

The logo consists of three concentric circles. The outermost circle is a light blue-grey color. The middle circle is a medium blue color. The innermost circle is a dark teal color. The text "Oregon Public Defense Commission" is centered within the innermost circle in a dark teal, sans-serif font.

Oregon Public Defense Commission

Navigating the 2027 Oregon Legislative Session

September 30, 2026

Lisa Taylor, Government Relations

Agenda

1

Legislative Calendar and Timelines

2

Oregon Legislative Information System

3

Legislative Engagement

What You Should Leave Knowing

01 Read the calendar

Know the major phases of the 2027 long session—and why the pre-session runway matters.

02 Use OLIS

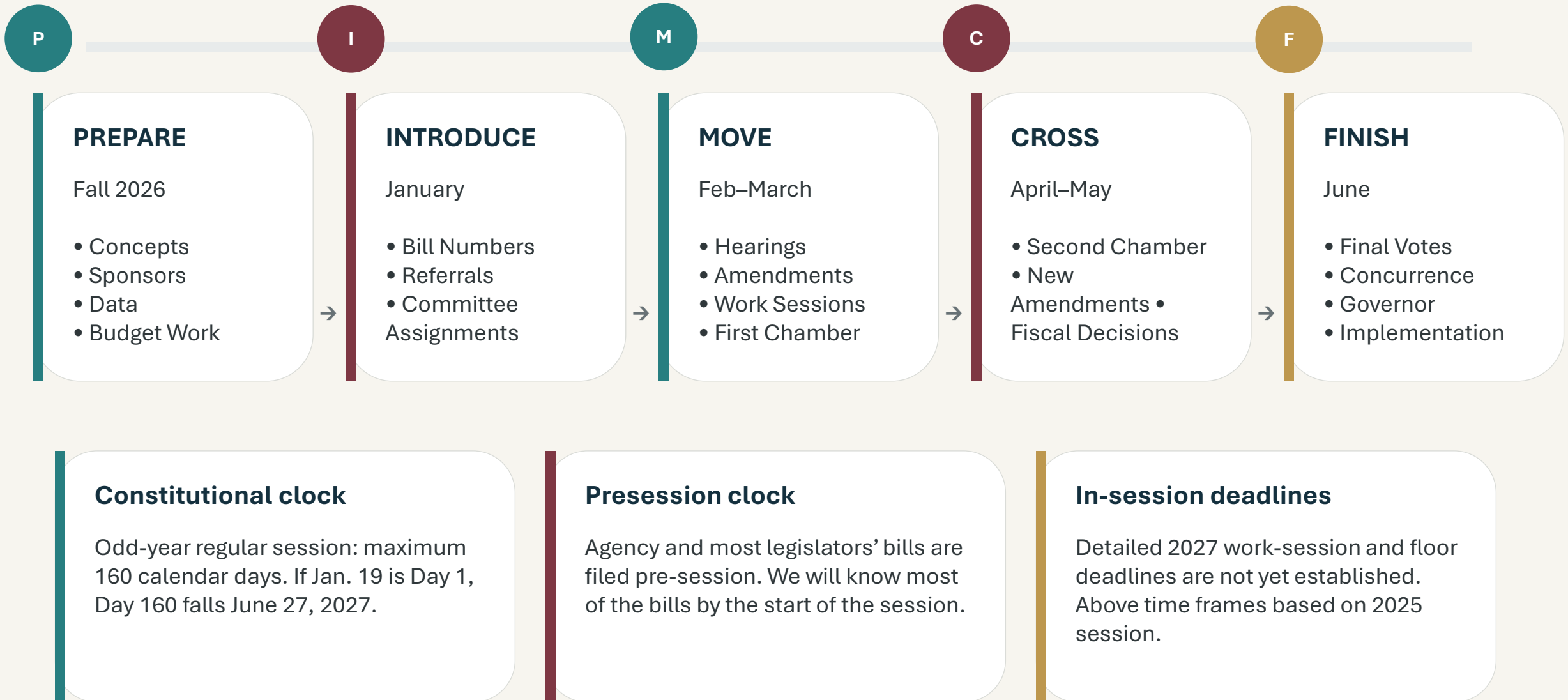
Find the bill, the current version, the next action, the fiscal information, and the public record.

03 Engage effectively

Know when to contact legislators, what information they need, and how OPDC should coordinate its voice.

The goal is not to become legislative staff. It is to know when to ask the right question—and where to find the answer.

2027 Session Timelines



The Pre-Session Runway Matters

For OPDC, the most consequential legislative work often starts before January.

1	July 2026	Presession Draft Requests Due	The concept must be clear enough for Legislative Counsel to draft.
2	October 2026	Drafts Returned	Review legal effect, fiscal implications, implementation and unintended consequences.
3	November 2026	LC Packets Due	Final LC drafts, with fiscal impact statements and one pagers, are due to DAS for final review and approval by the Governor's Office.
4	December 2026	Pre-Session Bills Filed	DAS files Governor approved agency bills.

A Bill's Path: Where Decisions Happen



Committee pressure points

Hearings, testimony, amendments, fiscal questions and work-session votes can materially change a bill.

Version control matters

Introduced, amended, engrossed and enrolled versions are not interchangeable.

“What happens next?”

Use scheduled events + measure history + committee agenda to identify the next procedural step.

Where OPDC Can Engage

BEFORE INTRODUCTION

- Define the problem
- Provide technical information
- Test implementation
- Develop fiscal assumptions

IN COMMITTEE

- Answer questions
- Review amendments
- Provide data
- Testimony / written material

WAYS & MEANS

- Explain cost
- Explain capacity
- Explain implementation
- Identify budget risks

AFTER PASSAGE

- Rules / implementation
- Budget execution
- Legislative reporting
- Follow-up with sponsors

Engage early enough that legislators can use the information—not merely hear it.

OLIS: The Legislature's Public Record



Oregon State Legislature

Oregon Legislative Information

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Session


Bills


Committees


Exec. Appts.


More

2025-2026 Interim

Session Details for Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Pick a new date   

Senate Chamber not scheduled

House Chamber not scheduled

Meetings Today >

Senate Third Readings >

Senate Second Readings >

Senate First Readings >

Senate Committee Referrals >

Senate Committee Reports >

Today's Publications >

House Third Readings >

House Second Readings >

House First Readings >

House Committee Referrals >

House Committee Reports >

Source: Oregon Legislature, OLIS Help

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LIVE OLIS DEMO: Answer Seven Questions

- 1 What does it do?
- 2 Where is it?
- 3 What version is current?
- 4 What happens next?
- 5 What changed?
- 6 What does it cost?
- 7 Who is engaged?

OLIS committee pages: the other half of the story

Committee overview

- Membership
- Staff
- Schedule
- Assigned measures
- Committee information

Meeting page

- Agenda
- Meeting materials
- Exhibits
- Recording log
- Witness list
- Committee action

Why it matters

The bill page tells you about the measure. The committee page tells you what happened around the measure.

Engaging Legislators and Staff

1

MISSION

Why does this matter to OPDC's statutory mission?

2

ISSUE

What problem are we seeing?

3

EVIDENCE

What do the data, law and operational experience show?

4

IMPACT

What happens if nothing changes—or if this proposal moves forward?

5

ASK

What specific action or information are we requesting?

6

FOLLOW-UP

What will we send, who owns it, and by when?

EARLY

Share context before the vote.

Explain the problem, implementation reality, data and fiscal implications.

Give staff time to ask questions.

USEFUL

Keep the message short.

Lead with what changed, why it matters and what you are asking for.

Bring detail when it is needed.

RELIABLE

Be accurate.

If you do not know, say so.

Promise a follow-up—and deliver it.

Commissioner Engagement

COMMISSIONERS

- Build relationships
- Explain the Commission's mission
- Provide institutional perspective
- Champion the agency
- Share expertise and answer questions

AGENCY LEADERSHIP / STAFF

- Establish agency positions
- Coordinate legislative strategy
- Provide technical and fiscal information
- Prepare testimony/materials
- Track commitments and follow up
- Monitor bills and fiscal requests

BEFORE SPEAKING FOR OPDC

Coordinate before:

- Formal legislative requests
- Testimony representing OPDC
- Commitments about resources or implementation
- Communications that could reasonably be understood as an agency position
- Talking to the media

A Regular Session Checklist

- ✓ **WHAT CHANGED?** Bills, amendments, fiscal analyses, committee actions
- ✓ **WHAT'S NEXT?** Hearings, work sessions, floor votes, deadlines
- ✓ **WHAT AFFECTS OPDC?** Policy, budget, operations, implementation
- ✓ **WHAT ARE LEGISLATORS ASKING?** Questions, concerns, requested data
- ✓ **WHAT DO WE NEED TO EXPLAIN?** Accuracy before someone else fills the gap
- ✓ **WHO OWNS FOLLOW-UP?** One person, one deadline, one clear answer

The question to keep asking: “What does OPDC need to know—or do—before the Legislature acts?”



Questions