

2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Date: Nov 24, 2024
Department: GAPD
Meeting Date: December 19, 2024

Prepared by: Anneliese Koehler,
Legislative Affairs Manager
Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

This Council meeting is for Council to adopt the 2025 State Legislative Priorities and 2025 State Legislative Principles. Proposed legislative priorities and principles will be discussed.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may adopt its state legislative agenda for 2025.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Support Metro's policy goals through engagement with the Oregon State Legislature in 2025.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

Does Council wish to approve 2025 State Legislative Priorities and Principles, updated in Council discussions in July, October and December?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

See attachments for State Legislative Principles and State Legislative Priorities. These are final drafts and are here for final adoption. Discussions with Council in July, October and December are reflected in the final document.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve Council's 2025 state legislative agenda.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Over the course of the last six months, we met with Metro Departmental leadership, community organizations, jurisdictional partners and legislators to discuss possible state legislative priorities. In addition, Metro Council had work sessions in July, October and December to discuss the initial drafts of the state legislative agenda. We have incorporated all this feedback into our presentation to you today and are here seeking final adoption of the state legislative agenda for 2025.

2025 session

The 2025 session is a regular, long session. The Legislature is charged with passing a biannual budget and any necessary policy changes. Unlike short sessions, the long session often has more significant legislation under discussion and passage. Typically, a few key

large policy and program changes as well as many smaller pieces move successfully through the legislative process into law.

Legislature overview

The Legislature continues to see new leadership emerge on both sides of the aisle. Compared to more recent sessions, the Metro region is well represented in legislative leadership. Senate President Wagner, newly-elected Senate Majority Leader Jama and House Majority Leader Bowman all reside in our region. In addition, both Senate and House Minority Leaders have a portion, albeit small, of Metro in their districts. And both co-chairs of ways and means are also from our region.

The most significant impact of the 2024 elections is that Democrats now have a supermajority in both chambers. A supermajority is required to pass any revenue raising legislation.

The Oregon State Capital building is still under construction and is not slated for finish until 2027. While what portions of the building will be closed down for the 2025 session is still being determined, staff anticipates that it will be similar to prior sessions with cramped corridors, large parts of the building inaccessible and constant construction noise. This continues to make the legislative process challenging.

Legislative session priorities

Legislators start sessions with an agreed upon set of priorities. These pieces often dominate session conversations and indicate leaderships' strong commitment to passage. Similar to past sessions, staff anticipates that housing, homelessness and behavioral health will all be top priorities of the Legislature. In addition, the Governor, Senate President and Speaker have all indicted the need for a transportation package. Increased education funding will likely be a focus as well.

BACKGROUND

Council adopts State Legislative Priorities and State Legislative Principles annually. This meeting follows three Council work sessions to discuss the 2025 legislative principles and priorities.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 24-6175

2025 Legislative Principles

2025 Legislative Priorities

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? X Yes No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? X Yes No
- What other materials are you presenting today? [INSERT]