

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE)	RESOLUTION NO. 25-5478
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR)	
119 TH CONGRESS)	Introduced by Council President Peterson

WHEREAS, Metro has an interest in the bills, policies, and discussions before the 119th Congress; and

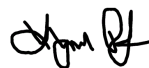
WHEREAS, the Metro Council and Metro staff will represent Metro's interests through meetings, engagement, and legislative discussions during the current Congress; and

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 at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, the attached Exhibit A 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 119th Congress consistent with Exhibit A attached hereto.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this first day of May, 2025.



Lynn Peterson, Council President

Approved as to Form:



Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney



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EXHIBIT A

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 topics. The second document comprising the federal legislative agenda is a narrow set of strategic legislative priorities (below) with the greatest 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 Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant program.
- **Maintain federal funding support for the Oregon Zoo's California condor recovery program**, through 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 do not have 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.

Oregon Metro Federal Legislative Agenda for 119th Congress
Last Updated: 4/21/2025

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 topics. The second document comprising the federal legislative agenda is a narrow set of strategic legislative priorities (below) with the greatest 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, especially the Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and Federal Emergency Management Agency, 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, existing projects, 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.

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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 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, preserve and maintain existing affordable housing, and provide pathways to homeownership. This includes affordable housing development financing mechanisms like Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Community Development Block Grants, Community Development Financial Institutions, and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

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- *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, and further 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

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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.

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- *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 strengthen protections for tribal resources, traditional cultural properties, 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 laws, regulations, or permitting requirements defined in 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 on 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, 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 5 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.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENDA

Date: April 17, 2025

Department: GAPD

Meeting Date: May 1, 2025

Prepared by: Betsy Emery, Federal Affairs
Advisor

Presenter(s) (if applicable): Betsy Emery,
Federal Affairs Advisor

Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

During this meeting, Council will consider adoption of their federal legislative agenda for the 119th Congress (January 2025 - December 2026). The federal legislative agenda is comprised of two components: the first section defines a narrow set of legislative priorities that the federal affairs program will focus on, and the second section describes Council's overarching federal legislative values and principles.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council may wish to (1) adopt the federal legislative agenda via resolution; and/or (2) discuss legislative values, principles, or priorities in more detail; and/or (3) direct staff to develop or investigate additional legislative concepts to bring back to Council for consideration.

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 establish federal legislative priorities for in the agenda?

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

See attached Federal Legislative Agenda for 119th Congress.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that Council adopt the Federal Legislative Agenda for the 119th Congress.

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

After adoption, staff may return to Council to provide updates or make amendments to the legislative agenda. This agenda will go through another cycle of full review and update when the next Congress is seated in January 2027.

BACKGROUND

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. Council had a work session on the draft federal legislative agenda on April 17th, 2025. Staff has incorporated that feedback into the final version that is being considered for adoption during the May 1st Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

None