



Welcome to OBI's weekly legislative newsletter

The 2019 session of the Oregon Legislature begins January 22, and lawmakers are slated to consider sweeping changes to Oregon law, including significant tax increases, carbon reduction policies, employment law changes, education investments, health care and others. OBI will keep you informed with this newsletter and other timely communications providing both real-time reports on legislative activity and in-depth looks at issues on the table. Look for our Capitol Central report every week.

Here's this week's news.



Nearly 1,500 pre-session bills are now public

Pre-session bills for the 2019 legislative session were released Jan. 10 and will be

introduced officially on Monday, Jan. 14. Currently at 1,488, the final number of bills that will be considered this session may top 3,000 by the time the Legislature adjourns in June. Watch for our analyses as we review the bills for implications for the business community. [Review bills online.](#)

OBI board sets legislative priorities

Legislative leaders have indicated intentions to pass complex legislative packages this year, including revenue reform, tax hikes, carbon reduction policies, education investments, employment law changes and many others. OBI is ready to represent your interests at the Legislature. [Review our 2019 policy priorities.](#)

Major new taxes on the table

Lawmakers have indicated that revenue reform will be a major focus during this legislative session, with efforts underway to investigate new modes for taxing business activities in the state. OBI is working to ensure that business is at the table in these discussions. For insight, read this interview by Tax Analysts with Sen. Mark Hass, the Democratic chair of the Senate Revenue and Finance Committee. [Read more...](#)

OBI advocates for cost control

As legislators look for ways to raise new revenues, OBI and our Oregon Business Plan partners will continue to advocate that cost control, including PERS reform, must be part of the equation as legislators deal with the state's structural budget deficit. Listen to an [OPB interview](#) with Oregon Business Plan consultant Tim Nesbitt about why PERS reform is achievable.

The Joint Committee on Student Success recommends education investments

A joint committee of the Oregon House and Senate spent several months in 2018 reviewing Oregon's pre-K to 12 education system and has recommended major new investments, potentially totaling more than \$3 billion. The Legislative Fiscal Office provides a [detailed memo](#) and [table of costs](#).

Do you have questions about pending legislation? Feel free to contact our team.

Tax and fiscal policies: [Mike Stober](#)

Education and health care policies: [Megan Chrisman](#)

Employment and retail policies: [Paloma Sparks](#)

Environment and energy policies: Position to be filled soon. For now, send questions to [Katie Koenig](#).

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