



Legislative Report

February 15, 2013

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The 77th Oregon Legislative Session Begins !

Competing Financial Roles

by Peggy Lynch

The Governor used a new process to develop his Balanced Budget (http://www.oregon.gov/gov/priorities/Documents/GBB_Complete.pdf) focusing on "outcomes" rather than just "current services level". Last week the Joint Ways and Means Committee reminded the Governor that "the Governor proposes and the Legislature disposes". They introduced additional budget bills in case there are budgets which have been consolidated in the Governor's Budget which may be offered separately by the Legislature. If we are to change the way government operates, it will take both branches to work together toward those "outcomes" in a way that both feel are administered effectively and efficiently while providing the services that Oregonians demand. The League looks forward to continuing to be a part of those discussions. After all, tax reform will come ONLY after the citizenry believes government is working.

Social Policy

Kids, Kids, Kids

The Early Learning Council will be developed further in [HB 2222](#). During this session, decisions will be made on the phase out of county Commissions on Children and Families and the start of the regional hub organizations. The transition will involve county governments until the hubs are established. The timeline for the Request for Application as a Hub will likely leave a gap in funding for current services.



Karen Nibler, Social Policy Coordinator

At the Early Learning Council meeting on Feb. 14 in Salem, the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)

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Meter Parking at the Capitol Increases

Bring more quarters when you park at meters in Salem.

This includes the Capitol Mall meters. Parking will cost you \$1.50 per hour on Thursday, February 14.

[Strategic Plan](#) was introduced. This Plan describes the goals and outcomes of Governor Kitzhaber's Early Education Plan.

The Youth Development Council will be required in [HB 2392](#) to consult with county boards of commissioners and county juvenile departments in further defining the role of the new agency. [SB 436](#) requires the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) to use school based health centers and coordinate with the Early Learning Council (ELC) and Youth Development Council (YDC) and its service providers. [SB 138](#) requests separate funding for the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team. [SB 5518](#) contains the budget for the ELC and YDC.

Child Welfare: The Senate convened an Interim Foster Care Task Force which heard from advocates and providers. In the House, [HB 2591](#) proposes a new Task Force on Foster Care Alternatives. Last session Catholic Charities was allowed to accept teens into private placements under their programs.

Both [SB 123](#) and [HB 2610](#) define the rights of children in foster care, which is a new concept this year. [SB 304](#) concerns placement with relatives or known foster parents, and [SB 404](#) includes grandparents as a party in dependency cases. [HB 2053](#) allows tribal officials to run background checks on potential foster parents.



[HB 2599](#) requires that court be notified if a child is placed into protective custody. [HB 2431](#) requires that a juvenile taken into protective custody be released to a shelter facility. Juveniles should only be placed in a detention facility if they have committed a crime. [HB 2592](#) requires that the Department of Human Services and state funded youth service agencies use evidence based practices. Specifically, this bill asks for placement in a stable living environment that will reduce the likelihood that the person will become a juvenile offender.

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Kids, Families and Seniors

Human Services: [SB 450](#) establishes a Task Force on the Delivery of Human Services. The bill asks the state to investigate models in other states and identify which human services programs are conducive to a unified delivery system and which programs must remain

The former \$8 daily parking permit will be \$15 beginning March 1. If you have \$8 parking permits, they will be honored.

Contact Sheri Wahrgren at City of Salem for additional information.
swahrgren@cityofsalem.net
503.540.2495

Public Workshop Offered on Oregon's Legislative Process

Monday, February 18, 2013
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Oregon State Capitol Hearing Room B
[Live streaming video](#) of the event will be available at 6:00 pm
Send questions to legislators during the event by emailing AdministrationLeg@leg.state.or.us

The Workshop will begin with a panel of legislators from the House and the Senate, including:
Senate President Peter Courtney,
House Speaker Tina Kotek,
House Rep Leader Mike McLane, and
Senator Jackie Winters.

The panelists will offer insight into the legislative process and answer questions from the public about how best to engage with the Legislature.

Following the panel presentation, legislative staff will show participants how to research and track legislation, listen to or watch a committee meeting, submit testimony, and testify before a committee.

separate and coordinate with the system.

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF) faces an increased caseload due to the economy. The Department of Human Services faced budget problems and took a reduction in February 2012. The redesign and expansion of the program in 2007 cannot be funded with the present caseload, although the February 2012 session did retain the JOBS program. [HB 2054](#) considers the sustainability of the TANF program. One of the proposals is to reduce the time limit in the program from 5 to 3 years.

The Seniors and People with Disabilities Division will review the long term care system in [HB 2056](#) with the goal of reducing nursing facilities. The population is growing older, which puts strain on the budget. The division includes in-home, personal and respite care in addition to medical care. Developmental Disabilities Division faces increased costs for services and group home rates.



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Natural Resources

Oregon's Economic Advantage

"As recently as 2000, Oregon's quality of life ranked 5th highest among the 50 states and the District of Columbia." (Albouy & Lue, University of Michigan, 2011) Even as housing prices rose and wages have been stagnant, people continue to move to Oregon, often young educated people. So keeping Oregon "Oregon" is an economic advantage for Oregon.

Let's all Keep Oregon Green!

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Peggy Lynch, Natural Resources Coordinator

Columbia River Treaty

Thanks to Action volunteer,



LWVOR's partner
Oregon Conservation
Network
releases

Priorities for a Healthy Oregon 2013

[click here](#)

to learn what they are.

Legislative Information Made Easier

If you have had a difficult time
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and give it a try.

Highlights of Legislative Process Day

Thursday, Jan 17, 2013



100 Attendees



House Speaker, Tina Kotek



Not Yet Ready for Prime Time
Panel

Phil Thor, LWVOR submitted comments to the Columbia River Treaty Sovereign Review Team on "broad perspectives on the potential content and direction of the [Columbia River Treaty post-2024](#)." These [written comments](#) were intended to help inform the ongoing technical analysis on the Columbia River Treaty, which in turn will help develop a preliminary recommendation on whether to "continue, terminate, modify or amend the Columbia River Treaty after 2024." The existing treaty requires a notice from either the US or Canadian Entities 10 years prior to its expiration (2024) if termination or amendment is desired.



The technical analysis will review the costs and benefits of the treaty for all river uses to help determine its importance and value for the future. LWVOR reiterated its adopted positions regarding "global climate change," "water policy-quantity and quality," and "water resources of the Columbia River," and emphasized the need to examine potential effects that climate change may have on the Columbia River hydrograph (flow timing and supply). We suggested that any future treaty should have mechanisms for managing whatever effects actually occur due to global warming.

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More Scenic Waterways?

Oregon's State Scenic Waterway Act protects the clean drinking water, wild salmon and steelhead, and scenic beauty that make our state such a special place. [SB 401](#) would add sections of many Oregon rivers, including the Rogue, Umpqua, Chetco and Sandy and more. Read the bill for a complete list.



Contact Senator Alan Bates at

Sen.AlanBates@state.or.us

Tell him you **support SB 401!**

Thank him for sponsoring this important rivers bill.

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Governor's Proposal for Forests

Governor Kitzhaber has called for Congressional action to



*Norman Turrill and Marge Easley,
Mock Hearing Players*



*Attorney General, Ellen
Rosenblum*



*President, National Popular Vote,
Barry Fadem represents himself at
Mock Hearing*



*Social Policy LWVOR Action
Coordinator, Karen Nibler*



*System Director Early Learning
Council, Jada Rupley*

Event was sponsored by:
*League of Women Voters of
Oregon,
American Association of
University Women,
Oregon Commission for*

improve the financial stability of Oregon counties, ensure adequate sources of timber to support mills and jobs, and meet conservation goals for land and water protection. In a [letter](#) to Oregon's Congressional Delegation, Governor Kitzhaber reported on the work of his [Oregon and California Lands Panel](#) and outlined components of a solution for hard-hit counties.

After months of discussion by a diverse group of stakeholders, the Governor has chosen to provide a list of choices for Congress to consider, including both increased harvest in some areas and adding Wilderness acreage to other areas. The group met in private and LWVOR currently takes no position on this federal request. But for 18 counties in Oregon, this is an important issue. For the full list of recommendations, [click here](#).

Oregon and California (O&C) lands are unique to Oregon. The 2.6 million acres of forests across 18 counties are a compilation of land ownerships resulting from various Congressional actions dating to the Oregon and California Railroad Act of 1866.



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NR Agency Budgets

The newly redesigned legislative website provides us with important and timely information on policy and budgets. [Click here](#) for a summary of the natural resource agency budgets.

For a presentation on the Governor's budget process and NR agency budgets, [click here](#).

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Governance

Tax Expenditures: Oregon's Fiscal Cliff?

The 2013-15 mandated biennial Tax Expenditures Report, first enacted in 1995, reviews the 373 tax credits, deferrals, deductions, exemptions, subtractions, preferential tax rates and other taxable types of income that counter the revenue income of the state. It is

Women,
National Organization for
Women

**Thank you all for attending
and making
Legislative Process Day
a wonderful success!**

Want to Help?

Oregon Conservation Network

invites you to join them at one of their 4 gatherings to discuss the legislative session this month. They will share priorities with you and hear about the issues that matter most to you when it comes to protecting our natural legacy.

Feb 19th - Corvallis with Rep. Sara Gelsler, 6-8 pm at Del Alma

Feb 25th - Eugene with Majority Leader Val Hoyle, 6-8 pm at Cosmic Pizza

Feb 27th - Bend, 7-9 pm at Broken Top Bottle Shop

Feb 28th - Portland, 6:30-8:30 pm at The Waypost

Concerned About Harmful Pesticides in Public Places?

Join Beyond Toxics at the Capitol March 8,
9:00-Noon.

For more information
[Click Here](#)

Support the Action Committee!

Please show your appreciation of the Action Committee and the Legislative Administrator by making a donation to
[LWVOR](#)

prepared by the Department of Revenue and the Department of Administrative Services, and is roughly the same size as the Governor's Proposed Budget for 2013-15, 442 pages. The total of these uncollected dollars has risen steadily since the initial report. In 2009-11, the total was close to \$27 billion, about equal to the total General Fund. The tax expenditures rose to \$33 billion for the current biennia, and are projected to reach \$36.3 billion for 2013-15. At the same time, the projected revenue for the 2013-15 General Fund is \$27,736 billion.



*Kappy Eaton,
Governance
Coordinator*



Literally "giving away" more money than the state collects finally caught the legislators' eyes in 2009 when a bill was passed to ensure that all tax credits sun setting (ending) in the next year would be reviewed by the policy committee under which it fell, and then by a Special Tax Credits

committee. From this review on the goals, purpose, accomplishments and social value, the Tax committee will make a recommendation as to continuing, revising or letting the expenditure die. Each item will have a public hearing. The Ways and Means committee will inform the Tax committee as to how much revenue needs to be brought in by their actions. The Tax committee is made up of members from the House and Senate Revenue committees, both of which heard the latest report. In the discussion following the report, members seemed to agree that the evaluation of each credit should include whether the goal has been accomplished, and if the credit is the most fiscally effective means to the end result.

The League will be following the specific sun setting tax credits on Earned Income (working poor), Farm Workers Housing, and Political support, among others, and the total amount of revenue that may be gained for the General Fund. An increase of 3 percent for the EITC is included in the Governor's proposed budget.

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Campaign Finance and Initiative Reforms Discussion Returns

Three bills making changes in Oregon political campaigns, [HB 2419](#), [HB 2420](#), and [HB 2197](#), have been introduced and sent to House Rules. [HB 2419](#) would require that a political contribution exceeding \$1000 or more must be

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filed within two calendar days if received during the 14 day period immediately preceding an election. Other filing times also are adjusted. The measure would become operative September 19, 2014.

A similar bill, [HB 2197](#), would have January 1, 2014 as the start date. However, this measure also addresses the issue of limiting overall political contributions, citing the *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* Supreme Court ruling and the increased amounts of undisclosed money in federal elections. Only state campaigns, candidate and measures, would be impacted, and penalties are imposed. Its stated purpose is to enact a campaign finance system that limits overall contributions but allows individuals to pool resources to make meaningful impact on campaigns.

[HB 2420](#) deals with supporting and opposing communications for both candidates and measures. It would require identification of clearly identified candidates and measures as well as the identification of the primary political campaign committees and persons providing the funding. The same is required of political committees, other than the principal campaign committee making a communications contribution. Of significant importance is the requirement that any person or other entity paying for an independent communication in support or opposition of a named candidate or measure must be clearly identified. The definitions for "clearly identified" and "communications" are found in ORS260.005.

The League has long supported the adoption of an initiative requirement that the ballot, either a statute or constitutional amendment, include the public cost of the proposal and the means for financing it. [HB 2543](#) provides the statutory provisions for an amendment to the Oregon Constitution, Article IV, section 1 (2)(e), and [HJR 15](#) is the necessary constitutional amendment which would be on the November 2014 General Election ballot. If passed, the ballot title of any proposed state initiative that requires the use of public funding, would include the statement, "If approved, the measure will be paid for from _____", with a description of the new or increased tax or fee printed in the blank space.

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Mental Health and Guns: Oregon's Plan

Citing the recent gun incidents and the connections to mental illness, including Portland, Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney has challenged the Legislature to address the critical needs of the state's community

mental health system. Oregon Health Authority data shows that one in eight Oregon children, and one in 18 adults have a mental illness, and less than half are served.



A projected \$331 million is needed for crisis, case management, out-patient programs and housing, particularly at the community level. The Legislature took the \$12 million in the mental health housing trust fund to fill General Fund gaps in 2012. Senator Courtney seeks potential dedicated funding sources.

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Elections Laws Address Security and Voter Registration

Continuing the discussion started at least four years ago, the process and procedures for ballot security are addressed in [HB 2199](#). During the 2012 General Election, there was a breach of ballot security in Clackamas County that resulted in an indictment and a closer scrutiny of



oversight procedures in county election offices. [HB 2199](#), the latest effort, specifies the number and location of all video surveillance cameras as well as the submission by the county election official to the Secretary of State the total number of ballots printed, received by the county, mailed to voters, issued to persons at the office, returned as undeliverable, rejected envelopes, tallied, used for duplication, used as test, and archived. Also specified are the clerk's responsibilities for the safe keeping and disposition of ballots.

Other proposals include:

- [HB 2206](#) which allows the Secretary of State to assume election-related functions for any county that the Governor has declared a public safety services emergency due to fiscal distress;
- [HB 2351](#) that lowers the number of signatures and raises the fees on nominating petitions for legislative candidates;
- [HB 2198](#) that deals with voter registration addresses and requirements of the federal Voter Registration Act compliance; and
- [HB 2363](#) and [HB 2364](#) that specifically spell out requirements for first-time voter registration regarding citizenship and residency.

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More Proposed Ethics Tweaks

[HB 2078](#), [HB 2079](#) and [HB 2080](#) attempt, once again, to "fix" ethics issues over the registration of lobbyists, the definitions of which members of a public officials' family must be listed on the annual Estimate of Interest Statement to the Ethics Commission, and the civil penalties for ethics violations. At the House Rules hearing, the penalties issue was quickly resolved and moved to the House floor. There was public testimony in opposition to the simple changes in the proposals from the Ethics Commission on the other two so they will receive possible amendments and return.

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