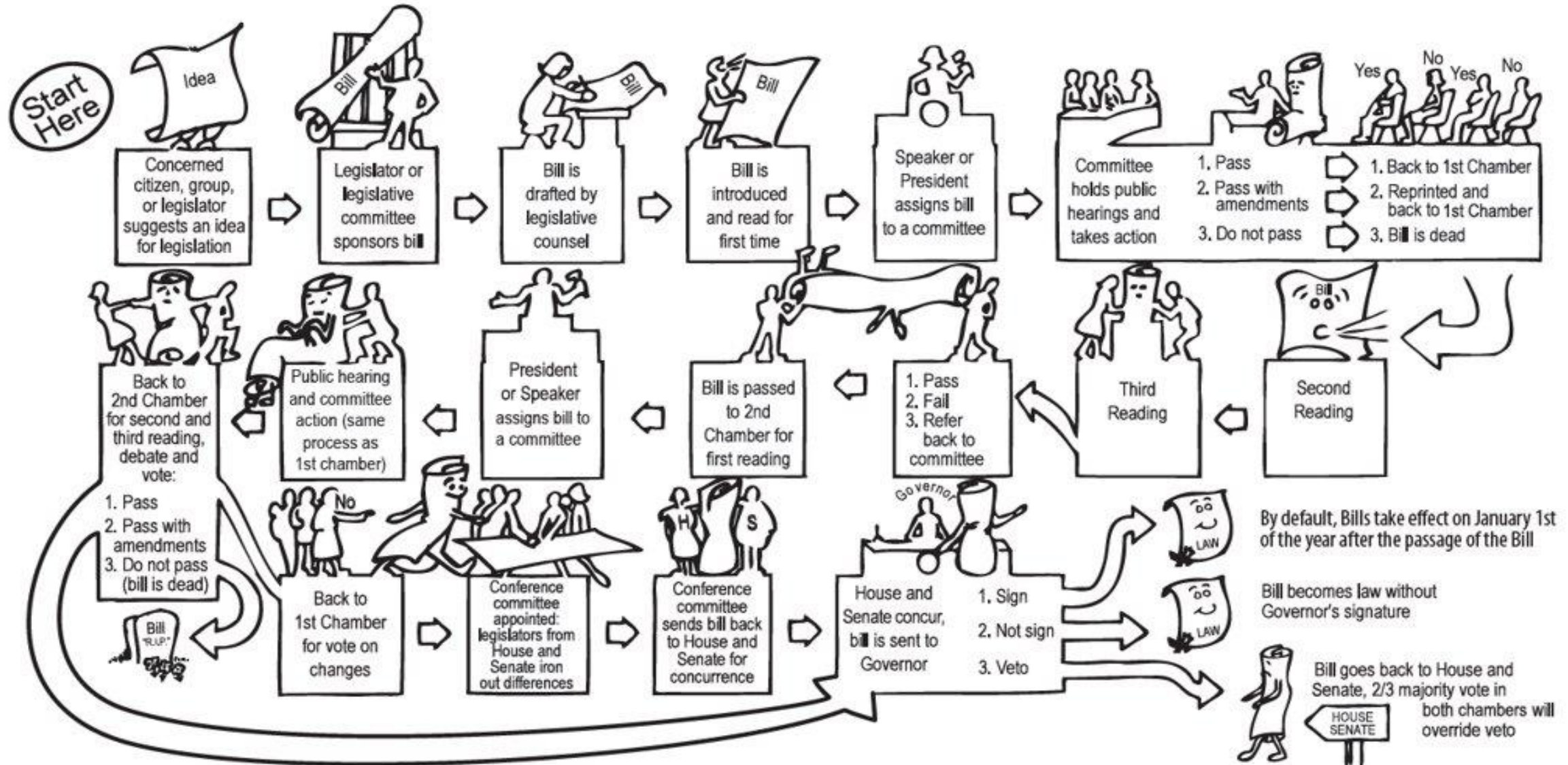
A state revenue forecast is issued four times a year.

- Revenue forecast released:
  - November 19, 2025
  - February 4, 2026
  - May 20, 2026
  - August 26, 2026
  - November 18, 2026





# How a bill becomes a law



# Ways to Engage

- Provide Testimony
  - Online registration opens when the public hearing is scheduled and closes 30 minutes before the meeting begins
  - In-person or remote
  - Written testimony must be submitted within 48 hours after the committee meeting starts
- Request a meeting
  - Find your legislators and district and reach out!
- Sign up to receive email updates, [Capitol e-Subscribe](#)



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# Oregon State Legislature Website

## What can you do on the Oregon legislature website?

- Find your legislator
- Committee assignments
- Follow bills
- Provide testimony
- Watch hearings
- Learn and engage

**Let's take a look:**

<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/>



# Resources

- [Oregon State Legislature](#)
- [Revenue forecast](#)
- [Government relations](#)
- [Office of Oregon Governor Tina Kotek](#)