



Ballot Measure to Challenge Automated Check-outs

The Oregon AFL-CIO announced this week that it is pursuing a ballot measure initiative to limit use of self-checkout equipment in Oregon grocery stores. The union said it will submit 1,500 signatures to the Oregon secretary of state on Friday to enable the process for taking the measure to voters in November 2020.

The Oregon Retail Council, managed by OBI, will track the initiative's process and develop a response.



The state requires initiative proponents to submit 1,000 signatures of registered voters before a ballot title is drafted by the state attorney general. Once the ballot title is completed, the petitioners can begin gathering signatures to qualify the measure for the ballot; AFL-CIO will have to collect 112,020 signatures to qualify the measure for the general election ballot.

Grocery Workers Union Update

Grocery store workers have voted to authorize a strike if the union and major market representatives fail to reach a deal. On Aug. 25, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 voted to authorize a strike, though that does not mean one will happen. The two sides are at odds on the issue of pay raises, according to the [Oregonian article](#) on the latest developments. The union is in negotiation with representatives of Fred Meyer, QFC, Safeway and Albertsons.

The article reports Fred Meyer saying in a statement that it is working in good faith toward a contract “that rewards you with increases in your pay, maintains premium affordable health care and a pension for your retirement. ... We are all on the same team and want the same thing: A thriving, stable company that can provide employment with fair pay and with quality benefits for you and your family.”



Upcoming Events

Get Your Tickets for the 2019 Statesman Dinner



The 2019 Statesman Dinner is almost sold out, so buy your ticket soon if you plan to come. The dinner will be Monday, Oct. 7, at the Portland Art Museum, and OBI is pleased to announce that this year's Statesmen honorees are former Gov. Ted Kulongoski and legendary Oregon businessman and civic leader Gerry Frank. Our keynote speaker for the evening will be U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. If you would like to acquire tickets click [here](#) or email [Morgan Beltz](mailto:Morgan.Beltz@obi.org).

2020 OBI Annual Meeting - Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Feb. 13, for the OBI Annual Meeting and Lobby Day in Salem! Details to follow soon.

Back to School

Back-to-school time is a big season for retail, and this year the typical family plans to spend more than \$690 on average to get their children ready to start the new school year. Even with many school districts starting classes this week, the [National Retail Federation](#) says the back-to-school shopping season is not over yet. Surveys in August showed about half of shoppers still had items to check off their lists.



While many families look to their schools for what to buy, they're also influenced by sales and good deals. More than half of school-related purchases are influenced by sales, the NRF report says, and three in 10 said coupons and in-store promotions influenced families to shop at a specific retailer.

Tariff Impacts

Want to know more about how tariffs could impact American shoppers? Check out this NRF video:



Final Stage for Rulemaking Regulating Toys

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is nearing the end of the final phase of rulemaking for the [Toxic-Free Kids](#) program. This program regulating children's products sold in Oregon was established in 2015 when the Legislature passed [SB 478](#). Manufacturers must report if products contain certain chemicals. As the program continues, manufacturers will be required to remove certain chemicals from products or stop selling them in Oregon.



Retailers and manufacturers have voiced concern about the current round of rulemaking because the process appears focused on fears rather than science. For example, toys may be prohibited for containing chemicals that either cannot be absorbed or are not linked to health risks. Because children's products go through rigorous testing before they are released to the market, OBI and partners are urging OHA to rely on scientific evidence, rather than making assumptions about the product's safety.

The first phase of rulemaking was focused on identifying and posting the prohibited chemicals. The next phase directed manufacturers to report to OHA which products they manufacture contain those chemicals. That phase also established reporting requirements. The current phase of rulemaking requires manufacturers of products that are mouthable: children's cosmetics or products made for or marketed for use by children under 3. It requires that manufacturers either remove the chemicals from products, stop selling the product in Oregon or apply to OHA for a waiver by January 1, 2022. Click [here](#) to learn more.

OBI will continue to engage in the process and will keep our members updated.



Retail News

[Columbia Sportswear spends \\$33 million to expand headquarters](#)

[Hops harvest underway in Oregon](#)

[Oregon senators push bill to shield small businesses from sales tax rules](#)

[Two Portland businesses that have deep family and local roots](#)



Resources

LegalPlus Program

Did you know, by being an OBI member you can get free legal advice? OBI and Innova Legal Advisors provides members 15 minutes of legal consultation each month through the LegalPlus program. Check it out by [clicking here](#). Or contact Bob Blackmore at Innova Legal Advisors: Phone: 503-479-7175; email: Bob.Blackmore@innovalegaladvisors.com.



Wholesale Fuel Pricing

OBI has partnered with MCP Petroleum to drive down OBI members' fuel cost. OBI is leveraging the collective purchasing power of our membership to get wholesale fuel pricing for our members. In addition to fuel savings, OBI members will have access to a comprehensive fuel management system that will reduce slippage, save valuable employee time and provide accountability and oversight of your company's fuel consumption.

OBI members who use 900 gallons of fuel annually through their company are eligible for this program. Please contact [Jeff DeSantis](#) for more information.



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