

METRO COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2026 Legislative Session



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- **Serial communications:** Support changes to the public meetings law to clarify prohibited serial communications and serial meetings. Reduce confusion for elected officials regarding compliance while ensuring transparency in decision making by governing bodies.

HB 4177 passed. It adds exemptions to deliberation to allow elected officials to speak to constituents, media, or share factual information without triggering a serial communication violation.

- **Food and Beverage:** Support exceptions to requirements that food and beverage offerings be formally included as part of official compensation packages. The current requirements prohibit members of some advisory committees and commissions from accepting food and beverage during meetings that can occur during regular meal times. Support legislation that allows reasonable food and beverage offerings by the public body during these meetings and other official events.

HB 4161 passed. It provides an exception to the prohibited use of office and allows public bodies to provide food and beverages to public officials without adopted compensation policies.

- **Protecting Critical Services:** To ensure a prosperous economy, a clean and healthy environment, and a high quality of life for all their constituents, the state, Metro, and the region's counties, cities, and other service providers must have the financial resources to provide sustainable, quality public services. Accordingly, when dealing with financially constrained budgets, the Legislature should avoid cutting critical services.

HB 5204 passed. It balances the state budget through vacancy savings, fund swaps, program delays, and reductions in non-programmatic agency budgets. It preserves essential and critical state programs for this biennium.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- **Housing and Homelessness Response Stability:** Support legislation that protects the stability of regional and local housing and homelessness systems. Support efforts that offer permanent, affordable housing for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness and provide supportive services and community-based support people need to keep their housing. Additionally, support ways to stabilize and preserve the affordable housing stock.

HB 5702 passed. It allocates an additional \$75 million for LIFT Affordable Rental Housing Development Program and \$25 million for Housing Opportunity Longevity and Durability Fund Preservation Program.

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 1586 failed. As amended, it would have brought in 373 acres of land into Metro's urban growth boundary and changed the designation of approximately 1300 acres from rural reserve to urban reserve.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation Package:** Support efforts that build on the 2025 Transportation Funding Bill, lay the groundwork for a 2027 transportation package, and advance the 2025 JPACT priorities: addressing short-term funding solutions, long-term sustainable funding, finishing what we started, safe urban arterials and streets, transit investments, and resiliency.

SB 1599 passed. It moves the election date for Referendum Petition 2026-302 from November to May. The Referendum Petition repeals portions of the special session transportation package related to increases in the employee payroll tax, gas tax, registration fees, and titling fees.

HB 5204 passed. It rebalances ODOT's budget through vacancy and other cost saving measures as well as swapping state funds for federal funds and temporarily redirecting funding from transportation programs such as Safe Routes to School, Connect Oregon, Community Paths and bridge seismic improvements.

HB 4008 failed. It created a transit funding task force to examine possible revenue streams to fund transit stateside. It passed out of the House Transportation Committee and died in Ways and Means.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WASTE REDUCTION

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

HB 4144 passed. It directs DEQ to implement a battery extended producer responsibility program by 2029. Producer fees pay for the collection, transport, and education materials to inform the public on proper disposal of batteries.

VENUES

- **Speculative Ticketing:** Support legislation that bans speculative ticketing, protecting consumers and artists from deceptive ticketing practices.

HB 4024 passed. It prohibits a ticket reseller from selling a ticket unless the reseller has the ticket in their possession.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION

SB 1501/SB 5701 passed. Together, these two bills provide the necessary structures, sideboards and \$365m in funding for the Moda Center.

HB 5204/SB 5701 passed. Together, these two bills provide \$15m in funding for industrial site readiness.

HB 4134 passed. It raises state transient lodging tax 1.25% to fund wildlife conservation.