

2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Date: October 21, 2024
Department: GAPD
Meeting Date: November 12, 2024

Prepared by: Anneliese Koehler,
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Length: 45 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session is an opportunity to discuss Metro Council's objectives for the 2025 Oregon legislative session. The current political climate and possible legislative priorities will be discussed. This is the final work session prior to final adoption of the Council's Legislative Priorities and Principles in December 2024.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may wish to discuss specific legislative concepts or principles or direct staff to develop additional legislative concepts before adopting its 2025 legislative agenda.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

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

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does the Council wish to confirm or change existing policy direction under which staff is currently operating with respect to issues that are likely to surface in 2025?
- Are there additional topics for which the Council would like to adopt legislative positions?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

See attached draft versions of the 2025 Legislative Priorities and 2025 Legislative Principles. These documents reflect Council discussion and feedback from the October work session. Additional issue sheets for potential 2025 Legislative Priorities are also attached.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

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.

Elections

In the past two work sessions, staff discussed topics pertaining to the lead-up to the November election including impacts of the walkout, possible supermajorities, and statewide ballot measures. At this work session, staff anticipates sharing post-election themes and takeaways. The Granicus deadline is significantly before the election, and, as a result, staff will be sharing the post-election analysis verbally.

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 Taylor and newly-elected 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.

Unlike prior sessions, this past session did not have a walkout. The 2022 ballot measure which barred legislators from running again if they had ten or more unexcused absences was effective at preventing a 2024 walkout. Many hope that walkouts will be a thing of the past.

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.

Budget

While the final budget decision will not be made until the May 2025 forecast, the latest revenue forecast shows stable revenue for 2025-2027 budget. Due to rising costs across many sectors and the approaching fiscal cliff of federal government pandemic era programs ending, staff anticipates that it will be a tight budget year.

Next Steps

Metro's legislative agenda setting process is iterative. Staff has met with Metro departmental leadership, jurisdictional partners, state partners and community-based

partners to share respective initial priorities and learn what partners are pursuing. As part of our commitment to racial equity, part of our outreach is to culturally-specific and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color organizations to ensure that we are incorporating, as appropriate, their legislative priorities. The drafts before you represent our conversations, and we will continue those conversations through the winter. Staff aims to have a finalized draft for your consideration in December.

BACKGROUND

Council adopts State Legislative Priorities and State Legislative Principles annually. This is the third meeting to discuss Council’s 2025 legislative priorities and principles.

ATTACHMENTS

2025 Legislative Principles – DRAFT

2025 Legislative Priorities – DRAFT

Issue Sheets on the following topics:

- Transportation
- Annexation fix
- Recycling Modernization Act Protection
- Food Waste
- Recreational Immunity

[For work session:]

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