



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon  
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FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

# DESCHUTES COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

8:00 AM

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

A legislative work session was held on Friday, April 18, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform.

### Deschutes County Attendance:

x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone, Chair	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair, Vice Chair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang		Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
x	Kristie Bollinger, Property Manager		Tim Brownell, Director Solid Waste
x	Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1		Steve Dennison, County Clerk
x	Chris Doty, Director Road Department	x	David Doyle, Legal Counsel
	Charles Fadeley, Justice of the Peace		Janice Garceau, Director Health Services
x	Stephen Gunnels, District Attorney	x	Peter Gutowsky, Director Community Development
x	Holly Harris, Director Behavioral Health		Geoff Hinds, Director Fair & Expo
	Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice	x	Heather Kaisner, Director Public Health
	Sean Kirk, Manager Veteran's Services	x	Bill Kuhn, Treasurer
	Tom Kuhn, Public Health Program Manager		Scot Langton, Assessor
	Tania Mahood, Director Information Technology	x	Kevin Moriarty, Forester
	Elizabeth Pape, Internal Auditor		Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

x	Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant	x	Lee Randall, Director Facilities
	Kim Riley, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel	x	Robert Tintle, Chief Financial Officer
	Kent van der Kamp, Sheriff		Aaron Wells, Undersheriff
x	Heather Herauf, Procurement Manager		Daniel Kieffer, Budget & Financial Planning Analyst
x	Cody Smith, Assistant Director Road Department		
<b>Others Present:</b>			
x	Doug Riggs, Director NW Policy Advocates	x	Corey Barber, Outreach Director NW Policy Advocates
x	Emma Innes, Associate NW Policy Advocates		Reagan Knopp, Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson's office

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### 2. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Chang reported that he was in Salem on Monday and Tuesday. He spent time on AOC events and visited approximately ten legislators. He spoke with them on topics such as housing, public health, behavioral health, wildfire funding, and wolves. He had a productive discussion with the Co-Chair of the Ways and Means Health and Human Services subcommittee. He spoke about housing infrastructure funding, condo liability reform, and shelter operations funding. He spoke with Representative Marsh, the Chair of the Housing Committee, about a concept for mobile home / RV park work group.

Commissioner Chang worked to debunk misinformation related to **SB 1154**, which relates to groundwater management areas. During a hearing on the bill, private property owners expressed concerns, many based on the misinformation that government officials would be going onto their land to meter their wells.

### 3. Updates from NW Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs provided a brief update. A new decision from Legislative Counsel prevents legislators from putting corporations or agencies into bills that include policy. Some bills died due to this rule, and this caused some debate.

Senate and House floors are busy moving bills off their floor, and they may have evening and weekend sessions next week. A bill on climate education in K-12 schools drew much discussion. Many bills are in a holding pattern in Ways and

Means, including **SB 83**. Wildfire funding mechanisms are in the Revenue committee and will take time to iron out. The transportation package is awaiting ODOT accountability measures, which is a key element for the package to gain bipartisan support.

Commissioners Adair has the Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) conference next Wednesday in Keizer. She said that ODOT needs to be more accountable and road maintenance should be their top priority.

Responding to Commissioner DeBone, Commissioner Chang said the transportation package includes no new projects and is focused on operations and maintenance, so it is unlikely the south county intersection improvement will be completed in the upcoming year.

#### **4. Review Bill Tracker Report by Department**

Jen Patterson noted that an updated bill tracker report was sent out last evening.

Peter Gutowsky spoke about **HB 3499**, which pertains to urban renewal plans. If adopted, these plans could not be approved by the local government through their elected officials and instead would need to go before voters.

Riggs elaborated on this bill. There is strong opposition from municipalities as it would make urban renewal very difficult and would also delay projects. [Board position: priority 2 / watch.](#)

It was reported that the Transient Room Tax (TRT) bill **HB 3556** is dead.

Lee Randall provided an update on **HB 2688**, which would have impacts on the Road and Facilities departments as it impacts the prevailing wage on certain types of offsite work. Beyond cost, there is administrative ambiguity related to enforcement by Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and Randall expressed concerns that this may drive some of this work out of state. It's currently in Ways and Means and is not scheduled for an upcoming hearing.

Randall reported that **HB 2680** will likely pass, and it relates to large window glazing installation contractors.

Commissioner Adair reported disappointment that a Bend Airport General Contractor from outside of the area is failing to pay some of its local subcontractors for completed work.

Riggs alerted that there will be last-minute notices of hearings moving forward. Fortunately, much of our Central Oregon delegation is on the Ways and Means committee.

Responding to Commissioner Adair, the next revenue forecast will be released around May 15. There will be an opportunity for testimony at the Capital Construction subcommittee for projects such as the Terrebonne Sanitation District's \$2.5 million request.

Commissioners Adair and Chang recently took place in an AOC Senate floor opportunity at which Senator David Brock Smith spoke positively about county government. It was reported that 75% of Oregon's 36 counties are struggling financially. Commissioner Adair added that **SB 916**, unemployment for striking workers, would be impactful to counties who are already struggling financially.

**Next Meeting:** The next virtual legislative update meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 25 at 8:00 a.m.

**Adjourn:** Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 8:36 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted by:*

  
**Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant**