

STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Date: 12/16/22
Department: GAPD
Meeting Date: 1/12/23

Presenters: Anneliese Koehler, Legislative Affairs Manager and Jenna Jones, State and Regional Affairs Advisor

Prepared by: Anneliese Koehler,
Legislative Affairs Manager and Jenna
Jones, State and Regional Affairs Advisor

Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

This Council meeting is for Council to adopt the 2023 State Legislative Priorities and 2023 State Legislative Principles. Proposed legislative priorities and principles will be discussed.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may adopt its state legislative agendas for 2023.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Support Metro's policy goals through engagement with the Oregon State Legislature and state agencies.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does Council wish to approve 2023 state legislative policy 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

See attached State Legislative Principles and State Legislative Priorities.

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 of this feedback into our presentation to you today and are here seeking final adoption of the state legislative agenda for 2023.

Democrats maintain the governorship and a majority in both chambers. As a result of redistricting this year, there will be many first-time legislators in Salem. And, because of the pandemic, second term legislators have only participated in remote committee hearings and work sessions; nearly two-thirds of the Oregon House of Representatives will have served one term or less when they gavel into session in February. Tools the minority have used in the past to stall session will also be limited in 2023 and beyond. The Oregon Constitution requires two thirds of a legislative chamber to be present in order to conduct chamber business and pass bills. Parties have used this requirement to deny quorum and therefore prevent the passage of bills. Measure 113 changed the state's constitution to bar any lawmaker from running for re-election if they have 10 or more unexcused absences from a floor session during a single legislative session. Measure 113 will likely lead to walkouts being a less viable tool to significantly delay legislative business.

Legislative leadership priorities

Unlike prior sessions, we anticipate that this next session will not be dominated by COVID-19 response. Barring any significant public health changes, it will certainly continue to be a topic, but it is unlikely to be the focus of session. We think that housing and homelessness, climate resiliency, infrastructure and economic recovery, and reproductive rights will likely be main primary conversation drivers this upcoming session. In addition, budget will also be top of mind for many in the building. The current economic forecast for the upcoming biennium is rosy, but that does not consider the significant infusion of one-time federal funds that are unlikely to be repeated. The state funded a significant number of "one-time" programs that many would like to become permanent.

For Metro, it is likely that land use will be a dominate focus during session. There are currently active conversations around land use for both housing and industrial land. We anticipate that there will be a significant number of bills targeting the land use system, including our authority.

The Capitol Building

For the past few years, because of the pandemic, Oregon's Legislature has primarily operated remotely. The Capitol Building will be open to the public for 2023 and unlike previous sessions, we anticipate that this will be the first session that will be primarily in person, although construction has significantly reduced the number of hearing rooms available for legislative committees to meet and there are fairly stringent capacity limits throughout portions of the Capitol Building.

BACKGROUND

Council updates its State Legislative Agendas annually and reviews and as needed, updates its State Legislative Principles.

ATTACHMENTS [Identify and submit any attachments related to this legislation or presentation]

- State Legislative Affairs Principles
- State Legislative Priorities

[For work session:]

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