



2027 Legislative Kick Off

April 9, 2026

Bryn Hudson, Senior Policy Advisor

Overview

- Legislative and budget development overview
 - Key dates
 - Development Criteria
- 2027 potential legislative concepts
- How to provide input

Our Mission

Serve the public by practicing & promoting responsible water management.

- Restore & protect streamflow to ensure the sustainability of Oregon's ecosystem, economy, and quality of life.
- Directly address Oregon's water supply needs.

Legislative Concept (LC) Development

**January-April
2026**

Agencies
develop LCs

June 1, 2026

DAS submits
LCs for
drafting

**December 11,
2026**

Pre-session
bills filed

April 10, 2026

LCs due to
DAS

**October 2,
2026**

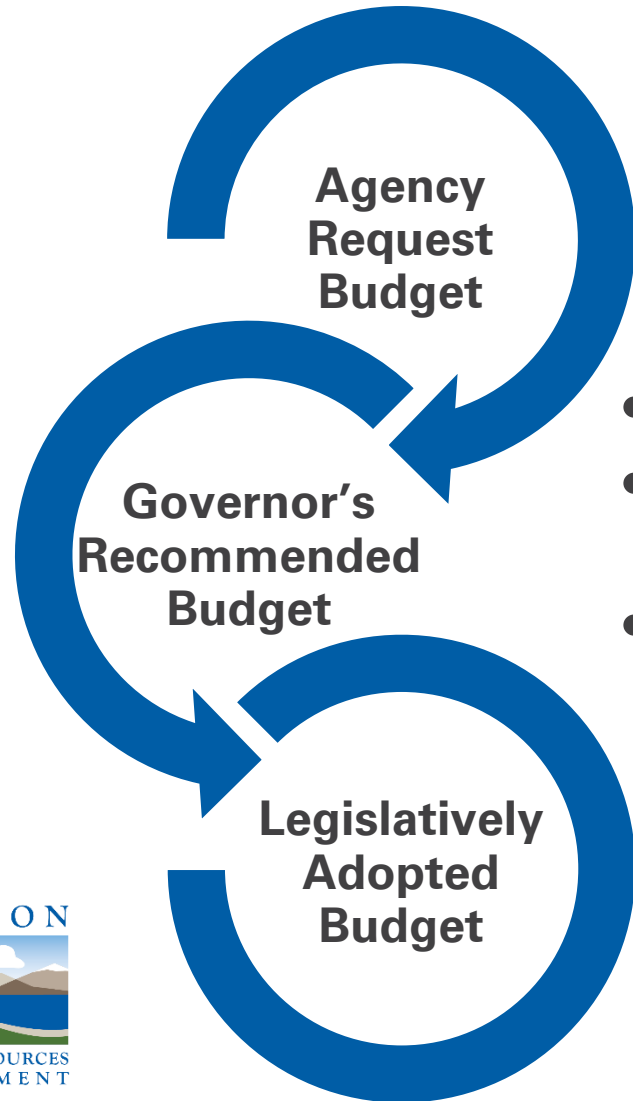
Deadline to
request
revisions

Legislative Concepts

Criteria

- Strategic Plan and Integrated Water Resources Strategy milestones
- Statutory sunset dates or results of court findings
- Technical issues within a program
- **Revenue Neutral**

Budget Development



- Developed early 2026
- Agency Request Budget (ARB) submitted and published July 2026

- GO and DAS review ARB
- Use Governor's priorities, budget policies and current laws to make GRB
- Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) published December 2026

- Legislative committees review GRB and hold public meeting
- Legislature determines and votes on final budget
- Emergency board, special sessions

Agency Request Budget Development

**January-April
2026**

Agencies
develop
POPs

May 29, 2026

POPs
approved by
DAS

**December 1,
2026**

GRB released

April 17, 2026

POPs due to
DAS

**End of July
2026**

ARB due to
DAS

Policy Option Packages

Governor's Criteria

- Economic development
- Implementation of recent Executive Orders
- Improving customer service and program efficiencies
- Protecting Oregon values
- Core programs and services
- **Revenue neutral**

Potential Legislative Concepts

General Spending Authority

- No clear grant, direct payment, and contracting authority unless specifically granted in law
- LC scope: clear authority enter into grant agreements, contracts, or make direct payments with funds appropriated in the Water Right Operating Fund.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Other Funds Account

- Voluntary program that provides compensation to retire groundwater rights with goal of improving groundwater conditions
- Smaller payments over longer time = more participants = higher program success
- LC scope: establish “other funds” account to deposit carryforward unspent funds or one-time appropriations

Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program

- Program sunsets January 1, 2029
- 5-year program evaluation due 2026
- Separate policy discussions starting **April 15**
 - Focus: LC and report
- LC scope: sunset extension and acknowledgement of Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs reserved rights, and commitment to consultation

Water Resources Management Solutions

- Water scarcity driving need for more creative instream and out of stream water resources management solutions
- Separate policy discussions starting in late spring
- LC scope: placeholder

How to provide feedback

- [Submit feedback to survey](#) or send written feedback to bryn.hudson@water.oregon.gov by **May 22, 2026**
- Participate in policy discussions
 - Deschutes Groundwater Mitigation Program
 - Water resources management solutions
 - [Register to participate](#) by **April 30, 2026**
- Request meeting with agency staff

OREGON



WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Thank you!

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