



2019 Legislative Wrap Up

OBI's lobby team has completed our 2019 Legislative Wrap Up, available [here](#). Several major new laws were passed during the session, including a new tax based on business sales, a new paid family leave program, campaign finance reform and others. OBI tracked almost 1,000 bills and directly lobbied scores of them. This Wrap Up highlights bills that impacted business and indicates issues that may come back in the future.

With the Legislature wound down, we will continue our Capitol Central newsletter on a monthly basis.



Governor Announces Potential Executive Action on Carbon Reduction

Gov. Kate Brown [said](#) early this month that she may use her executive powers to institute carbon control measures following failure of a cap-and-trade bill to pass in the legislative session. “Working on legislation is my preferred approach,” the governor said, adding that she was directing staff to look at “alternative paths” given the failure of a bill to pass. OBI will track potential executive actions if they occur.

PERS

PERS Solutions for Public Services, a group organized to advocate for reforms to the state’s Public Employee Pension System, this month submitted 1,000 signatures to the Oregon Secretary of State to begin the process of drafting ballot titles for their proposed initiative petitions. Former Gov. Ted Kulongoski and former Sen. Chris Telfer are the chief petitioners. The proposed initiatives would increase the employee contribution to PERS pensions and achieve other savings. Read The Oregonian’s coverage [here](#).

Some State Employees to Get 15% Pay Raises

About 24,000 state employees, represented by SEIU Local 503, have reached agreement to get pay raises of up to 15% over the next two years, according to [news reports](#). It will be the highest cost-of-living adjustments in more than a decade and will offset some of the savings achieved through the PERS reform bill passed in the legislative session.

Transportation Committee

At the request of several members, we plan to re-establish our transportation committee. If you or a member of your company team would like to be on the committee, please email [Sharla Moffett](#), the policy team member who will staff the committee.

Upcoming Events

2019 Statesman Dinner

The OBI Board Executive Committee has selected former Governor Ted Kulongoski and longtime Oregon leader Gerry Frank to receive the 2019 Statesman Award. We have also lined up Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski to be the keynote speaker at the dinner, scheduled for Oct. 7 at the Portland Art Museum. If you would like to acquire tickets, email [Morgan Beltz](#).

NEWS

[Oregon GOP Works on Petition to Recall Governor Kate Browns](#)

[Peter Courtney is Oregon’s Longest Serving Lawmaker. Some Say His Time is Up. Are Democrats Really Ready to Push Him Out?](#)

[Manufacturers Abandon Effort to Repeal New \\$1 Billion Oregon Business Tax](#)

[Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek Touts Legislative Session as Success but Says Lawmakers Must Press for a Carbon Cap](#)

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