

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE 2024)	RESOLUTION NO. 24-5377
STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA)	
)	Introduced by Council President Peterson

WHEREAS, Metro has an interest in the bills, policies, and discussions before the 2024 Oregon Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council and Metro staff will represent Metro’s interest during the upcoming legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council wishes to establish a united position on important legislative proposals and provide direction to its staff in order to represent the will of the agency; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Metro Council Legislative Priorities attached as Exhibit A of this resolution lists specific expected and potential issues that are of concern to Metro and the metropolitan region, and gives guidance to staff on the Metro Council’s position on these issues; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Legislative Principles attached as Exhibit B states the Metro Council’s principles regarding categories of potential legislation in order to provide guidance to staff in representing Metro; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Metro Council directs the Metro Chief Operating Officer, the Metro Attorney, and Metro staff to communicate the agency’s position on a variety of legislative proposals to the 2024 Oregon Legislature consistent with Exhibits A and B attached hereto.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 25th day of January 2024.



Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney

METRO COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
2024 Legislative Session



ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- **Industrial Site Readiness:** Support legislation that advances solutions to make land inside urban growth boundaries available for industrial development and job creation through infrastructure investment, brownfield cleanup, land aggregation, and other means.
- **Regional Economic Recovery and Growth:** Support legislation that addresses economic recovery for the region including policy changes and funding assistance in line with the Portland Central City Task Force, recovery efforts for arts and culture organizations, and additional business, economic development, and housing support.
- **Hillsboro Hops:** Support legislation that ensures the Hillsboro Hops baseball team stays in Oregon, including securing the final \$15m in state funding needed for a new, city-owned ballpark.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- **Equitable and Achievable Housing Production:** Support legislation that increases equitable housing production and development including incorporating the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis in urban unincorporated areas and funding for housing infrastructure.

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.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WASTE REDUCTION

- **Equitable and Convenient Electronic Reuse:** Support legislation that provides for better electronic reuse pathways that are more convenient and equitable, like right to repair.

OTHER ITEMS

- **Columbia River Levees:** Support legislation that provides additional revenue tools needed to protect flood safety along the Columbia River and facilitate the transition of the Columbia River levee system management to the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District.

METRO COUNCIL 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES¹

GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Successful Communities:** Metro supports policy and funding solutions that facilitate the achievement of the six desired outcomes for successful communities that have been agreed upon by the region: vibrant, walkable communities; economic competitiveness and prosperity; safe and reliable transportation choices; leadership in minimizing contributions to climate change; clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems; and equitable distribution of the burdens and benefits of growth and change.²
- 2. Racial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Metro envisions a region and state where a person's race, ethnicity or zip code does not predict their future prospects and where all residents can enjoy economic opportunity and quality of life. Metro therefore supports legislation that acknowledges past discrimination, addresses current disparities and promotes inclusion in public programs, services, facilities and policies.³
- 3. Tribal Sovereignty:** Metro seeks to support tribal sovereignty through government-to-government relations and coordination with Tribes, exploring opportunities to incorporate tribal interests and priorities into Metro's work and ensuring agency compliance with pertinent cultural, historic and natural resource protection laws. Metro will not supplant any Tribe or tribal organization's efforts on legislative priorities and will strive to coordinate with legislative and policy representatives of Tribes, Tribal organizations and Indigenous legislators to determine if Metro's involvement on any legislative priorities is appropriate.
- 4. Climate Justice:** Metro supports efforts to combat and adapt to climate change and to meet the state's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To this end, Metro supports state policy and funding solutions that can help to reduce emissions in all of its main lines of business: land use and transportation planning and investment, housing and homeless services, consumption, waste management and solid waste management, parks and natural areas, and operation of visitor venues.
- 5. Vibrant Sustainable Workforce.** Metro supports a thriving and equitable regional economy that creates job and career opportunities for all people. To this end, Metro supports state policy and investments that create new career opportunities and remove barriers to career opportunities to meet the demand for a skilled and diverse workforce in Metro's lines of business and in the region, including initiatives that promote quality training, family sustaining wages, access to career ladders and the provision of workforce wraparound services, and incentives to promote economic adaptability and mobility.

6. **Preemption:** With respect to issues related to matters of regional concern, Metro's policy and funding authority should not be preempted or eroded.
7. **Funding:** To ensure a prosperous economy, a clean and healthy environment, and a high quality of life for all of their citizens, Metro and the region's counties, cities, and other service providers must have the financial resources to provide sustainable, quality public services. Accordingly, the Legislature should remove existing restrictions on local and regional revenue-raising authority and avoid enacting new limitations or pre-emptions, and all state mandates should be accompanied by funding.

SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES:

HOUSING:

8. **Affordable Housing and Homelessness:** Metro supports efforts to ensure that housing choices are available to people of all incomes in every community in our region; to reduce the number of households that are burdened by the combined costs of housing and transportation; to support people experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing housing; and to increase affordable opportunities for home ownership.⁴ To achieve these outcomes, Metro supports legislative actions consistent with Oregon's land use laws that increase the supply of both regulated affordable housing and market-rate housing; provide funding for both housing development and services that support lower-income renters and people experiencing homelessness; and provide reasonable protections for renters against arbitrary and unfair actions.

LAND USE AND URBAN GROWTH MANAGEMENT:

9. **Oregon's Land Use System:** Oregon's land use planning system provides an important foundation for the prosperity, sustainability and livability of our region; this system reflects the values of Oregonians and enjoys strong public support. The Legislature should exercise restraint and care when considering changes to Oregon's land use system.
10. **Local Land Use Decisions:** Management of the urban growth boundary is a complex undertaking that involves extensive analysis, public input, and a balancing of many factors. Urban growth management decisions have profound impacts not just on land at the boundary, but on communities within the boundary and on farms and other rural lands outside the boundary. For these reasons, the Legislature should establish the process and policy framework for local land use decisions and should affirm the authority of local governments, including Metro, to make specific decisions on local land use matters.
11. **Efficient Use of Existing Urban Land:** Land within the urban growth boundary should be used efficiently before the boundary is expanded.⁵ Metro supports policy and funding strategies to facilitate efficient use of existing urban land, including investments in brownfield cleanup and industrial site readiness, as well as policy and zoning reforms that authorize and/or encourage

more efficient development in residential and commercial areas.

12. **Need:** The UGB should not be expanded in the absence of demonstrated need.⁶
13. **Integration of Land Use and Transportation:** Land use and transportation planning should be coordinated so land uses do not undermine the efficiency and reliability of the transportation system and transportation investments do not lead to unintended or inefficient land uses.⁷
14. **Annexation:** Cities are the preferred governing structure for providing public services to urban areas, and Metro supports reforms that will facilitate, or reduce barriers to, orderly annexation and incorporation.
15. **Fiscal Responsibility:** Funding to support urban development should be generated at least in part by fees on those who directly benefit from that development.

SOLID WASTE:

16. **Life Cycle Approach:** Metro supports efforts to minimize the health, safety, environmental, economic and social impacts associated with consumer products and packaging throughout all stages of a product's life cycle, beginning with resource extraction and continuing through design, manufacturing, consumption and disposal.⁸
17. **Product Stewardship/Producer Responsibility:** Metro supports legislation providing that whoever designs, produces, sells or uses a product bears responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's life cycle. Under this market-based approach, the life-cycle costs of a product are internalized into its price rather than being forced onto the general public. This approach also provides an incentive for manufacturers to design and produce their goods in a way that minimizes waste, environmental impact and management costs.
18. **Equity in the Solid Waste System:** The Regional Waste Plan aims to eliminate disparities experienced by people of color and historically marginalized communities from the full life cycle of products and packaging used and disposed in the region. Metro supports legislation that achieves this by advancing: community restoration, community partnerships and community investment; access to recycling, waste and reuse services and information; good jobs with improved worker health and safety, compensation and career pathways; business opportunities in the local economy; and community health through minimized impacts from system operations - locally and in end markets - and from toxic chemicals in products and packaging. Legislation should require the establishment of targets, standards and compliance processes, as appropriate, to ensure progress toward equity goals.

TRANSPORTATION:

19. **Transportation Funding:** Providing adequate funding for all transportation modes that move people and freight supports economic prosperity, community livability, public health and environmental quality. For these reasons, Metro supports an increase in overall

transportation funding, investments in a safe and balanced multimodal transportation system that addresses the needs of all users, and flexibility in the system to provide for local solutions to transportation problems.

- 20. Climate Justice:** Metro and its regional partners are committed to the Climate Smart Strategy, which includes actions needed to achieve state targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. The state should provide financial support for implementation of the Climate Smart Strategy.
- 21. Safe and Equitable Transportation:** Our region has adopted policies and developed programs to make it safer to walk and bike to school and other destinations, reduce serious traffic crashes and deaths, and reduce the disproportionate impact of traffic crashes and traffic enforcement in low income communities and communities of color.⁹ Metro supports legislation that advances safe and equitable transportation, including more effective and equitable enforcement of speed limits and other safety regulations, greater investment in infrastructure that improves safety (especially in disadvantaged communities), and greater authority for local governments to safely manage their transportation networks.

PARKS, NATURE AND CONSERVATION:

- 22. Parks and Natural Areas:** Our region has invested heavily in protecting water quality and fish and wildlife habitat and providing residents with access to nature and outdoor activity. Parks and natural areas are regional assets that support public health, environmental quality, strong property values and economic prosperity. For these reasons, Metro supports measures to increase local and regional authority to raise revenues to support parks and natural areas and to increase the level of state funding distributed to local governments for acquisition, capital improvements, and park operations.
- 23. Species Conservation:** Metro supports efforts to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat, to recover threatened and endangered species, and to create a better future for fish and wildlife, both in Oregon and globally.
- 24. Conservation Education:** Metro supports efforts to provide stable and reliable funding to conservation education.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY:

- 25. Metro Venues:** Because the Oregon Convention Center, Expo Center, Portland's Centers for the Arts and Oregon Zoo contribute millions of dollars to the state and regional economies, Metro supports policy and funding solutions that facilitate the success of these venues in attracting visitors and enhancing the quality of their experiences.

AGENCY OPERATIONS:

- 26. Firearms and Public Facilities:** Metro supports legislation that increases Metro's authority to regulate the carrying of firearms on Metro properties and public venues, and opposes

legislation that limits or reduces that authority.

- 27. Disaster Resilience:** Metro supports legislative efforts to improve community disaster preparedness and resilience, with the goal of enabling the Portland region to provide for the immediate needs of its residents and businesses after a catastrophic event and facilitating the region's short- and long-term recovery.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, endnotes refer to applicable policy statements in Metro's [Regional Framework Plan](#) (RFP).

² RFP Chapter 1 (Land Use).

³ [Strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion](#).

⁴ RFP Policy 1.3 (Housing Choices and Opportunities).

⁵ RFP Policy 1.1 (Compact Urban Form).

⁶ RFP Policy 1.9 (Urban Growth Boundary).

⁷ RFP Policy 1.3.13 (Housing Choices and Opportunities); Transportation Goal 1 (Foster Vibrant Communities and Efficient Urban Form).

⁸ [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#), page 11.

⁹ [2018 Regional Transportation Plan, Chapter 3](#), Safety and Security Policies 1-9 and Transportation Equity Policies 1-7.

2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Date: December 29, 2023
Department: GAPD
Meeting Date: January 25, 2024
Prepared by: Anneliese Koehler,
Legislative Affairs Manager and Jenna
Jones, State and Regional Affairs Advisor

Presenters: Anneliese Koehler, Legislative
Affairs Manager; Jenna Jones, State and
Regional Affairs Advisor
Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

This Council meeting is for Council to adopt its 2024 State Legislative Priorities and 2024 State Legislative Principles. Proposed legislative priorities and principles will be discussed.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may adopt its state legislative agenda for 2024.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

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

POLICY QUESTION(S)

Does Council wish to approve 2024 state legislative policy priorities and principles, updated in Council discussions in 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 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

The 2024 Legislative session is a short session lasting roughly a month. Unlike long sessions, short sessions focus on small, necessary budgetary tweaks, passing technical fixes and a few pieces of policy legislation. It is rare for large, controversial pieces of legislation to pass or significant budget changes to occur. Many parties approach the short session with only one or two minor bills, and legislative leadership limits the number of bills legislators are allowed to file.

Like last session, much of the capitol building will be under construction and the session will be in-person with options to participate virtually. Preparations for session are already under way; bill concepts are being discussed and circulated, and people are meeting to advance policy priorities. Like previous short sessions, staff is proposing a modest

legislative agenda that reflects well-established Council policy and/or legislative priorities that have previously been included in the Council's agenda.

Short session legislative focus

Legislative leadership has indicated a desire to have a calm, uncontroversial short session that focuses on passing only necessary items. Most controversial, larger topics are being pushed to long session with two possible exceptions: Measure 110 reforms and housing production solutions. While both topics have widely supported pieces, parts of each proposal will require substantial legislative conversation and will have competing interest groups and parties. These two topics will be the primary focus of session for many and will leave little appetite for other highly contentious pieces.

Republican walk-out

Implications of the 2023 Republican walkout will likely impact the short session, although exactly how remains to be seen. In November 2022, Oregon voters passed Measure 113 which changed the state's constitution to bar any lawmaker from running for re-election if they have 10 or more unexcused absences during a single legislative session. This had many parties hoping that walkouts were a thing of the past. However, the majority of Senate Republicans and Independents walked out at the beginning of May 2023 and denied quorum on the Senate Floor until roughly one week before the end of session.

In August 2023, Oregon Secretary of State Griffin-Valade issued an administrative rule implementing Measure 113, clarifying that Measure 113 disqualifies legislators with 10 or more unexcused absences during the 2023 legislation session from running for reelection next year. Several Republican senators have filed an appeal of the rule, arguing that they should be allowed to run. The Oregon Supreme Court agreed to hear the case and heard oral arguments on December 14, 2023.

In early November 2023, Republican senators and others filed a federal lawsuit against Senate President Rob Wagner and Oregon Secretary of State Griffin-Valade. The suit argues that the constitutional right to protest is a valid reason to miss Senate floor sessions, clearing the senators to run for re-election. U.S. District Court Judge Ann ruled on the case on December 13, 2023, denying a preliminary injunction on the administrative rules. The federal case can move forward despite the ruling denying a preliminary injunction, but the judge indicated they do not believe the plaintiffs will succeed in proving their claim that walking out was constitutionally protected free speech.

The outcomes of these and any future cases will likely impact how both parties choose to engage in the short session and beyond. It is unlikely that either of these outcomes will be the end of this political and legal issue. Additional suits, ballot measures, and legislative action are expected to be taken over the next year or two.

2024 Election

The 2024 election will have an impact on the Oregon Legislature and dynamics during session. An unusual number of statewide seats will be up for election, and they are all open

seats. Several sitting legislators have indicated an interest or are running for these seats, and this could result in future legislative leadership changes and new legislative members.

Former Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan (D) resigned in May 2023 due to conflicts of interest with the cannabis industry. This results in an open seat in 2024 for Oregon Secretary of State. Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read (D) and State Senator James Manning (D-Eugene) have filed for the position. In addition, State Senator Steiner (D-Portland) is running for Treasurer. Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has also indicated she is not running again, and House Speaker Dan Rayfield (D - Corvallis) is running for the seat.

In addition, Oregon's congressional seats have also garnered legislators' interest. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D) will not be running for re-election, providing an open seat for Oregon's 3rd congressional district. Maxine Dexter (D-Portland) is running for the seat. Oregon's Congressional District 5, held of Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R), also has a legislator running for the seat: Rep Janelle Bynum (D - Clackamas).

BACKGROUND

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

ATTACHMENTS

- 2024 State Legislative Principles
- 2024 State Legislative Agenda

[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?