

METRO COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2025 Legislative Session



ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- **Industrial Site Readiness:** Support legislation, including Clean Tech Task Force priorities, that advances solutions to make land inside urban growth boundaries available for industrial development and job creation through infrastructure investment, brownfield cleanup, land aggregation, and other means.

HB 2411 passed. It establishes the Industrial Site Loan Fund. In addition, \$10m in lottery bonds funded the program.

- **Brownfield Cleanup and Redevelopment:** Support efforts to recapitalize the state's Brownfields Redevelopment Fund and Brownfields Properties Revitalization Fund to incentivize the cleanup of brownfields.

SB 99 passed. It extends the sunset five years for the property tax incentive benefit programs for brownfields and property on brownfields. The Brownfield Redevelopment Fund received \$10m in lottery bonds to recapitalize the program. The Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund received no funding.

GUN SAFETY

- **Regulating Firearms on Metro Properties:** Support legislation that increases Metro's authority to regulate the carrying of firearms on Metro properties and public venues.

SB 243 passed. It lifts the pre-emption on local governments to regulate concealed handgun license holders in public buildings where official meetings occur. Earlier versions of the bill included public buildings with adjacent grounds and the Oregon Zoo. These were stripped out during negotiations with Republicans.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- **Housing and Homelessness Systems Alignment:** Support legislation that increases alignment and coordination between federal, state, regional and local housing and homelessness systems.

HB 3644 passed. It establishes a statewide shelter program at Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) that sunsets at the beginning of 2034. The OHCS agency budget bill, HB 5011, allocates \$204.9 million in total funding for shelter operations through 2033.

- **Equitable Housing and Stability:** Support legislation to increase state housing funding, improve tenant protections, expand affordable home ownership options, increase home ownership for BIPOC households, provide additional tools and authority to local governments to address housing supply and affordability, advance solutions that leverage and integrate local, state and federal investments to implement comprehensive supportive housing and wraparound services, and address climate resilience for home owners and renters.

SB 684 amended and passed. It created a revolving loan fund for developers to construct mixed income multiunit housing. Due to limited resources, the bill was amended to direct OHCS to provide recommendations on implementation of the revolving loan fund.

SB 599 passed. It prohibits rental housing discrimination based on immigration or citizenship status.

HB 3589 passed. It directs OHCS to develop a senior housing initiative to mitigate homelessness in Oregon's growing senior population.

HB 3746 passed. It reduces the statute of limitations to 8 years for construction defect actions on condominiums.

SB 54 failed. It required landlords to provide cooling units to tenants in multiunit buildings of 10 or more.

- **Housing Production and Preservation:** Support legislation that increases housing production and development and preserves existing housing, particularly affordable housing. Support legislation that provides local financing support to increase housing production such as infrastructure, predevelopment, and technical assistance.

HB 3031 passed. It creates the Housing Infrastructure Fund and program. The Christmas Tree bill, HB5006, allocated \$10M for program administration and implementation.

SB 829 passed. It provides subsidies to cover insurance premiums for eligible affordable housing entities. It also conducts a cost study on liability coverage and insurance premiums. The legislature allocated \$2.5M for subsidies, the cost study, and program management.

Notable Investments:

\$468M LIFT Bonds for affordable housing development (SB 5505)

\$101M LIFT Bonds for Affordable Homeownership (SB 5505)

\$80M LIFT Bonds for Permanent Supportive Housing (SB 5505)

\$52M for Preservation of affordable housing and manufactured housing parks (SB 5531)

LAND USE

- **Urban Growth Management:** Ensure that the Legislature establishes the policy framework and process for local land use decisions and respects the authority of local governments, including Metro, to make specific decisions on local land use matters. Oppose efforts to legislatively determine specific land use designations in the region or to distort the process of assessing land need by mandating inaccurate analysis.

SB 49 amended and passed. The original language eliminated minimum density requirements on developed lands. Alongside partners, we successfully amended the bill to take out this problematic provision.

- **Metro Annexation:** Support efforts to streamline Metro's annexation process.

HB 2356 passed. For certain impacted properties, it combines city annexation processes with Metro annexation processes.

PARKS AND NATURE

- **Recreational Immunity:** Support legislation that addresses recreational immunity for local governments, including lifting the sunset on recent fixes.

SB 179 passed. It made permanent the temporary restoration of recreational immunity during the 2024 session.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation Package:** Support the passage of a transportation package that advances the JPACT priorities: addressing short-term funding solutions, long-term sustainable funding, finishing what we started, safe urban arterials and streets, transit investments, and resiliency.

HB 2025 and HB 3402 failed. HB 2025, the omnibus transportation package, passed out of committee multiple times with different amendments. It provided funding for operations and maintenance for state and local governments, transit, Great Streets, Safe Routes to School and HB 2017 major projects. It ultimately died without receiving a vote in either chamber. In the final day of session, HB 3402 was amended to only fund ODOT operations and maintenance. It passed out of committee but also failed to receive a vote in either chamber.

SB 715 failed. The High Speed Rail Task Force and study did not receive funding. It died in the Joint Transportation Committee.

TV Highway Transit Project did not receive funding. The request was \$50m in lottery bonds.

Interstate Bridge Replacement Project received \$251m in general obligation bonds. This is the second of four installments to provide Oregon's \$1b commitment to the project.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WASTE REDUCTION

- **Battery Extended Producer Responsibility:** Support legislation that creates a battery extended producer responsibility program in Oregon.

HB 2062 failed in W&M. It established an extended producer responsibility program for batteries. The bill passed the policy committee with strong bipartisan support but failed to pass out of Ways and Means.

- **Food Waste:** Support legislation that reduces food waste and prioritizes pathways of food disposal for the highest and best use.

HB 3018 failed in W&M. It established a statewide food waste program and made changes to food labeling laws. The bill passed along party lines in the policy committee and failed to pass out of Ways and Means.

- **Recycling Modernization Act (RMA):** Support legislation that protects the Recycling Modernization Act's core tenants and its start date of July 1, 2025.

HB 3780 failed. It exempted newspapers from the RMA.

HB 3973 failed. It removed empty paint containers from the RMA.

ADDITIONAL POLICY LEGISLATION

HB 3167 passed. It regulates the selling and buying of event tickets to increase transparency in the buying process. It also bans misleading marketing tactics, including the unauthorized and misleading use of venue logos, branding, and website names.

SB 110 passed. It authorizes up to \$800 million in privately-backed bonds to support the construction of a ballpark in Portland.

HB 2977 failed. It raised the state's transient lodging tax 1.25% and provided funding for wildlife conservation. The bill passed the House and Senate committee but ultimately was not voted on the Senate floor.

HB 2110 failed. It required local income taxes to comply with all state tax laws.

HB 2119 passed. It grants standing to organizations and associations in tax court.

HB 3209 failed. It raised funds for abandoned RV clean up through increased registration fees. Concept was included in the transportation package drafts but did not pass.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING LEGISLATION

James Beard Marketplace received \$10m in lottery bonds to cover construction costs for building out the Market.

Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District received \$20m in lottery bonds for Portland metro levee system improvements.

Portland State University's Portland Center for Performing Arts received \$137.5m in general obligation bonds. This funding will support a 3,000-seat performing arts facility and a 1,200-seat secondary venue along with supporting academic spaces, a 150-room hotel, restaurants, bars, other supporting spaces and a parking structure.