



City Day at the Capitol

January 28, 2025

AGENDA



7:15 a.m. – 7:45 a.m. HEADSHOTS

Salem Convention Center, Willamette Foyer

7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Salem Convention Center, Willamette Foyer

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. GENERAL SESSION

Salem Convention Center, Willamette Room

- **Welcome from LOC President Jessica Engelke and Salem Mayor Julie Hoy**
- **State Elected Leaders (invited)**
 - Governor Tina Kotek
 - Senator Daniel Bonham, Senate Republican Leader
 - Representative Julie Fahey, Speaker of the House
 - Senator Rob Wagner, Senate President
 - Representative Christine Drazan, House Republican Leader
- **Youth Delegates Invited to Speak**
 - Dominic Pienovi, Youth Council, Happy Valley
 - Drishti Singh, Youth Council, Lake Oswego
 - Rona Isakharov, Youth Council, Hillsboro
- **Legislative Landscape & LOC Legislative Priorities**
 - Infrastructure & Housing Development – Michael Martin & Alexandra Ring, Lobbyists, LOC
 - Transportation – Jim McCauley, Legislative Director, LOC
 - Clarifying Time, Place and Manner for Public Camping – Alexandra Ring, Lobbyist, LOC
 - Transient Lodging Tax – Jenna Jones, Lobbyist, LOC

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. LEGISLATIVE MEETING FEEDBACK

Salem Convention Center, Willamette Foyer

Let the LOC know what was discussed during your meetings with legislators.

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. BOXED LUNCHEAS AVAILABLE

Salem Convention Center, Willamette Foyer

12 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS*

Oregon State Capitol

12 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. YOUTH SUMMIT

Salem Public Library

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. SESSIONS

Salem Convention Center, Willamette Room

- 1-2 p.m. Lobbying at the Federal Level – NLC's Irma Esparza Diggs, Sr. Executive & Director, Federal Advocacy
- 2:15-3:15 p.m. Revenue Reform Update – Travis Stovall, Mayor, Gresham and Jenna Jones, Lobbyist, LOC
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. Lobbying 201 – Nolan Pleše, Lobbyist, LOC

3 – 4:45 p.m. STATE AGENCY TABLES

Salem Convention Center, Willamette Foyer

- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Department of Revenue
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- State Fire Marshal
- Business Oregon
- Oregon Housing and Community Services
- Oregon Department of Energy

5 p.m. – 9 p.m. NETWORKING RECEPTION & LOC CENTENNIAL KICK-OFF

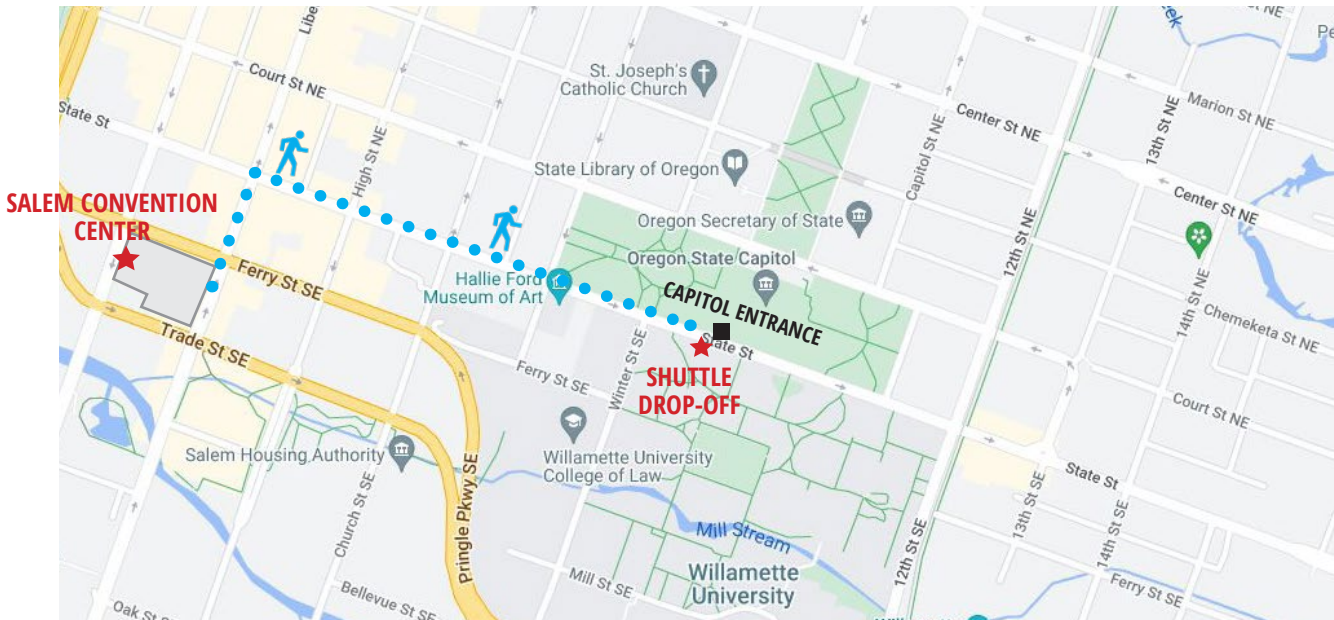
Salem Convention Center, Santiam Room

Join us for an excellent opportunity to network with peers and engage with legislators. As the official kickoff to the LOC's Centennial Celebration, the evening will feature a live band, a dance floor, heavy appetizers, drinks*, and a photo booth. Don't miss this chance to make meaningful connections in a relaxed, professional setting. We look forward to seeing you there! *No-host bar

TRANSPORTATION TO THE CAPITOL

Passenger vans are available for transportation to and from the Capitol. The vans will run approximately every 15-20 minutes.

- **Operating Hours:** 12:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
- **Pick up/Drop-off Locations:**
 - Convention Center: Covered driveway on Commercial St.
 - State Capitol: South Side of the Capitol on State St.



SAFETY AT THE CAPITOL

While we respect everyone's right to bear arms, no weapons of any kind are permitted in the Oregon State Capitol. Everyone entering the State Capitol is required to go through a metal detector. Please leave all items securely locked in your vehicles or hotel room.

Firearms: It is unlawful to enter the Oregon State Capitol building with a firearm of any kind unless a valid exception described in ORS 166.370 (3) applies. Note: A concealed handgun license is not a valid exception, per ORS 166.370 (1)(b).

Weapons: It is unlawful to enter the Oregon State Capitol building with any electronic defense weapons, facsimile weapons, knives (with a blade no longer than 3.5 inches), tasers, pepper spray, noxious or caustic chemicals, explosives, fireworks, firecrackers, and sparklers. At the discretion of security personnel and in accordance with ORS 173.720, any items deemed to be a possible weapon, a security risk or disruptive to governmental activities, or items that pose a risk to public safety, are not allowed into the State Capitol.



Welcome to City Day at the Capitol!

On behalf of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), thank you for joining your fellow mayors, city councilors, and city staff for our "City Day at the Capitol." This event provides an opportunity for cities statewide to speak with one voice to collectively influence state policy and legislation for the benefit of all our communities.

Today you will stand with other city officials from around Oregon to support legislative actions that avoid state preemptions and protect local authority. City Day is also an opportunity to educate state legislators on actions they take that will impact your communities and the difficult challenges we face. We need the state to invest in and partner with cities. By coming together, our unified voices will make a difference to advance legislative priorities supported by the LOC and our entire membership, our legislative agenda which includes the following key priorities:

- 1) **Community Infrastructure and Housing Development Funding** – The LOC will advocate for a comprehensive infrastructure package that supports increased water, sewer, stormwater, and road investments from the state. Without continual infrastructure investments, communities cannot build needed housing; these two priorities are inherently linked.
- 2) **2025 Transportation Package** – The LOC will support a robust, long-term, multimodal transportation package focused on: stabilizing funding for operations and maintenance for local governments and ODOT; continued investment in transit and bike/ped programs, safety, congestion management; and completion of projects from HB 2017. This objective includes support for a transition from gas tax to road user fee and improved community safety and livability.
- 3) **Recreational Immunity** – The LOC will introduce legislation to protect cities and other landowners who open their property for recreational purposes from tort liability claims.
- 4) **Behavioral Health Enhancements** – The LOC will support legislation to expand access to behavioral health treatment beds and allow courts greater ability to direct persons unable to care for themselves into treatment through the civil commitment process.
- 5) **Lodging Tax Flexibility** – The LOC will advocate for legislation that increases the flexibility to use locally administered and collected lodging tax revenue to support tourism-impacted services. These services include public safety, community infrastructure, and housing-related investment.
- 6) **Shelter Funding and Homeless Response** – The LOC supports legislation that improves the overall safety of the statewide transportation network in local communities. The LOC will achieve this outcome by expanding authority for establishing fixed photo radar to all cities; increasing flexibility for local speed setting authority; increasing investment in the “safe routes to schools” program; and expanding the “great streets” programs.
- 7) **Address Energy Affordability Challenges from Rising Utility Costs** – The LOC will support actions to maintain affordable, reliable, and resilient energy resources and invest in programs and new technology that support energy efficiency, renewable energy, battery storage, and resilient communities. These efforts will help address members’ concerns about increased costs associated with energy usage.
- 8) **Operator-In-Training Apprenticeships** – The LOC will advocate for funding apprenticeship training programs and expanding bilingual training opportunities to promote the workforce development of qualified wastewater and drinking water operators.
- 9) **Clarifying Time, Place and Manner for Public Camping** – The LOC will advocate public policy that allows cities to respond to the unique needs of their community’s housed and unhoused members. This advocacy will include adjustments to ORS 195.530 to provide cities with the necessary tools to address unsafe camping conditions, safeguard public spaces, and protect the health, safety, and wellness of all community members.

FUND INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Background:

Continued state investment in infrastructure is critical to supporting needed housing, community public health, livability, economic development, and environmental protection. Oregon's existing infrastructure is in serious need of upgrade and repair, and local water and wastewater providers face new and emerging, and costly challenges that require additional investment.

Concern:

Cities have limited tools to address the rising costs of the infrastructure necessary to support the development of needed housing. These challenges include a combination of environmental factors related to climate change, which profoundly impact water supply, water treatment facilities, and infrastructure critically important to housing development. To meet the growing challenges, the state must be a full partner and contribute to critical infrastructure investments needed to meet environmental and housing production objectives.

Solutions:

- The LOC will advocate for a comprehensive infrastructure package to support increased water, sewer, and stormwater investments.
- The LOC will also champion direct and programmatic infrastructure investments that support a range of needed housing development types and affordability to meet housing production goals.
- Housing production and infrastructure go hand in hand. Without infrastructure, we cannot build the needed housing. While continuing to invest in housing infrastructure, we also need to continue investing in successful housing production strategies.

SUPPORT A ROBUST, MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

Background:

Oregon needs to continue investing in transportation infrastructure at the state and local levels. Investments in Oregon's entire transportation infrastructure system are critically important to neighborhood livability, safety, access to housing, and the state's export-dependent economy. In 2017 the state passed legislation investing in \$5.3 billion toward transportation projects. The Legislature must be bold and provide needed stable funding and revenue tools capable of meeting the needs of local governments and the state.

Concern:

Transportation infrastructure requires stable investments. Without them, Oregon's transportation infrastructure will continue to erode. Of the 11,300 miles of city roadways, more than 40% are in "poor" to "very poor" condition. Oregon needs to step up with a transportation investment that stabilizes funding and meets the core needs to improve safety in neighborhoods and connect communities.

Solutions:

- The LOC supports a robust investment in core operations and maintenance that will improve neighborhood safety.
- The LOC supports the balanced distribution of state highway fund revenue under the 50-30-20 formula and a regional balance of public transit investments that can connect rural and frontier communities.
- The LOC supports identifying new revenue sources that will help generate stable revenue for use at the state and local level.
- The LOC will support efforts to allow local control of revenue sources and funding mechanisms at the local level.

SUPPORT LOCAL LODGING TAX FLEXIBILITY

Background:

Since the 1940s, many local governments have imposed some form of a transient lodging tax (TLT) on occupied hotels, motels, and inn dwelling units within their jurisdiction. In 2003, the Legislature passed the state lodging tax, while simultaneously restricting local transient lodging taxes (TLT) by requiring that revenue from any new or increased local lodging tax be spent according to a 70/30 split: 70% of local TLT must be spent on “tourism promotion” or “tourism-related facilities” and up to 30% is discretionary funds.

Concern:

Cities acknowledge and appreciate tourism's economic development benefits to their local economies. After 20 years of focusing on promoting and building a tourism economy, cities struggle to provide basic city services impacted by tourism.

In order to maintain the communities that tourists know and love, it is time to rethink how tourism-related (transient lodging taxes) revenue balance impacts communities so that it is mutually beneficial to businesses, tourists, and community members alike.

Solutions:

Oregonians support rethinking how local TLT revenue can be spent. Nearly 70% of voters supported changing the law so that tourism dollars can contribute to funding city services.

Enhanced flexibility, allowing tourism-impacted services to be funded under the 70% limitation, would be a game-changer for cities and contribute to a positive tourist experience, thus building the brand.

- In 2020, 69 cities couldn't cover their public safety expenses with the revenue raised through property taxes. These cities depend on other revenue sources, like lodging taxes, to keep residents and visitors safe, especially during the peak tourism season.
- Many coastal communities see their population increase by two to six times during a summer weekend, stretching resources and impacting local resources.

CLARIFYING TIME, PLACE & MANNER FOR PUBLIC CAMPING

Background:

In 2021, HB 3115 codified a U.S. Ninth Circuit Court decision requiring cities to implement “objectively reasonable” time, place, and manner restrictions on camping on public property.

Concern:

Since the implementation of HB 3115 cities have faced a number of challenges in regulating camping on public property. With multiple legal challenges, cities risk the ability to enforce their ordinances, and cities will continue to face uncertainty without legislative action.

Solutions Need to Provide Certainty

We must balance the need of cities to have greater clarity in statute with a common understanding of the needs and humanity of unhoused Oregonians. The LOC is open to solutions that can restore local control while protecting our unhoused population.

Possible changes to address these challenges include:

- Safe harbors (i.e. no camping on sidewalks, near schools, in parks, or near established encampments);
- Defining “objectively reasonable” for further clarification; and
- Requiring plaintiffs to name what does not meet the definition of “objectively reasonable.”



Fund Infrastructure to Support Housing

Continued investment in infrastructure is critical to support needed housing, community public health, livability, economic development, and environmental protection. Oregon's existing infrastructure is in serious need of upgrade and repair, and local water and wastewater providers face new and emerging and costly challenges that require additional investment.

Nearly \$100 Million Invested in 2024

In 2024, the Legislature passed HB 1530, which included \$94.9 million in direct grants to cities for site-specific infrastructure investments to support needed housing in projects across 47 communities. In addition, the passage of HB 4134, Housing Oregon's Workforce (HOW), added another \$7.1 million to four cities for infrastructure, increasing the total infrastructure funding to more than \$100 million in 51 cities. **Cities were instrumental in securing this funding**, identifying prior to the session more than \$900 million in unmet infrastructure needs that would eventually lead to housing development. Projects ranged from roads, to water supply, and water treatment upgrades, but were beyond the capacity of many large and small cities to finance.

New and Emerging Challenges

Cities have limited tools to address the rising costs of the infrastructure necessary to support the development of needed housing and address the following needs:

- Seismic upgrades to better ensure that some of the critical components of water systems will be able to withstand a Cascadia earthquake (e.g. system backbone; lines to hospitals; reservoirs/storage, and firefighting);
- Stormwater upgrades to withstand extreme rain and other severe weather events due to climate change;
- Additional water supply storage to combat persistent drought and declining snowpack; and
- New and more stringent water quality and permit requirements, including stormwater.

Full Funding for Housing Production

Need Outpaces Housing Development

Oregon needs to build 36,000 homes per year to meet the state's current need. Continued investment is critical to ensure that attainable housing is available to all Oregonians. Housing production and infrastructure go hand in hand, without infrastructure, we cannot build the needed housing. While continuing to invest in infrastructure related to housing, we also need to continue investing in housing production strategies that have been successful, including:

- Publicly supported affordable housing and related services;
- Affordable homeownership;
- Permanent supportive housing;

- Affordable modular and manufactured housing;
- Middle housing types; and
- Moderate-income workforce housing development.

Give Code Updates Time to Work

For years, local jurisdictions have faced changes to state regulations and updates to local code, adding challenges for staff who are already stretched thin. Most of the changes have come without implementation funding, stressing already thin local budgets. The LOC's 2024 "State of the Cities" report found that more than one-third of Oregon's cities have adjusted staffing and service delivery due to limited budget revenue. This number is expected to grow to more than 50% before the end of this fiscal year, which has led to delays in or hasty implementation that does not benefit communities. It is critical we focus on our joint goal that all Oregonians have access to safe and affordable housing. The state should pursue limited or no large-scale local code update packages this legislative cycle, giving time for local jurisdictions to implement and gauge the impact of previous updates.

A Sustained, Coordinated Investment is Needed

The League of Oregon Cities membership identified housing development, in conjunction with infrastructure, as a top legislative priority for 2025-2027. The LOC will advocate to maintain and increase state investments to support the development and preservation of a range of needed housing types and affordability, including: publicly supported affordable housing and related services; affordable homeownership; permanent supportive housing; affordable modular and manufactured housing; middle housing types; and moderate-income workforce housing development. In addition, the LOC will seek opportunities to address structural barriers to production of different housing options at the regional and state level.

Proposed Legislative Action

The LOC will advocate for a comprehensive infrastructure package to support increased water, sewer, stormwater, investments. This includes funding for system upgrades to meet increasingly complex regulatory compliance requirements, capacity and economic development, deferred maintenance, seismic and wildfire resiliency improvements. The LOC will also champion direct and programmatic infrastructure investments that support a range of needed housing development types and affordability to meet housing production goals.

Housing Contact: Alexandra Ring, Lobbyist, aring@orcities.org or 541-646-4180

Water Contact: Michael Martin, Lobbyist, mmartin@orcities.org or 971-382-2069



Support a Robust, Multimodal Transportation Package

Oregon needs to continue investing in transportation infrastructure at the state and local levels. Investments in Oregon’s entire transportation infrastructure system are critically important to neighborhood livability, safety, access to housing, and the state’s export-dependent economy. The Legislature must be bold and provide needed stable funding and revenue tools capable of meeting the needs of local governments and the state.

\$5.3 Billion Invested in 2017

During the 2017 session, the Legislature passed HB 2017, which provided significant funding for key local and state transportation systems and established a stable funding mechanism for public transit that expanded transit options for communities to connect and larger, urban-based transit systems.

If the Legislature Fails to Pass a transportation package in 2025, communities across the state will see more potholes, unmaintained streets and traffic signals, and other critical failures for both the local and state systems. This would also threaten the completion of critical project investments.

Urgency is Needed to build support for a robust transportation package in 2025 that reinforces the state’s investment in Oregon’s entire transportation system across all modes. The 2025 transportation package can and should be a statewide investment that includes local governments as a full partner.

There are fundamental elements that must be considered when building a transportation package in 2025. The process will require a return to the basics and a fundamental investment in Oregon’s transportation system that includes local governments as full partners sharing in the transportation revenues generated in local communities across Oregon.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

*Oregon’s 241 Cities are responsible for **11,300 miles** of roads. Based on member surveys, the LOC estimates that over 40% of city roads are in “poor” to “very poor” condition.*

*The LOC estimates an annual operations and maintenance gap of **\$633 million** and an annual capital construction need of **\$1 billion** to meet 20 years of expected growth.*

The average vehicle owner contributes approximately \$300 annually to Oregon’s transportation infrastructure.

These fundamental elements must include:

Transportation Safety – this remains a top concern, as traffic fatalities and serious injuries have continued to rise over the last few years. Increasing investments in safety improvements that minimize conflicts between transportation options, such as improved pedestrian crossings, are necessary to make Oregon communities safer.

Investment in transportation safety is most critically needed on our high-traffic roads and near our schools. Over the last five years, cities have faced significant increases in the loss of life along roadways. This includes fatal vehicular crashes, bike crashes, and those involving pedestrians. Increased investment in safety projects will make a significant difference.

Start the Transition to a Road User Fee - Oregon must reduce the continued erosion of buying power from the gas tax and stabilize revenue for transportation investments. This will create a fee structure based on the true impact of vehicles that utilize Oregon's transportation infrastructure.

Finish Projects from HB 2017 - 43 projects across Oregon were part of the commitments made in 2017. The scale of these investments was historic and resulted from a significant bipartisan effort, but not all have been completed. These unfinished projects must be completed because they remain critical for all communities in Oregon.

Contact: Jim McCauley, Legislative Director, jmccauley@orcities.org or 971-219-5963

LOC Legislative Webpage – Resources for Cities

The Legislative webpage on the LOC website (www.orcities.org) is your resource during the 2025 session. Information you'll find there includes:

- Details on each of the nine legislative priorities;
- How to join the Friday Legislative Update Webinars, and recordings of past webinars;
- The latest legislative news;
- How to contact your legislator;
- Bill tracker links and tutorials on how to get the most out of these legislative tools.





Support Local Lodging Tax Flexibility

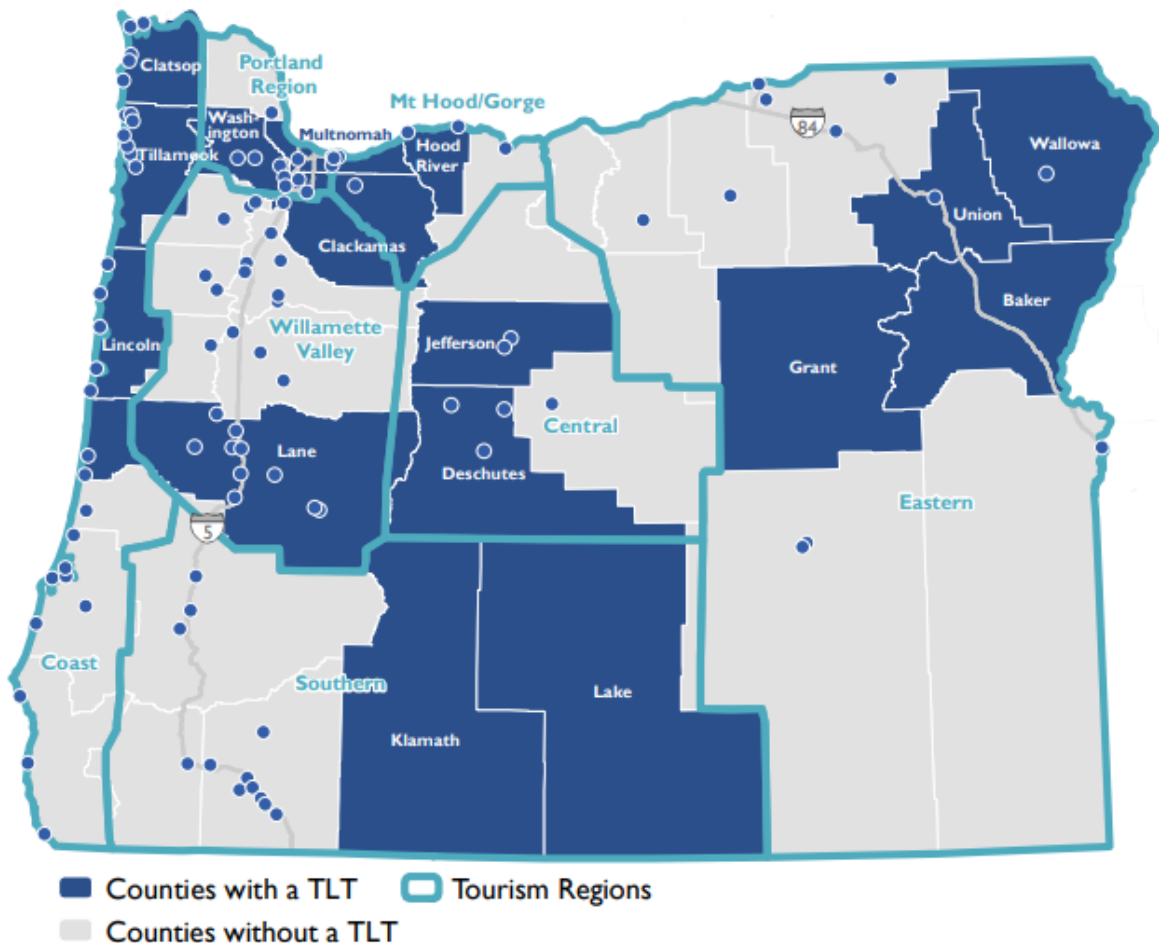
Cities are asking for legislation that will enhance flexibility in how cities use transient lodging tax revenues. The goal is to help cities better serve visitors and improve local conditions that support the tourism industry.

Current Restrictions Hamper Local Efforts

Since the 1940s, many local governments have imposed some form of a transient lodging tax (TLT) on occupied hotel, motel, and inn dwelling units within their jurisdiction. There are currently 104 cities (see blue dots on map below) and 16 counties that levy a local TLT.

In 2003, the Legislature passed the *state* lodging tax, while simultaneously restricting local transient lodging taxes (TLT) by requiring that revenue from any new or increased local lodging tax be spent according to a 70/30 split: 70% of local TLT must be spent on “tourism promotion” or “tourism related facilities” and up to 30% is discretionary funds. Some of the services outside of those definitions that are funded with TLT come from the 30% portion, even if the services directly benefit the tourism industry because the definitions are too limiting. Cities with taxes established prior to 2003 have their original agreements frozen in time and any tax increases after 2003 are subject to the 70/30 split.

Source: ECONorthwest, using data from Dean Runyan Associates.



Note: Cities without a TLT are not delineated on this map.

Additional Flexibility to Support Tourism-Impacted Services

Cities acknowledge and appreciate the economic development benefits that tourism brings to their local economies, and after 20 years of focusing on promoting and building a tourism economy, cities are struggling to provide basic city services impacted by tourism. In order to maintain the communities that tourists know and love, it is time to rethink how to tourism related (transient lodging taxes) revenues balance impacts on communities so that it is mutually beneficial to businesses, tourists, and community members alike. Enhanced flexibility, allowing tourism impacted services to be funded under the 70% limitation would be a gamechanger for cities.

- In a recent LOC survey, cities said increased flexibility would allow them to better fund public safety (police, fire, and EMS), community infrastructure and housing impacted by tourism.
- In a public opinion poll over the summer of 2024, nearly 70% of voters supported changing the law so that instead of being used to drive more tourism, a portion of hotel and motel taxes (local TLT) can be used to help fund vital city services instead, including some of the costs of services tourism uses.
- Based on data from city financial reports, in 2020 there were 69 cities that couldn't cover their **public safety** expenses with the amount of revenue raised through property taxes. These cities depend on other revenue sources like lodging taxes to keep residents and visitors safe, especially during the peak tourism season.
- Cities on the coast will see their population increase by two to six times during a summer weekend, according to local officials. **Community infrastructure** needs to be built to handle peak tourism traffic, and with more wear and tear, cities are facing increased maintenance costs.

Contact: Jenna Jones, Tax and Finance Lobbyist, jjones@orcities.org or 971-416-6818

Permanently Restore Recreational Immunity

Background

Oregon has historically encouraged landowners, public and private, to open their property to recreational purposes by granting them tort immunity when they allow free access to their land for public enjoyment. This immunity allowed cities and other property owners to develop innovative opportunities for recreation such as bike parks, trails and other features the public expects. However, an adverse court decision, stemming from an injury on a trail, allowed a hiker to bring suit claiming they were not on the trail primarily for a recreational purpose. The Legislature provided a temporary adjustment to state statute during the 2024 short session by adding, “walking, running and cycling” to the definition of recreational activities to protect recreational access to public and provided land.

Concern

If the Legislature doesn’t revisit this issue, the relief cities and other landowners received in 2024 expires in July of 2025. Legislation has been introduced to eliminate the sunset contained in the 2024 legislation. Additionally, park managers have identified the potential for liability related to powered devices such as electronic bicycles and powered scooters and skateboards that is not currently contemplated in Oregon law.

Solution

Pass legislation to eliminate the existing sunset and further adjust state statute to ensure cities and other recreation providers receive the same immunity protection for powered recreation as they do for all other activities.

Contact: Scott Winkels, Lobbyist, swinkels@orcities.org or 971-428-7275

Behavioral Health Enhancements

Background

Despite significant investments in 2021, 2023 and 2024, Oregon continues to experience deficiencies in behavioral health services for its residents in need. While resources and system capacity account for many of the challenges facing Oregonians needing care, statutory roadblocks continue to be an issue. Of particular concern for cities and other local governments is the high legal bar that must be met to civilly commit a person who presents a danger to themselves or others. Additionally, the number of secure treatment beds available for the people requiring this high degree of care is insufficient to meet the demand in all parts of the state.

Concern

Oregon civil commitment standards are onerous to the point of leading to negative outcomes for patients and there aren’t enough secure treatment beds to meet the need.

Solution

Amend Oregon’s civil commitment law to allow persons whose mental state will lead to ongoing safety concerns to be civilly committed and ensure the state has sufficient capacity to successfully treat these patients.

Contact: Scott Winkels, Lobbyist, swinkels@orcities.org or 971-428-7275

Support Local Rehousing and Shelter Efforts

To end homelessness, a cross-sector coordinated approach to delivering services, housing, and programs is needed. The LOC will support a comprehensive homeless response package to fund the needs of homeless shelter and homeless response efforts statewide, as well needed policy changes.

Investment in Rehousing and Shelter

Even with historic legislative investments in recent years, Oregon still faces a housing crisis with many Oregonians remaining unhoused. Oregon still lacks a coordinated, statewide shelter and homeless response system with stable funding. As Oregon continues to face increasing rates of unsheltered homelessness, the LOC is committed to strengthening a regionally based, intersectional state homeless response system to ensure all Oregonians can equitably access stable housing and maintain secure, thriving communities.

Groundwork for Local Coordination HB 4123 (2022)

Passed HB 4123 in 2022, creating 8 pilot local coordinating groups for homelessness, allowing cities and counties to work together to ensure best utilization in resources in their local community. These pilot groups have spent the last two years working together, forming the basis for some of the Local Planning Groups (LPGs) that exist today.

Funding Shelter and Rehousing Efforts

Funding should include baseline operational support to continue and strengthen coordinated regional homeless response and include a range of shelter types and services, including alternative shelter models, safe parking programs, rapid rehousing, outreach, case management, staffing and administrative support, and other related services. The LOC will also support capital funding for additional shelter infrastructure and site preparation. Oregon's homeless response system must recognize the critical role of cities in homeless response and meaningfully include cities in regional funding and decision-making, in partnership with counties, community action agencies, continuums of care, housing authorities, and other service provider partners.

This package must include funding for:

- All shelter types, including alternative non-congregate models, like safe parking programs and pod villages.
- Regional coordination, allowing cities and counties to work together to better serve their communities.
- Rapid rehousing, working to prevent new households from becoming homeless.
- Outreach and case management.

Contact: Alexandra Ring, Housing Lobbyist, aring@orcities.org or 541-646-4180

Support Legislation to Address Energy Affordability from Rising Utility Costs

The LOC will: support actions to maintain affordable and reliable energy resources; invest in programs and new technology that support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and battery storage to reduce overall energy costs and demands; and address grid challenges by supporting energy resilience while balancing the pace of energy production and supply that impact rates.

Background

In recent years, rising utility costs have increased the energy burden on Oregonians, particularly low-income Oregonians, those with fixed incomes, and those unable to work. Costs contributing to these increases include: infrastructure upgrades; maintenance and modernization; climate impacts from increased extreme weather events (wildfires, ice storms, snowstorms, flooding, etc.); mitigation costs associated with extreme weather events; fuel costs; inflation; legislative and gubernatorial actions; and investments in new energy-producing technology.

While many investment opportunities exist, more cooperation and collaboration are essential to finding a path forward that reduces the need for the large rate increases that impact Oregonians. Rate increases should balance and prioritize vital labor, infrastructure, and mitigations necessary to sustain present and future energy demands with compensation.

Building, Upgrading, and Maintaining Current Transmission Lines

Building new transmission lines will be necessary to meet the energy demands of the future, but we can reduce the overall costs and number of projects by utilizing new technologies to upgrade and maintain existing lines. Grid enhancing technologies (GETs) and reconductoring can increase the capacity of our current lines considerably, while grid hardening techniques can significantly reduce the potential of wildfires without burying the lines. Oregon can dramatically reduce the burden of rate increases by adopting new technologies, maintaining and upgrading the current grid, and building smarter with low-cost, high-reward options.

Supporting Local Energy Production, Microgrids, and Resilient Communities

Addressing high utility rates and building resilient communities go hand in hand. Every community in Oregon has unique resources that can be utilized to generate energy locally, thus reducing the need to buy power from outside of the state and having the added effect of building resilient communities. Setting up microgrids and adding battery storage can ensure that a community is able to keep the lights on and that critical services will function during the worst disasters. To achieve these objectives, the LOC will:

- Support legislation that empowers communities to set up their own microgrids, build locally generated renewable energy and battery storage, and create energy resilient communities.

- Support an additional \$25 million to continue the [Community Renewable Energy Grant \(C-REP\) program](#) through the 2025-26 biennium to help local governments plan for and construct projects that build energy resilient communities.
 - 92 projects have been awarded a planning or construction grant through the first three rounds
 - 34 cities have been awarded a grant for planning or construction
 - 71 cities have applied

Addressing Energy Utility Rates

In 2021, the Legislature passed HB 2021, which set timelines for the state’s investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to transition to clean energy resources. Since then, energy demand has skyrocketed, and a major reason has been the dramatic increase in technology and the data centers necessary to power this new technology. These high-energy users are creating major pressures on our energy system, and Oregonians are bearing the brunt of those costs in IOU territories. To address this, legislators are seeking tools that will allow the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) to assign energy costs to outsized energy users instead of burdening residential customers.

Additionally, other efforts seek to ensure that rate increases are covering the most essential investments to ensure Oregon retains a reliable, safe, and affordable grid. This will enable the PUC to determine a rate increase by focusing on investments, maintenance, and factors necessary to maintain the grid and provide a safeguard against unaffordable rate increases.

Contact: Nolan Pleše, Energy Lobbyist, nplese@orcities.org or 971-428-7278

Online Resource: Lobbying 101 Toolkit

The LOC’s Lobbying 101 Toolkit is an online resource to help city officials in Oregon effectively communicate with their state and federal elected leaders. Within the Lobbying 101 Toolkit, city officials will learn:

- The basics of the Oregon Legislature, including how to find your legislator, track a bill, submit testimony, and read a bill, plus the official and unofficial rules of lobbying.
- How to build relationships with legislators and key staff members.
- The difference between lobbying for substantive policy reform, versus lobbying for needed supplemental revenue, and how to do both successfully.

This toolkit is comprised of short training videos, frequently asked questions, helpful links, sample documents, and other tools that will help city officials build confidence in representing their community, and more effectively engage with their lawmakers for the betterment of their local communities.

Find it at www.orcities.org > Advocacy > Legislative Advocacy, or scan the QR code.



Support Training Programs to Expand the Water Workforce

Cities are asking for legislation that would expand the availability of qualified drinking water and wastewater operators.

Water Workforce Pipeline Slows to a Trickle

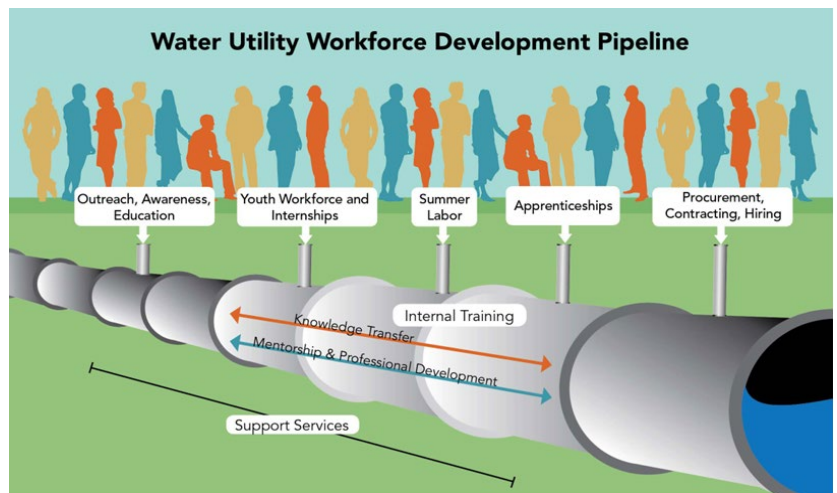
Water and wastewater utilities are the backbone of our healthy and prosperous communities. Water utilities ensure households have access to safe and clean water, and support economic development through stable and cost-effective services. These utilities have often been so successful that their success is taken for granted and we rarely see or hear about their challenges. A growing concern has emerged about the long-term sustainability of the workforce that make utilities function.

A large portion of the workforce is nearing retirement just as advances in technology and accelerating climatic change are bringing up new and more sophisticated challenges. A nimble and adaptive workforce provides the human capital to respond to new and emerging challenges and help the organization adapt to a changing environment.

Operator-In-Training Apprenticeships

Cities need opportunities to recruit and retain qualified drinking water and wastewater operators. Funding apprenticeship training programs and expanding bilingual training opportunities to promote the workforce development of qualified wastewater and drinking water operators will aid in these efforts.

- Internship programs: One aspect of talent development is the use of interns. A barrier to quality interns can be the lack of pay that is associated with the opportunity.
- Funding operator-in-training apprenticeships will help cities meet the challenges of recruiting and retaining a qualified water workforce.
- Additional opportunities to recruit and retain qualified drinking water and wastewater operators are through state-to-state reciprocity. By allowing qualified operators from other states to enter the water workforce in Oregon, we can ensure our communities have the skilled workforce to provide access to safe and clean water.



Source: Willamette Partnership 2019 Water Infrastructure Workforce Report

The LOC will advocate for funding apprenticeship training programs and expanding bilingual training opportunities to promote the workforce development of qualified wastewater and drinking water operators.

Contact: Michael Martin, Lobbyist, mmartin@orcities.org or 971-382-2069



Clarifying Time, Place & Manner for Public Camping

Defining Objectively Reasonable

Passed in 2021, HB 3115 codified a U.S. Ninth Circuit Court decision requiring cities to implement “objectively reasonable” time, place, and manner restrictions on camping on public property. Since implementation of this policy, cities have faced a number of challenges in regulating camping on public property, and there have been multiple legal challenges, leaving cities unable to enforce their ordinances. The LOC’s work to amend the policy is not to re-criminalize homelessness, but rather clarity on what restrictions can and can’t be places on camping on public property. Possible changes to address these challenges include:

- Safe harbors (i.e. no camping on sidewalks, near schools, in parks, or near established encampments);
- Defining “objectively reasonable” for further clarification; and
- Requiring plaintiffs to name what does not meet the definition of “objectively reasonable.”

We must balance the need of cities to have greater clarity in statute with a common understanding of the needs and humanity of unhoused Oregonians. The LOC is open to negotiation that will restore local control while also protecting our unhoused population. LOC has in past Legislative Sessions and will continue in the 2025 Session to focus on working with partners others to create a better response to the homeless crisis and support was to identify more funding for shelters, wrap-around services, and housing development.

Differing Treatment Under the Law

Of the 241 cities in Oregon, 49 have specific city ordinances that regulate the time, place or manner in which people may sit, sleep, or lie on public property. All of these ordinances have different interpretations of “objectively reasonable”, leading to different protections and legal standings for unhoused Oregonians across the state. With no standards in place, cities have created a patchwork of restrictions and leave the interpretation up to the discretion of circuit court judges, whose opinions vary from judge to judge, often creating additional conflicts over interpretation. All of this leads to unhoused Oregonians being treated differently in different cities.

Addressing Cities’ and Oregonians’ Needs

The LOC will advocate for public policy positions which allow cities to respond to the unique needs of community members, both housed and unhoused. This advocacy will include adjustments to ORS 195.530 to provide cities with the necessary tools to: address unsafe camping conditions; safeguard public spaces; and protect the health, safety, and wellness of all community members.

Public Safety Contact: Scott Winkels, Lobbyist, swinkels@orcities.org or 971-428-7275

Housing Contact: Alexandra Ring, Lobbyist, aring@orcities.org or 541-646-4180



Jim McCauley
Legislative Director
 Direct: (971) 219-5963
 jmccauley@orcities.org
Oversight of League's legislative program; transportation, wildfire



Alexandra Ring
Lobbyist
 Direct: (541) 646-4180
 aring@orcities.org
Advocacy issues: Land use, housing, eminent domain



Jenna Jones
Lobbyist
 Direct: (971) 416-6818
 jjones@orcities.org
Advocacy issues: finance and taxation, economic development



Michael Martin
Lobbyist
 Direct: (971) 382-2069
 mmartin@orcities.org
Advocacy issues: Water, wastewater, environment, natural resources, solid waste



Nolan Pleše
Lobbyist
 Direct: (971) 428-7278
 nplese@orcities.org
Advocacy issues: information services, security, and technology; energy; environment; public contracting



Scott Winkels
Lobbyist
 Direct: (971) 428-7275
 swinkels@orcities.org
Advocacy issues: PERS, ethics, human resources, collective bargaining, public safety, mental health & general government



Join Us Fridays at Noon for the Latest Legislative News

LOC Executive Director Patty Mulvihill, Legislative Director Jim McCauley and the Intergovernmental Relations team provide the latest information from the Capitol as the 2025 legislative session continues.

When: Fridays at 12 p.m. during session

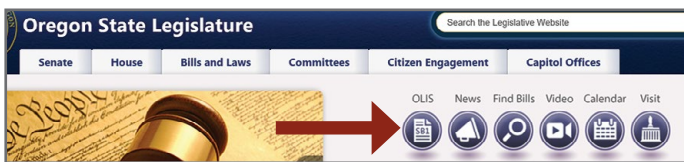
Learn how to participate via Zoom on the LOC's website: www.orcities.org.

What is OLIS?

The Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) is an online database with information on current and past legislative sessions. In OLIS, you can view a day's legislative activities, find bills and related bill materials, watch and listen to legislative committee hearings, and watch both Senate and House floor sessions.

How Can I Access OLIS?

OLIS is accessed using the "OLIS" icon on the Oregon State Legislature's home page: www.oregonlegislature.gov.



How Do I Track a Bill in OLIS?

To find a bill, click the "Bills" icon on the right and select to search by number, text or sponsor. After entering your search criteria select "Go" and click on the bill number to see a significant amount of information, such as the bill's legislative history.



Scan the QR code to go to OLIS.

Can I View Bills or Materials from Past Sessions?

Yes. OLIS contains committee materials, floor materials, and bills dating back to 2007. Under the "Session" tab, click the session of interest and use the same search functions as described above.

Questions

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the IGR staff responsible for your issue, or contact Meghyn Fahndrich at mfahndrich@orcities.org who can help connect you with the appropriate resources.

2025 Regular Session
SB 504

Overview | Text | Analysis | Meeting Material/Exhibits | Amendments

Read the bill or download as a PDF

At the request of: (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on)

Chief Sponsors:

Regular Sponsors: (Pre-session Filed)

Bill Title: Relating to immunity of public bodies.

Catchline/Summary: Eliminates limitation of liability for owner of land

Chapter Number:

Fiscal Impact:

Revenue Impact:

Measure Analysis: [Staff Measure Summary / Impact Statements](#)

Legislative staff's summary of the bill

Current Location: Senate Presidents Desk - Awaiting Referral

Current Committee:

Current Subcommittee: Find where in the process the bill is

Subsequent Referral(s):

Measure History > See the legislative history of the bill

Related Events > See future events related to the bill

Find Your Legislator

Scan code below with your phone to view the legislator lookup tool.



Committee Assignments

Scan code below with your phone to find out what committee your legislator is on.



We need your voice.

The success of the LOC's legislative advocacy relies on your participation. Legislators need to know how the policies they are evaluating will impact communities in their districts.

Special interest groups are out in force advocating for what they want and getting commitments from legislators and candidates early. As a local leader, it is critical that you get a commitment from them to work with you now and for the long run. Your ability to “tell your city's story” and communicate with legislators and candidates about how specific issues affect your community is a critical factor in the success of city legislative efforts.

Effective advocacy begins with you. It is essential that you work with legislators both at home and while they are in the Capitol. Let them know how issues that they are deciding in the Capitol impact your shared constituents. Meet with your legislators regularly, and remain in contact with them during the legislative session—become a valuable resource. Make sure that they are invested in what is important to your community and that local government concerns are at the forefront of their agenda.

Cities are strong when they speak with a unified voice. Working together, we will ensure that the voice of cities is heard. To support city advocacy efforts and ensure that your community is getting the most out of your efforts:

- ✓ **Read the *LOC Bulletin*** – sent by e-mail every Friday. The *Bulletin* provides you with the information you need to most effectively communicate with your legislators about priority issues during session.
- ✓ **Participate in Weekly Legislative Update Webinars** – Join the LOC's Intergovernmental Relations team on Zoom every Friday at noon for an update on the legislative session.
- ✓ **Visit the League's Legislative Web Page Often** – go to the LOC's website at www.oregoncities.org and navigate to “Advocacy” then “Legislative Advocacy.” This page has the most up-to-date news and information from the Capitol about issues that impact your community.
- ✓ **Sign up on the Oregon Legislative Site and track bills of interest on the Oregon Legislative Information System portal (OLIS).**
- ✓ **Check Social Media** – follow the LOC both on Twitter (@OregonCities) and Facebook (@LeagueofOregonCities). Check these platforms for legislative updates. Don't forget to use our hashtags #ORCities2025 and #ORCitiesLeg
- ✓ **Provide the LOC with Feedback** – send an e-mail, copy LOC on communications with legislators, or call. To most effectively advocate for your community, the LOC needs to hear from you about your interactions with legislators and what is happening in your community.

Most people don't take the time to contact their elected officials, so just a few connections on a specific topic can really make an impact. A message from a fellow elected official or city staff carries significant weight. Your communication with elected officials supports the LOC's work in Salem and on federal issues in Washington, D.C. It can change the way they vote.

The following communication tips will assist you in working with elected officials (local elected officials, state legislators, the governor or Oregon's congressional delegation).

Making the Contact

Your entry point for contact with legislators is literally their staff. Whether it's field staff in Oregon for a member of Congress, or the office staff in Salem or D.C., your first impression is critical because staff hold the initial key to access. If you treat them with respect and patience, chances are, you will have more success in future contact.

Delivering the Message

- Get to know your legislators, members of Congress and their staff to determine the best way to communicate.
- Calling is very effective when you need to get your message across quickly.
- Meeting with elected officials is an essential part of your advocacy efforts. Like you, elected officials have busy schedules so it is important to get your message across concisely and quickly. As a general rule, they often have more time to meet when they are home in their districts or when the Legislature or Congress is not in session.
- Writing is a formal way to remind other elected officials that they are accountable for the choices they make and that their decisions have a direct impact on your shared constituents.
- Emailing is a more immediate way to contact elected officials quickly and in writing.

Calling Elected Officials

DO

- **Ask to speak with the elected official directly.** If they are not available, ask to speak with the appropriate staff person who is working on the issue. Staff has the elected official's ear and is

often very knowledgeable about the details of your issue. At times they can be your greatest ally.

- **Know what you want to say and be brief.** Cover your main points early in the conversation.
- **Leave your name, city and telephone number.** This will make it easier for staff to get back to you with information on the issue.
- **Ask the elected official for their position on the issue.** If you talk with staff, let them know that you need them to get back to you with the elected official's position.
- **Thank them for their time** and ask if you can provide additional information or be helpful in any way.
- **Follow up your phone call with a brief thank you note,** a concise summary of your position, and additional information if needed.
- **Give feedback to LOC** about what you learned.

DON'T

- **Bluff.** If you are asked a question that you cannot answer, say that you will get back to them and then follow up in a timely manner. Bluffing won't build a relationship, which is the goal.

Meeting with Elected Officials

DO

- **Call first for an appointment.** Explain the purpose of your visit.
- **Arrive on time.**
- **Email materials to staff in advance** if possible, but be sure to bring hard copies of materials to leave, including a business card.
- **Be respectfully tenacious** and do not get discouraged. Lobbying takes time and patience and sometimes you must walk before running.
- **Make the appointment convenient,** such as setting it up at the elected official's office.
- **Ask to meet directly with the elected official.** If they are unable to meet with you, schedule an appointment with the staff handling the issue. This often happens with our congressional delegation. If you meet with staff, be clear that you want them to get back to you with the position of the elected official.



LEGISLATIVE CONVERSATIONS SUMMARY

Your conversations with legislators are important to LOC's advocacy efforts! Please complete this form following your legislator meetings and return it to the LOC Registration Desk. Additional forms are available.

Name: _____

City: _____ Title: _____

Who did you meet with? _____

What priorities did you talk about? _____

Meeting Notes: _____

Important feedback for LOC lobbyists: _____



LEGISLATIVE CONVERSATIONS SUMMARY

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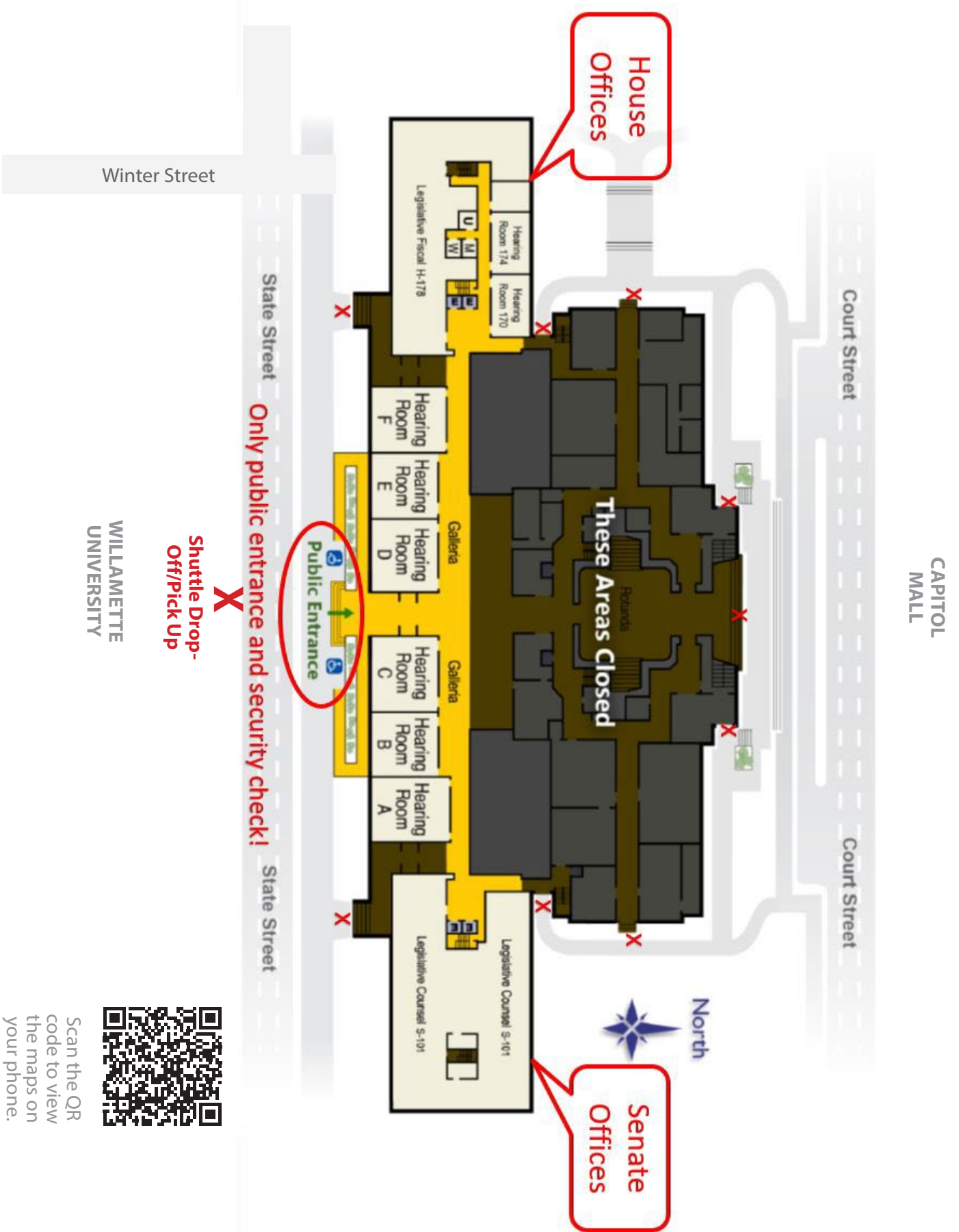
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CAPITOL MAPS

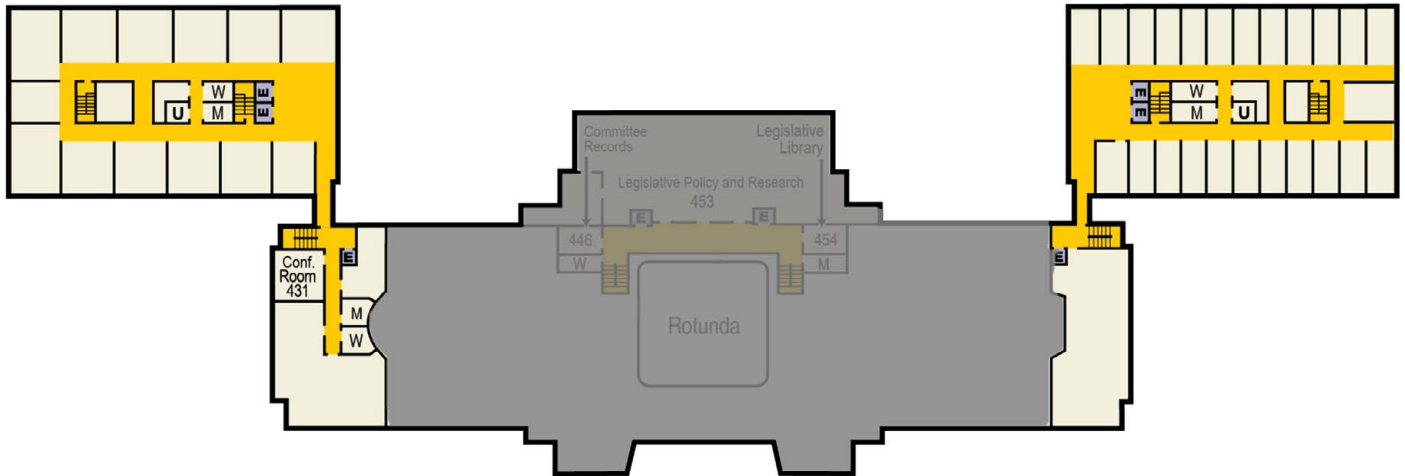


Scan the QR code to view the maps on your phone.



S 401 - S 425
Senate Member Offices

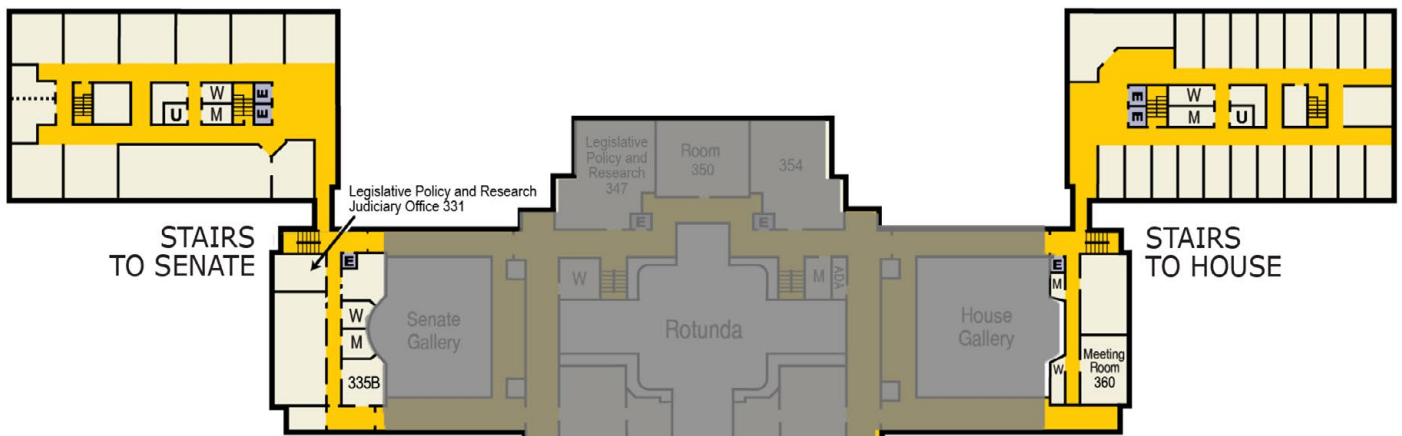
H 471 - H 493
House Member Offices



Fourth Floor Map

S 301 - S 323
Senate Member Offices

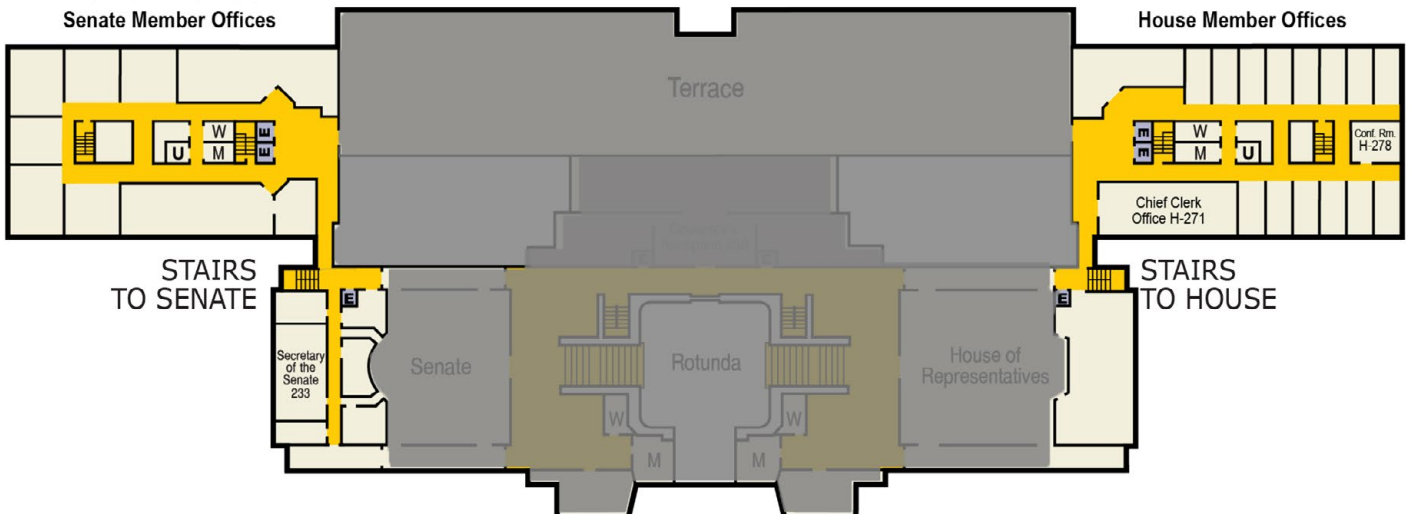
H 371 - H 395
House Member Offices



Third Floor Map

S 201 - S 223
Senate Member Offices

H 269 - H 295
House Member Offices



Second Floor Map



League of Oregon Cities

100

**BUILDING
STATEWIDE
PARTNERSHIPS**



S. Scott McDowell

From: Jim McCauley <jmccauley@orcities.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 4:37 PM
Subject: City Day Participants - Advocacy Information, LOC Legislative Priorities
Attachments: CityDayBooklet-final.pdf

Flag Status: Flagged

City Day Registrants,

Welcome to your pre-City Day communications. LOC staff will send other communications, but this one is for the **advocacy work on January 28**.

Member Packet,

We have attached the member packet and a link below to allow you to access the document, download it, and print it in advance. Hard copies will also be available on City Day. This packet will give you everything you need, including maps for shuttles between the Capitol and the Salem Convention Center. There are also white papers for each of the Legislative Priorities that the LOC Board approved at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Bend. The seven member-driven policy committees identified these legislative issues and were later voted on by LOC members.

[MEMBER PACKET](#)

Your lobby team has selected **four issues** to focus on for City Day. Given the limited time available when you meet with legislators, you won't have time to pitch all nine priorities. Instead, we are focusing our energy on the following issues:

- 1) Infrastructure Funding
- 2) Transportation Package
- 3) HB 3115 - Clarifying Time, Place & Manner for Public Camping
- 4) Transient Lodging Tax

Please Note: All legislative offices will have received the LOC's Top Legislative Priorities before City Day. We will also have hard copies of the four issues we are focused on for City Day available at the convention center for you to take with you and distribute to legislative offices.

Friday, January 24, (Noon – 1 pm) Webinar

Please join us for a webinar this Friday from noon to 1 p.m. The purpose of the statewide webinar is to communicate the top legislative priorities going into the 2025 session and serve as an opportunity to learn more about City Day the following week. We have structured the call so that the first 30 minutes will be on legislative priorities, and then the second half of the hour will be a discussion of City Day and what to expect.

You can join the webinar below.

[Join the Zoom meeting here](#)

Meeting ID: 894 8328 0915

Passcode: 274876

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,89483280915# US

+16699009128,,89483280915# US (San Jose)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm looking forward to next week's City Day. Over 300 members are participating, so let's make sure your time counts, and we start 2025 off with a strong message of advocacy for city priorities.

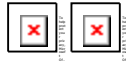


Jim McCauley, *Legislative Director*

503-588-6550 direct: 503-540-6593 cell: 971-219-5963

1201 Court St. NE, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97301-4194

www.orcities.org



S. Scott McDowell

From: noreply@orcities.org
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2024 4:44 PM
To: admin@brownsvilleor.org
Subject: Thank you for your order

Here are the details of your order, please call us at (503) 588-6550 if you have any questions.

If you registered for a virtual event/training, a separate email with the link to join the meeting will be sent to you a week prior to the event/training.

Member Name: Brownsville

Order Date: Dec 30, 2024 4:42 PM
Bill To: Brownsville
Order Total: 455.00
Payment Method: MasterCard 5475*****5587
Name on Card: Stephen s McDowell

Item	Price	Quantity	Total
Invoice R24432: MCDOWELL, S. SCOTT, 2025 City Day at the Capitol - S. Scott McDowell	65.00	1	65.00
Invoice R24430: SOLBERG, TRAPPER, 2025 City Day at the Capitol - Trapper Solberg	65.00	1	65.00
Invoice R24431: EVERSULL, FELIPE, 2025 City Day at the Capitol - Felipe Eversull	65.00	1	65.00
Invoice R24429: HANSEN, DAVID, 2025 City Day at the Capitol - David K. Hansen	65.00	1	65.00
Invoice R24428: CHAMBERS, LYNDA, 2025 City Day at the Capitol - Lynda Chambers	65.00	1	65.00
Invoice R24427: CRAVEN, ADAM, 2025 City Day at the Capitol - Adam Craven	65.00	1	65.00
Invoice R24426: WINKLEPLECK, MIKE, 2025 City Day at the Capitol - Mike Winklepleck	65.00	1	65.00
	Item Total		0.00
	Item Grand Total		0.00
	Invoice Total		455.00
	Transaction Grand Total		455.00
	Payment Amount		455.00
	Balance due		0.00