



OBI Lobby Day



Last week was the much-anticipated 2019 OBI Lobby Day! Special thanks to the 35 members who signed up to spend the day discussing the concerns of Oregon businesses with legislators one-on-one. Everyone kept busy meeting with legislators, attending a Senate floor session and meeting with Nik Blosser, chief of staff for Gov. Kate Brown, during lunch.

[Click here](#) to read the OBI press release about the day.



In Memoriam: Secretary of State Dennis Richardson

A state funeral will be held Wednesday, March 6, for Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, who died Feb. 26. Read this [editorial](#) in The Oregonian about his legacy to the state. Gov. Kate Brown will appoint a replacement; under Oregon's Constitution, she must select a Republican.

Remembering Norma Paulus

Former Oregon Secretary of State Norma Paulus died on Feb. 28. In 2005, she was selected Statesman of the Year, along with former Gov. Barbara Roberts, by Oregon Business Association, one of OBI's predecessor organizations. [Click here](#) to watch a tribute video produced by Portland General Electric Company to honor both women.

Medicaid Funding Bill

[HB 2010](#), the Medicaid funding bill, [passed the Senate](#) last week and is headed to the governor's desk for signature. The bill includes a hospital assessment, an increase in the health insurance premium tax (from 1.5 percent to 2 percent) and adds a stop-loss assessment.

Workers' Comp

OBI [testified](#) against [HB 3022](#), which would make sweeping changes to Oregon's workers' comp laws, including changing the 30-year-old Mahonia Hall agreement, which improved workers benefits and reduced employer insurance costs.

Tax Update

We expect the Joint Committee on Student Success revenue subcommittee to start the long process of drafting a tax proposal in the coming weeks. The committee is looking at an Ohio-style gross receipts tax, the value-added-based business activities tax (BAT) model proposed by OBI and our partners under the Oregon Business Plan, and increases to the existing corporate minimum tax and income taxes. OBI is working with the subcommittee co-chairs and the Legislative Revenue Office to respond to questions about the BAT model. OBI continues to raise concerns about the pyramiding impact of a gross receipts tax and warns legislators that could lead to opposition. Check out our [tax calculator](#) to determine how both a gross receipts tax and the BAT would affect your company.

March Revenue Forecast

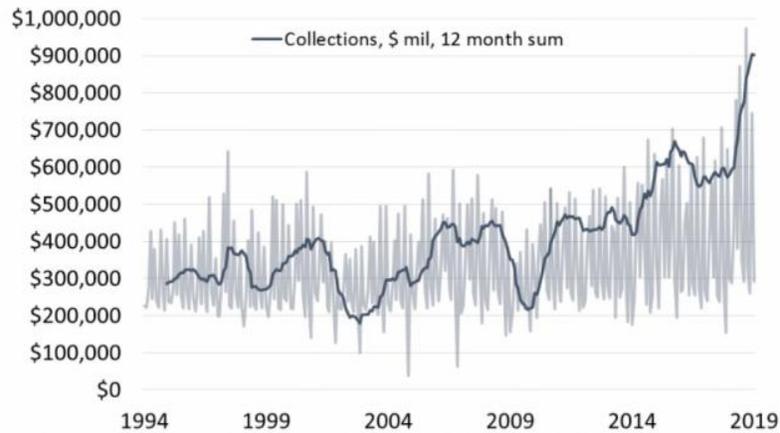
Last week, Oregon's Office of Economic Analysis released its [latest economic forecast](#) showing record and increasing projected tax revenue from businesses. Revenues, especially corporate income tax receipts, are substantially higher than forecast, and the kicker is projected to be \$748 million. Some discussions continue about potentially diverting the kicker to buy down PERS debt.



Corporate Collections Are Booming

Corporate Tax Collections

\$ millions



Latest Data: January 2019 | Source: Oregon Department of Revenue, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis



PERS Solutions Website

PERSSolutions.org launched last week. The new coalition, which OBI and partners support, is calling for cost-sharing and debt-reducing reforms to the Public Employees Retirement System. The new website is an effort to inform the public and inspire movement on \$26.6 billion PERS debt hanging over the Capitol. Click the image below to go to the website.



PERS SOLUTIONS
FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

JOIN THE COALITION

Home PERS Overview 7 Sensible PERS Solutions 2019 Legislative Solutions In the News About Us Contact

What every Oregonian should know about PERS

Weak performance of the fund in 2018 means that the unfunded liability grew by at least \$4.3 billion.

PERS Unfunded Liability = ~~\$22.3~~ 26.6 billion

	Per Oregon Household	For Every Public Employee
	\$13,360	\$128,900
	\$15,900	\$153,700

ABOUT US

PERS OVERVIEW

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH PERS?

7 SENSIBLE PERS SOLUTIONS

2019 PERS REFORM LEGISLATION

PRINCIPLES FOR PERS REFORM

Oregon Legislature

What Happened Last Week

Gov. Kate Brown signed into law the nation's first-ever statewide rent control bill. [SB 608](#) limits rent increases to 7 percent plus the rate of inflation and requires landlords to give just cause for evictions. It takes effect immediately.

A group calling itself the Oregon Revenue Roundtable presented its list of proposed tax increases. [Click here](#) to watch the hearing.

The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction wrapped up its statewide meetings on the cap and trade bill, [HB 2020](#). Last week meetings were held in [The Dalles](#) and [Bend](#). A big thanks to all the OBI members who testified during these hearings over the past two weeks.

Coming Up This Week

March 5: The Senate Workforce Committee will hold a public hearing on [SB 768](#), which would exempt a retired PERS beneficiary from limitations on reemployment if the retiree is reemployed as teacher by a school district or an education service district. OBI will likely weigh in on the testimony, focusing on a broader scale of the Working Retirement Act, which we developed along with partners in the Oregon Business Plan.

March 8, the capital construction subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee will continue its review of PERS financing options. No action is expected until late in the session.

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 Chuinard](#)

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

Environment and energy policies: [Sharla Moffett](#)



Oregon Legislature In the News

[Brown enjoys post-election donation boom – while pushing campaign finance limits](#)

[Cap and trade hearings coverage](#)

OBI HealthChoice
Big Business Options on
a Small Business Budget

[LEARN MORE →](#)

**Smart Oregon
Businesses Choose
OBI CompSAFE**

[LEARN MORE →](#)



Calendar of Events

May 7, 2019



Annual Meeting & Legislative Reception - SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for OBI's Annual Meeting at the Salem Convention Center. We invite all our members to join us as we bring together business and civic leaders to discuss issues important to business and industry in our state. Watch for registration and more details soon.

Oregon Business & Industry
oregonbusinessindustry.com
1149 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

