



600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Council work session agenda

Thursday, April 17, 2025

10:30 AM

Metro Regional Center, Council Chamber

This work session will immediately follow the Council meeting.

Start times for agenda items are estimates.

This meeting will be held electronically and in person at the Metro Regional Center Council Chamber.

You can join the meeting on your computer or other device by using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/615079992> (Webinar ID: 615 079 992)

10:30 Call to Order and Roll Call

10:30 Work Session Topics:

10:30 Federal Legislative Affairs Agenda [25-6236](#)

Presenter(s): Betsy Emery, Government Affairs and Policy Development

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[Attachment 1 - Federal Legislative Values and Principles - draft](#)

[Attachment 2 - Federal Legislative Priorities - draft](#)

11:00 President's Work Group on Future Supportive Housing [25-6237](#)

Services Investments: Discussion

Presenter(s): Lynn Peterson, Metro Council President

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[Metro President's Work Group Roster](#)

11:30 Chief Operating Officer Communication

11:35 Councilor Communication

11:40 Adjourn

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ការគោរពសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ ។ សំរាប់ព័ត៌មានអំពីកម្មវិធីសិទ្ធិពលរដ្ឋរបស់ Metro ឬដើម្បីទទួលបានការប្រឹក្សាស្តីពីការរើសអើងសូមទូរស័ព្ទទៅលេខ 503-797-1700 ។ www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights ។ បើលោកអ្នកត្រូវការអ្នកបកប្រែភាសានៅពេលអង្គប្រជុំសាធារណៈ សូមទូរស័ព្ទមកលេខ 503-797-1700 (ម៉ោង 8 ព្រឹកដល់ម៉ោង 5 ល្ងាច ថ្ងៃធ្វើការ) ប្រាំពីរថ្ងៃ មុនថ្ងៃប្រជុំដើម្បីអាចឱ្យគេសម្រួលកាមសំណើរបស់លោកអ្នក ។

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**Federal Legislative Agenda for the 119th
Congress**
Work Session Topics

Metro Council Work Session
Thursday, April 17, 2025

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENDA

Date: April 5, 2025

Prepared by: Betsy Emery, Federal
Affairs Advisor

Department: Government Affairs and
Policy Development

Presenter: Betsy Emery, Federal Affairs
Advisor

Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

This work session is an opportunity to discuss Metro Council's federal legislative agenda for the 119th Congress (January 2025 - December 2026). The federal legislative agenda is comprised of two documents: one describing overarching values and another defining a narrow set of legislative priorities that the federal affairs program will focus on. The current federal political climate will also be discussed. This will be the first Council work session on this topic. Council is scheduled to consider adoption of their federal legislative agenda at the May 1st, 2025, meeting.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may wish to (1) discuss specific legislative values, principles and specific priorities in more detail; and/or (2) direct staff to develop or investigate additional legislative concepts before considering adoption of a federal legislative agenda during the May 1st, 2025, meeting.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Support Metro's policy goals through engagement with Members of Congress and federal agencies.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

- Does the Council wish to confirm or change any policy direction under which staff is currently operating with respect to issues that are likely to surface in the 119th Congress?
- Are there additional topics for which the Council would like to adopt legislative positions?
- Are there particular legislative positions or advocacy actions that the Council would like staff to prioritize during the 119th Congress?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

See attached draft documents comprising the Federal Legislative Agenda for 119th Congress.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide feedback on the proposed federal legislative agenda in preparation for considering adoption during the May 1st, 2025, meeting.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Federal Election Outcomes

The 119th Congress (January 2025 – December 2026) is led by Republicans. Donald Trump was elected President and J.D. Vance is Vice President. Republicans won narrow majorities in both the House of Representatives and Senate during the November 2024 election. This is a large shift in leadership from the prior Congress in which Democrats controlled the Senate, Republicans controlled the House of Representatives, and a Democrat served in the White House.

In addition to the political shift in D.C. leadership, there have been large changes to the Congressional delegation representing the Portland metro region. After representing Oregon's third Congressional district for 29 years, Earl Blumenauer retired from the House of Representatives. Former State Representative Maxine Dexter was elected to fill his seat and represent the Portland and Mount Hood area. Additionally, former State Representative Janelle Bynum replaced Lori Chavez Deremer to represent Oregon's 5th Congressional District in D.C.

After losing her re-election bid, Lori Chavez Deremer has been confirmed by the Senate to serve on President Trump's cabinet as the Labor Secretary. She is the first Oregonian to hold a cabinet position since 1979 when former Portland Mayor Neil Goldschmidt served as President Carter's secretary of transportation.

White House and Republican Priorities

With their leadership trifecta, President Trump and the Republican Party are prioritizing a wide swath of policy efforts related to:

- Immigration: securing U.S. borders, deporting undocumented people, and suspending refugee resettlement
- Taxes: extending the 2017 tax package permanently and repealing clean energy tax credits
- Trade: imposing tariffs on imports from China, Mexico, Canada and other countries
- Energy / Climate: expanding oil and gas drilling, ending renewable energy leasing, eliminating energy efficiency requirements, and weakening environmental protections and permitting requirements
- Spending: establishing a new government office (the Department of Government Efficiency) to target "waste, fraud and abuse" in federal funding, eliminating federal agencies

Republicans will have to navigate very narrow margins to advance their legislative priorities. There are a few must-pass bills given upcoming expirations, including the 2017 tax bill provisions and the Farm Bill, both of which expire in September 2025.

They will also need to reauthorize a surface transportation bill before the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expires in September 2026.

NEXT STEPS

Metro’s legislative agenda setting process is iterative. Staff has met with Metro Councilors, departmental leadership, and jurisdictional partners to share respective initial priorities and learn what partners are pursuing. Staff also met with Metro’s contract lobbyist, Summit Strategies, to discuss what is on the horizon in D.C. The draft documents before Council represent those conversations.

BACKGROUND

Council has adopted comprehensive federal legislative agendas to guide federal advocacy for each Congress since 2021. The draft version being considered during the April 17th Council meeting is an updated version of Council’s agenda for the 118th Congress to reflect the Agency’s current priorities amidst the new political climate.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Metro Council’s Federal Legislative Values and Principles for the 119th Congress - Draft
2. Metro Council’s Federal Legislative Priorities for the 119th Congress - Draft

[For work session:]

- Is legislation required for Council action? Yes No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? Yes No

METRO COUNCIL'S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE VALUES + PRINCIPLES FOR THE 119th CONGRESS

The Metro Council's federal legislative agenda is comprised of two documents. The first document is a list of Metro's overarching federal legislative values and principles (below). The *legislative values* are broad, overarching positions that guide Metro's engagement on any federal issue, regardless of the topic area. The *legislative principles* are advocacy positions for specific topic. The second document comprising the federal legislative agenda is a narrow set of strategic *legislative priorities* (below) with the most opportunity to advance at the time of Council's adoption. The federal affairs program will focus advocacy efforts on the legislative priorities during the two-year Congress.

OVERARCHING LEGISLATIVE VALUES

SECURE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR OUR REGION

To ensure a prosperous economy, a clean and healthy environment, and a high quality of life for all of our residents, Metro and our partners must have sustainable financial resources to provide quality public services and advance regional priorities. This includes protecting Metro's existing sources of federal formula funding, soliciting additional discretionary funding, and supporting partners in applying for federal funding for projects of regional significance.

MAINTAIN ADEQUATE AGENCY STAFFING + FUNDING LEVELS

Many of Metro's plans, programs and projects are built on multi-decade partnerships with federal agencies. Metro believes that all federal agencies must maintain adequate staffing and funding levels so they can complete their statutorily defined responsibilities and continue advancing regional priority projects. This is especially true for federal agencies whose permitting processes, financing mechanisms, and programs intersect with Metro's policies and goals.

FACILITATE REGIONAL COORDINATION, PLANNING + GOVERNANCE

Many of our region's challenges are big and complex. While cities and counties play a key role in enacting policy change and improving the lives of their constituents, many of the region's persistent challenges require coordination among local jurisdictions, Tribes, community partners, and other entities. Metro supports equitable, comprehensive, and coordinated regional planning that encourages connections and alignment among cities and counties, while maintaining flexibility for local solutions.

SUPPORT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TRIBAL RELATIONS

Tribes are independent sovereigns with inherent powers of self-government and relationships with the U.S. government that derive from treaties, federal law and

executive orders. Metro supports policies, laws and legislative efforts that strengthen requirements for government-to-government tribal consultation; promote substantive involvement of Tribes and Indigenous People in federal decision-making processes; and that protect sensitive archeological, cultural, historic and natural resources which are critical to Tribes. Metro will work to support shared priorities advanced by Tribes, tribal organizations and Indigenous legislators, including those that address legacy impacts of non-Indian settlement and colonization across the U.S. Further, Metro encourages federal agencies to honor and uphold their trust and treaty obligations to Tribes.

DEFEND RACIAL EQUITY, LGBTQ RIGHTS, + IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Metro envisions a region and state where a person's race, place of birth, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or immigration status does not predict their economic and social opportunities; access to services, housing, and healthcare; or quality of life. Metro supports policies that address past discrimination and persecution, eliminate disparities and barriers, and promote inclusion and accessibility in public programs, services, and facilities. Metro supports efforts to address the needs of, and enshrine civil rights protections for, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC); Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Two Spirit, Intersex, and Asexual; and immigrant communities.

TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE + RESTORE CLIMATE STABILITY

Metro supports policies and programs that help communities combat and adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reliance on fossil fuels at the local, regional, state, national, and international levels. This includes making infrastructure resilient to climate and extreme weather (e.g., seismic safe bridges), reducing and mitigating environmental impacts, especially from the transportation sector (e.g., fish passage, habitat connectivity), and reducing vulnerability to natural hazards, especially floods, earthquakes, and catastrophic wildfire.

TOPIC-SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING + HOMELESSNESS

- *Increase Affordable Housing Production and Preservation:* Metro supports policies and investments that increase affordable housing production and development, preserves and maintains existing affordable housing, and provides pathways to homeownership. This includes affordable housing development financing mechanisms like Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Community Development Block Grants, Community Development Financial Institutions, HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
- *Promote Equitable Access to Housing:* Metro supports bold, innovating policies and investments to ensure the most marginalized people have access to safe, stable, affordable housing, including policies that prevent discrimination,

eliminate barriers and disparities, tackle predatory actions in the housing sector, affirmatively furthers fair housing policies.

- *Increase Federal Resources for Wrap Around Services:* Metro supports resources and policies that embed high-quality wrap around services (e.g., behavioral and mental healthcare, nutrition services, case support) into supportive housing as a means of increasing access to direct service providers; addressing health-related social needs; and promote housing stability among some of the hardest-to-house and most vulnerable populations.
- *Expand Rental Subsidies:* Metro supports expanding rental subsidies (e.g., rental assistance, voucher programs, and other eviction prevention measures) that make housing more affordable and opposes efforts to establish eligibility restrictions that prevent equitable access to safe, stable, affordable housing (e.g., sobriety, documentation status requirements).
- *Improve Alignment Between Federal Agencies and Housing Services:* Metro supports an all-of-government approach that increases alignment and coordination across federal, state, regional, and local housing and homelessness systems to effectively implement lasting, interagency solutions (e.g., Oregon's Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver), while recognizing that any federal housing policy must maintain flexibility for local innovation and streamlined deployment of funds.
- *Promote Housing First Policies:* Metro supports enacting housing policies that prioritize providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness without prerequisites for enrolling in other services (e.g., job searching, sobriety requirements).

TRANSPORTATION

- *Establish Sustainable Transportation Funding Mechanisms:* Metro supports establishing innovative, long-term, stable transportation funding mechanisms to support capital construction, operations, and maintenance and provide long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (e.g., electric vehicles paying into the Highway Trust Fund, a national VMT pilot).
- *Expand Transportation Equity:* Metro supports funding and policies that support everyone's ability to move around the region safely, affordably, and easily by eliminating transportation-related disparities that are often experienced by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as well as people with low incomes, limited English proficiency, and mobility challenges.
- *Improve Transportation Safety:* Metro supports the Safe Systems Approach and policies that reduce fatal and severe-injury crashes and increase the safety and security of the transportation system, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists, in marginalized communities, and along high-injury corridors.
- *Invest in Coordinated Multimodal Transportation Infrastructure:* Metro supports investments and policies that support the construction, operations,

and maintenance of connected and coordinated system of multimodal infrastructure, including public transportation (e.g., bus rapid transit and light rail) and bike / pedestrian infrastructure (e.g., bike lanes, shared-use paths and trails) that support everyone's ability to move around the region safely, affordably, and easily.

WASTE PREVENTION

- *Modernize the Waste System:* Metro supports modernizing the recycling system to be more convenient, accessible, safe, and equitable through expanded recycling and solid waste facilities such as drop off sites and recycling depots, especially for food waste, yard debris, household hazardous waste, bulky items, and hard-to-recycle items.
- *Promote Equitable and Socially Responsible End Markets:* Metro supports creating a standard definition and accountability measures for "responsible end markets" that recycle, recover, or dispose of materials in ways that minimize environmental, public health, and worker safety risks.
- *Preserve Flexibility for Local Waste Prevention Measures:* Metro supports aligning federal policy with best practices in waste prevention, recycling, and composting, but any efforts to create standard guidance, whether administrative or legislative, must support the role of states and localities to innovate and go beyond what is federally required.
- *Incentivize Public-Private Partnerships:* Metro supports efforts to promote public-private partnerships to expand local markets for priority recyclable materials, promote circularity, and conduct research and development of innovative technologies.
- *Prevent Waste and Promote Recycling, Reuse, Repair, and Composting:* Metro supports policies and programs that prevent and reduce the waste stream and promotes opportunities for composting, recycling, reuse, and repair, either via infrastructure, education, or other strategies.

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

- *Protect and Restore Natural Areas and Degraded Ecosystems:* Metro supports policies and funding for local conservation efforts, including purchasing and restoring natural areas, wetlands, vulnerable ecosystems, and significant landscapes.
- *Conserve and Recover At-Risk Species:* Metro supports policies and funding for local, national, and international species conservation and recovery efforts, especially for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species.
- *Remediate Environmental Contamination at Brownfields and Superfund Sites:* Metro supports policies and funding for environmental contamination assessments and remediation efforts, particularly in areas where pollution disproportionately impacts communities of color and Tribes.

- *Defend Foundational Environmental Laws and Regulations:* Metro opposes efforts to weaken federal environmental laws, regulations, or permitting requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act.

TRIBAL RELATIONS

- *Investigate and Address Impacts and Effects of Indian Boarding School Policies:* Metro supports efforts to establish a federal Commission modeled after Canada's Truth and Healing Commission to investigate the impacts and ongoing effects of Indian Board School Policies and identify recommendations on how to address those impacts.
- *Strengthen Compliance and Enforcement of Cultural Resource Protections:* Metro supports efforts to reduce impacts to tribal resources, traditional cultural properties, formal cultural resource sites, and sacred sites. This includes strengthening compliance and resources to administer the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act. Metro opposes efforts to weaken federal laws, regulations, or permitting requirements, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Archeological Resources Protection Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Indian Sacred Sites Act.
- *Reduce Violence Against Indigenous People:* Metro supports efforts to improve public safety within tribal lands and Indian reservations, strengthen tribal law enforcement, improve coordination between federal agencies working for and within Indian Country, create mandatory missing persons data and reporting standards, address jurisdictional issues so crimes can be prosecuted when they occur, provide resources to urban Native communities, and provide culturally appropriate services to victims so that impacted Tribes and families have greater access to justice.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

- *Enhance Metro's Public Arts, Education, Cultural and Tourism Venues:* Metro supports policies and investments that support capital upgrades, maintenance, operations, ticketing fairness and transparency, and programming at the Oregon Convention Center, Expo Center, Portland's Centers for the Arts, and Oregon Zoo.
- *Expand Career Pathway and Workforce Development Programs:* Metro supports investments in career pathways, workforce development, and economic mobility programs, especially among BIPOC communities.
- *Defend Collective Bargaining Rights:* Metro supports policies that support the right for employees to organize into unions and collectively bargain to establish fair terms and conditions of employment, including wages, benefits, working hours, and other workplace rules.

METRO COUNCIL'S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 119th CONGRESS

The Metro Council's federal legislative agenda is comprised of two documents. The first document is a list of Metro's overarching federal legislative values and principles. The *legislative values* are broad, overarching positions that guide Metro's engagement on any federal issue, regardless of the topic area. The *legislative principles* are advocacy positions for specific topic. The second document comprising the federal legislative agenda is a narrow set of strategic *legislative priorities* (below) with the most opportunity to advance at the time of Council's adoption. The federal affairs program will focus advocacy efforts on the legislative priorities during the two-year Congress. Metro Council's federal legislative priorities are listed below without any particular order.

- **Reform the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)** to increase Oregon's state-wide allocations of LIHTC and private activity bonds (PABs) and reduce PAB financing requirements to access LIHTC so that more affordable housing can be built.
- **Secure regional priorities in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization package**, in partnership with the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT). While the details associated with specific priorities are still being defined, there is alignment to advocate to defend Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding levels, reform the Highway Trust Fund revenue streams, and strengthen the FTA Capital Investment Grant program.
- **Maintain federal funding support for the Oregon Zoo's California condor recovery program**, either via Congressionally Directed Spending, programmatic appropriations, and/or competitive grant funding through the Recovery Challenge Grant.
- **Preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds** in any large-scale tax package. This tax exemption is vital for state and local governments to finance capital improvements and ensure that taxpayers from having to carry the financial burden of paying taxes on interest paid on these qualified bonds.
- **Remediate environmental contaminants at Willamette Cove**, and the broader Portland Harbor Superfund Site, and provide safe public access to the Willamette River in partnership with Tribes.

**President's Work Group on Future
Supportive Housing Services
Investments: Discussion**
Work Session Topics

Metro Council Work Session
Thursday, April 17, 2025

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES REFORM: UPDATES ON METRO COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S WORK GROUP

Date: April 10, 2025

Prepared by: Craig Beebe,
craig.beebe@oregonmetro.gov

Department: Office of the Council
President

Presenter: Council President Lynn
Peterson

Work Session Date: April 17, 2025

Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Metro Council is considering and collaborating with partners on potential reforms to improve the impact, accountability and stability of regional programs to address homelessness and housing instability. The Metro Council President's Work Group on these reforms has met three times to consider and discuss potential recommendations to the Metro Council. This work session is an update on that progress, led by Council President Peterson with Deputy Council President Simpson and Councilor Lewis.

ACTION REQUESTED

This item is an update only. Councilors may request additional information or provide guidance to support refinement of legislative action and collaboration with partners.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

In line with stakeholder/community input since January 2024, the Council has been considering reforms that address three primary facts:

- The region needs to continue funding in services and affordable housing to address homelessness for decades to come. However, regional funding for both will end within a few years, as the supportive housing services (SHS) taxes expire and Metro's affordable housing bond is fully spent out.
- There is no viable path to extending regional funding to address homelessness without reforming how SHS taxes are used and overseen, so that they can invest in a full range of solutions to homelessness and to demonstrate greater accountability, efficiency and transparency.
- There is an extraordinary opportunity to bring together a wide coalition of providers, business leaders and community leaders to advocate for an extension and expansion of SHS, safeguarding the progress that has been made and ensuring that thousands more people can keep stable housing.

The Metro Council discussed a potential policy package in January that included a draft "Ballot Measure Ordinance" (No. 25-1525) that includes reforms that would be submitted to voters, and a draft "Companion Ordinance" (No. 25-1526) that would advance a transition to a reformed SHS program upon passage of a measure.

On Feb. 24, Council President Peterson convened a work group of elected and community leaders to discuss potential reforms identified in the above draft ordinances, including the identification of a regional vision/mission for addressing homelessness, as well as Key Performance Indicators and data needs that can help support analysis, communication and strategic decision-making. The work group, co-chaired by Council President Peterson and Clackamas County Commissioner Ben West, has met three times to date, with plans for five additional meetings by mid-June. The work group's role is to make recommendations to inform the Metro Council's decision-making; as an advisory work group, it will not be voting or expected to reach consensus.

POLICY QUESTIONS

Does Council have questions on the Work Group process or reflections on its progress?

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Through efforts with many jurisdictions, providers and community partners, the voter-approved 2018 Metro Affordable Housing Bond and 2020 Supportive Housing Services measure have helped thousands of families and individuals across the greater Portland region find stable, affordable housing and get the supports they need to avoid or escape homelessness.

Yet there is more to do. Housing costs continue to outpace what people earn and the impacts of homelessness are felt in every corner of greater Portland. These realities will continue beyond the current 2030 expiration of the SHS program and the successful completion of investments by the affordable housing bond.

Any extension of the SHS sunset or expansion of its uses must be approved by the region's voters. Other elements of proposed changes to governance, accountability and allocation may or may not be included in a ballot measure. However, public opinion research and stakeholder input demonstrates clearly that updates to oversight and accountability are likely necessary to build coalition and voter support for a potential measure.

Building on extensive input from partners, community and stakeholders, the Metro Council has been clear that its immediate focus remains on addressing homelessness – effectively, collaboratively and with clear benefits to all.

POLICY OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

Council should discuss how best to advance its desires through potential reform actions, and continued collaboration with jurisdictional partners, providers, community and business leaders and other stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

On July 9, 2024, Metro COO Madrigal released recommendations (“COO Recommendation”) to the Metro Council, to address several significant challenges and needs in how the region addresses housing affordability and homelessness. The COO Recommendation followed six months of engagement with the stakeholder advisory table, jurisdictional partners, housing and service providers, and community members.

The Metro Council discussed the COO Recommendation, stakeholder engagement and Councilor priorities at six meetings and work sessions between July and October 2024. The Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 24-5436 on October 17, providing direction on a reform package to secure impactful, stable regional supportive housing services and affordable housing funding into the future. Throughout the fall and winter, Councilors and Metro staff continued engagement with county, city and coalition leaders. Council further articulated goals for Supportive Housing Services reforms at work sessions on November 26 and December 5, 2024.

On January 16 and 23, 2025, the Metro Council reviewed and discussed draft language for two ordinances to advance its direction for SHS reforms – one for referral to voters, and the other contingent upon voter approval. The Council opted to postpone consideration of action on the proposed ordinances to allow for conversations to continue at the Council President’s Work Group, as well as among coalitions whose support would be critical for a proposed ballot measure.

Public opinion research has gauged priorities for a potential measure, finding that a measure to extend and improve SHS could be viable, if paired with strengthened oversight and accountability, clear metrics to track and report progress, and a strong coalition of support. The Metro Council has not yet determined whether to refer a measure to voters on the November 2025 ballot. The Metro Council is expected to discuss revised ordinances again in early June, with potential action tentatively scheduled for late June.

Metro Council President Peterson appointed the Work Group to continue discussions of potential reforms with county, city and community/business partners and stakeholders, prior to a decision on referring a potential measure. The Work Group met on February 24, March 10 and April 7. Future meetings are planned on April 21, May 5, May 19, June 2 and June 16. In addition to Council President Peterson, the Metro Council is represented at the Work Group by Deputy Council President Simpson and Councilor Lewis.

Metro Council last had an update on the Work Group’s progress on March 18. Council is scheduled to continue updates and conversations at work sessions throughout the remainder of the spring.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Metro Council President’s Work Group Roster



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Metro President's Work Group Roster		
Position	Member	Member
Metro	President Lynn Peterson (Co-Chair)	Councilor Ashton Simpson
Metro	Councilor Christine Lewis	
Multnomah County	Commissioner Shannon Singleton	Commissioner Julie Brim-Edwards
Washington County	Commissioner Jerry Willey	Chair Kathryn Harrington
Clackamas County	Commissioner Ben West (Co-Chair)	Chair Craig Roberts
Cities of Multnomah County	Mayor Travis Stovall City of Gresham	Mayor Keith Wilson City of Portland
Cities of Washington County	Mayor Tim Rosener City of Sherwood	Mayor Lacey Beaty City of Beaverton
Cities of Clackamas County	Mayor Joe Buck City of Lake Oswego	Mayor Lisa Batey City of Milwaukie
Welcome Home Coalition	Mercedes Elizalde Latino Network	
Here Together	Melissa Earlbaum Clackamas Women's Services	
Coalition of Communities of Color	Sahaan McKelvey Self Enhancement Inc	
Housing Oregon	Rachael Duke Board Chair, CPAH	
Clackamas County Business Alliance	Nellie Devries Executive Director	
Westside Economic Alliance	Elizabeth Mazzara Myers Executive Director	
Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors	Alex Phan Principal Broker	
Portland Metro Chamber	Andrew Rowe Purposeful Ventures	

Materials following this page were distributed at the meeting.



Metro

Federal Legislative Agenda for 119th Congress

Betsy Emery | Federal Affairs Advisor

Metro Council Meeting
April 17, 2025



Agenda

- 2024 election recap
- Leadership priorities
- Updated legislative values + principles
- Specific legislative priorities for 119th Congress



Federal Election Outcomes and Leadership

- Republicans control White House and Congress
- New Portland-area House members
 - Rep. Janelle Bynum and Rep. Maxine Dexter
- Challenging dynamics on Capitol Hill
 - Very narrow margins
 - Differences emerging within Republican Caucus



Leadership Priorities + Early Actions

- Government Spending: reducing federal budget
- Immigration: securing U.S. borders
- Taxes: extending 2017 tax package
- Energy: repealing clean energy programs
- Environment: reducing environmental regulations
- Trade: imposing expansive tariff increases



Federal Legislative Agenda

- Identifies policy, funding, and regulatory priorities
- Two sections
 - Overarching values and topic-specific principles
 - Legislative priorities



Overarching Federal Legislative Values

- Secure federal funding for our region
- **Maintain adequate agency staffing and funding levels**
- Facilitate regional coordination, planning and governance
- Support government-to-government tribal relations
- Defend racial equity, LGBTQ+ rights and **immigrant communities**
- Tackle climate change and restore climate stability

Topic Specific Federal Legislative Principles

- **Housing**
 - Affordable housing production
 - Rental subsidies + access
- **Transportation**
 - Funding mechanisms
 - Safety
- **Waste**
 - Modernize facilities
 - Responsible end markets
- **Ecosystems**
 - Restore natural areas
 - Defend environmental laws
- **Tribal Relations**
 - Indian Boarding Schools
 - Cultural resource protections
- **Economic Prosperity**
 - Venues
 - Workforce development

Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

- Secure priorities in the tax package
 - Reform the **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit**
 - Preserve tax-exempt status of **municipal bonds**
- Secure regional priorities in the **surface transportation reauthorization** package
- Maintain federal funding and support for the Zoo's California **condor recovery program**
- Remediate environmental contaminants at **Willamette Cove**



Questions for Council

- Does Council want to confirm or change any of the proposed legislative principles or priorities?
- Are there additional topics that Council would like to adopt legislative positions?
- Are there particular legislative positions or advocacy actions that the Council wants to prioritize?



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Vision Framework



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