

Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Governor



**2009 Legislative Session: Governor's Priorities Scorecard**

<b>Education</b>		
<b>Head Start</b>	✓	Maintaining critical investments to Head Start, helping 6550 three-and-four-year olds prepare for success in school.
<b>K-12 Education</b>	✓	Protecting K-12 education from the most devastating cuts and providing certainty of \$2.9 billion for the 09-10 school year.
<b>Higher Ed &amp; Community Colleges</b>	✓	In response to record enrollments, state is investing to upgrade and expand facilities with \$629 million in capital construction for 36 projects across the six university campuses and \$128.6 million for 15 projects at 13 community colleges.
<b>Student Financial Aid</b>	✓	Governor's Shared Responsibility Model for the Oregon Opportunity Grant Program will help 36,000 students access a post-secondary education.
<b>Workforce Training</b>	✓	Creating the Oregon Career Readiness Certificate, an employee credentialing system that measures foundational job skills and supports skill building for career success.
<b>Health Care</b>		
<b>Healthy Kids</b>	✓	Expanding access to affordable and quality health care for all of Oregon's children.
<b>Oregon Health Plan</b>	✓	Increasing access to health care for 35,000 more low-income Oregonians, including mental health care and alcohol and drug addiction treatment.
<b>Health Care Reform</b>	✓	Implementing the best first steps for meaningful health care reform and cost control in Oregon, as recommended by the Oregon Health Fund Board.
<b>Climate Change</b>		
<b>Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals</b>	✓	Furthering greenhouse gas reduction efforts by prohibiting new sources of conventional coal and mandating lower carbon content in fuels.
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	✓	Requiring greater energy efficiency in new homes and businesses; establishing a new, green "reach" code for building homes and businesses; establishing process to develop home energy performance score system; expanding financing tools for energy efficiency projects; and authorizing bonding for a net-zero

		emission “living” high rise building, the first of its kind in the world.
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	✓	Creating a pilot solar “feed in tariff” that pays homeowners and small businesses over a 15 year period for solar energy generated; allows environmentally-approved commercial wave energy pilot projects to connect to the grid; requires 2 percent biodiesel to be blended into all diesel fuel in the state.
<b>Fiscal Stability</b>		
<b>Tax Fairness</b>	✓	Passed a balanced budget that reflected the tough choices forced by economic conditions and a fairer revenue structure, including raising the \$10.00 corporate minimum income tax that has not increased since the 1930’s.
<b>Rainy Day Fund</b>	✓	Landmark agreement creating the first-ever dedicated revenue stream for the Rainy Day Fund to protect education, human services and public safety against future economic recessions.
<b>Jobs &amp; Economy</b>		
<b>Oregon’s Transportation System</b>	✓	The Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act represents the state’s largest long-term investment in transportation infrastructure, putting thousands of Oregonians to work and making sustainable and strategic investments in all sectors of our transportation system, including roads, bridges, mass transit, railroads, seaports and airports.
<b>Capital Construction Investments</b>	✓	Creating thousands of jobs and investing nearly \$2 billion over the next biennium after years of deferred maintenance at our universities, community colleges, National Guard armories, and other public buildings across the state.
<b>Unemployed Oregonians</b>	✓	Extending benefits for unemployed Oregonians who would otherwise lose benefits in late 2009 or are eligible under the state’s Work Share program and expanding benefits to unemployed Oregonians in training programs.
<b>Consumer Protection</b>		
<b>Mortgage Lending Reforms</b>	✓	Requiring evaluation and limiting prepayment penalties for negative amortization loans, requiring loan disclosures to be translated and joining a national licensing system for loan originators to ensure Oregonians have comprehensible, accurate and adequate information when purchasing a home.
<b>Oversight of Debt Management &amp; Collection Practices</b>	✓	Protecting Oregonians working to pay off their debt by requiring debt management services to register with the state; limit upfront fees; and give debtors the right to cancel contracts. Collectors also will be held responsible for inappropriate behavior, such as making threats.
<b>Foreclosure Prevention</b>	✓	Requiring lenders to meet with the homeowner under foreclosure and assess eligibility for a loan modification.

<b>Environmental Health &amp; Sustainability</b>		
<b>Metolius River Basin</b>	✓	Designating the Metolius River Basin as an Area of Critical Concern – forever protecting the basin from large-scale development and preserving its beauty for future generations.
<b>Klamath River Restoration</b>	✓	Authorizing funding to potentially remove four dams in the Klamath River Basin – which would lead to the largest river and salmon restoration project in U.S. history.
<b>Field Burning</b>	✓	Phasing out over two years the practice of field burning in the Willamette Valley except for the steep slopes of Silverton Hills.
<b>New State Forest</b>	✓	Authorizing funding to acquire Oregon’s newest state forest since the 1940’s for use as a working forest rather than parceled and developed for non-forest uses.
<b>Marine Reserves</b>	✓	Designating Oregon’s first-ever marine reserve sites and continues evaluations and collaboration on four other areas.
<b>Penalties for Polluters</b>	✓	Doubling fines for polluters for the most serious violations that cause extreme hazard to public health or environmental damage.
<b>Public Safety</b>		
<b>Statewide 24/7 State Trooper Patrols</b>	✓	Full funding and accelerated implementation for 24/7 state trooper coverage across the state.
<b>Recidivism After Prison</b>	✓	Improving assistance for former inmates to reduce repeat offenses and increase public safety by helping secure identification, documentation of completed education programs and accessing health care – all of which are proven to reduce the crime rate.
<b>Collection of Funds Owed to State</b>	✓	Establishing the ability to garnish federal tax returns of offenders who owe criminal court fines and fees to benefit victims’ compensation and services, criminal investigations and public safety training, once authorized by Congress.
<b>Veterans &amp; National Guard</b>		
<b>Oregon’s Veterans</b>	✓	Landmark session for veterans with the most comprehensive veteran’s legislation in state history. All of the Governor’s veterans’ task force recommendations became law.
<b>Oregon Military Families</b>	✓	Strengthening financial protections for deployed servicemembers and their families and established first in the nation annual day of recognition for military families.

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## ***2009 Legislative Session: Progress in Challenging Times***

### **Keeping the Promise of a Quality Education**

***Maintaining Pre-School Programs:*** The Governor secured funding to continue serving 6550 three and four year olds – a no cuts budget for Head Start.

***Supporting Our Schools – From Kindergarten through College:*** In partnership with local school districts, K – 12 schools have the financial certainty they need to protect important programs for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Our community colleges and universities will be able to serve a growing number of students returning to school to pursue post-secondary education.

***Helping Students Access and Afford a College Education:*** With assistance from the federal Pell Grant program, the Oregon Opportunity Grant program will continue to support the Governor’s newly-enacted Shared Responsibility Model by serving 36,000 students.

***Renovating and Expanding Our Schools:*** This biennium the state will invest more than \$757 million on university and community college campuses across the state and \$30 million for seismic upgrades in public buildings, including K – 12 schools. [SB 5506]

***Ensuring Training Programs Match Workforce Needs of Businesses:*** The Governor created a new Career Readiness Certificate program that helps jobseekers demonstrate their skills to employers. [HB 2398]

### **Building a Healthier Oregon, Starting with Children**

***Covering all Kids and Rebuilding the Oregon Health Plan:*** By the end of the biennium, 95% of Oregon’s children will have access to health care, and through a renewed effort the state will begin to rebuild the Oregon Health Plan for the low-income Oregonians it was designed to serve. By insuring more Oregonians, we will slow down the increasing costs for treating the uninsured that are now passed on to the more than two million Oregonians who have health insurance. [HB 2116]

***Controlling Cost for Oregonians with Insurance:*** By reducing the uninsured, standardizing and simplifying insurance paperwork, and streamlining all state health services and purchases under one Oregon Health Authority, costs will be lower throughout the health care system. [HB 2116, HB 2009]

***Continuing State's Effort to Shine a Light on Costs of Health Care:*** Through the creation of a statewide cost database of all health care claims and a one-stop shop to compare health insurance plans, Oregonians will have more information before choosing which insurance plan to purchase and to make better health care decisions by knowing care outcomes and costs. [HB 2009]

***Using Technology to Save Lives, Money and Improve Health Care:*** The state will develop a plan for implementing a statewide interoperable electronic health information network. Health information technology reduces medical errors and repeated, unnecessary care. [HB 2009]

## **Building a New Energy Economy, Combating Climate Change**

***Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions:*** To ensure Oregon achieves its ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals enacted in 2007, the state will not allow any new conventional coal plants, require fuel providers to reduce the average carbon intensity of fuels sold by 10% over time while providing companies with flexibility to meet the standard through innovation and new technology and give tax credits to Oregonians who purchase plug-in and all-electric vehicles to encourage the transition to zero-emission vehicles. [SB 101, HB 2186, HB 2078]

***Increasing Investment in Energy Efficiency:*** Establishes a new “reach” code structure to give builders advance notice of forthcoming green building codes that will be required for construction of homes and commercial buildings. [SB 79]

***Increase Renewable Energy Production in Oregon:*** A new program will accelerate and expand the use of solar energy in Oregon by paying for the electricity produced by a solar project in a home or small business rather than for the capital investments - making it more affordable to invest in solar energy. And environmentally-approved wave energy pilot projects will be allowed to connect to the grid – providing another zero-emission energy source. [HB 3039, SB195]

## **Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility**

***Passing a Budget Based on Tough Choices and Fairness:*** Passed a balanced budget that reflected the tough choices forced by economic conditions and a fairer revenue structure, including raising the \$10.00 corporate minimum income tax that has not increased since the 1930's and increasing the tax bracket for highest earning Oregonians making our tax system more progressive and based on an individual's ability to pay. [HB 3405, HB 2649]

***Dedicated Revenues for Rebuilding the Rainy Day Fund:*** A landmark agreement was reached to create the state's first-ever dedicated revenue stream to rebuild the Rainy Day Fund to protect education, human services and public safety against future economic recessions. [HB 3405]

## **Putting Oregonians Back to Work, Rebuilding Our Economy**

***Investing in a Transportation System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:*** The Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act (JTA) represents the state's largest long-term investment in transportation infrastructure, putting thousands Oregonians to work, while making sustainable and strategic investments in all sectors of our transportation system, including roads, bridges, mass transit, railroads, seaports and airports. [HB 2001, HB 2186, SB 34]

- ✓ **Providing 40,000 jobs the next ten years.** The JTA will put 40,000 Oregonians to work over the next ten years by constructing and reconstructing transportation projects all over Oregon. Not only will this improve our economic competitiveness, but it will enhance Oregon quality of life by making our transportation system safer, more efficient and more multimodal.
- ✓ **Continuing ConnectOregon.** The JTA also continues Oregon's successful ConnectOregon program that will invest \$100 million in lottery bond proceeds in Oregon's non-highway transportation system, including Oregon's ports, transit, airport and rail facilities.
- ✓ **Greenest transportation package in Oregon's history.** Sustainability was a key component of the JTA with development of a least cost planning model, codification of award-winning environmental standards, planning for greenhouse gas emission reduction scenarios, incentives for electric vehicles, permanent funding for passenger rail, authorization for a congestion pricing pilot project and establishment of the Urban Trails Fund for non-motorized transportation.
- ✓ **Addressing key bottlenecks on our highway system.** The JTA will invest nearly \$1 billion in highway bond dollars to fund dozens of highway projects throughout the state, including Oregon 99 in Yamhill County, the Sunrise Corridor and Oregon 213 & I-205 in Clackamas County, US 26 in Washington County, the Belt Line interchange in Lane County, Highway 43 at the Sellwood Bridge and Oregon 62 near Medford.
- ✓ **Provides funding for local governments for their transportation needs.** The JTA will provide millions of dollars for cities and counties to improve and maintain local street systems.

***Supporting Unemployed Oregonians and their Families:*** Unemployment benefits will continue for the 11,000 unemployed Oregonians whose benefits are scheduled to expire in late 2009 and for those covered under the state's Work Share program. Benefits are also expanded for the first time to include those who enter training programs in high-demand occupations. Legislation also passed that allows unemployed Oregonians to count their most recent work history, making 6,000 more Oregonians eligible for benefits. This legislation also made Oregon eligible to receive more federal dollars. [SB 462, HB 2203, HB 3140, HB 3483]

***Improving Our Schools, Colleges and University Campuses:*** In addition to investments in our transportation system, the Governor and legislature allocated more than \$1 billion to address years of deferred maintenance in public buildings including National Guard armories, Oregon universities and community colleges, as well as critical seismic upgrades at the K-12 schools with the greatest need – creating up to 12,000 jobs. [SB 5506]

## **Protecting Oregon Consumers and Homeowners**

***Keeping Oregon Families in their Homes:*** To assist Oregonians facing foreclosure, the state now requires the lender or loan servicer to meet with the borrower and assess whether he or she is eligible for a loan modification, if the borrower requests it. Renters of foreclosed property are also protected by requiring increased notice for tenants with fixed-term leases, ensuring that they cannot be evicted until property is sold, and ensuring recovery of security deposit and other up-front funds. [SB 628, SB 952]

***Strengthening Oversight of Mortgage Lending Practices:*** Mortgage lending reforms provide additional protections to Oregon homebuyers. Legislation restricts the sale of negative amortization loans by requiring that lenders evaluate whether or not buyers can afford these loans and requires lenders to provide translated disclosures when loans are negotiated in languages other than English. Additionally, the state will participate in a national licensing system for loan originators and has dedicated more resources for mortgage lender examinations. The Department of Consumer and Business Services will look at lenders' files more thoroughly and frequently, to identify problems in a timely manner and protect borrowers. [HB 2188, HB 2189]

***Greater Oversight of Debt Management & Collection Services:*** Financially vulnerable Oregonians are increasingly turning to consumer debt management services for assistance in dealing with debt, including mortgage loans, car loans, and credit card debt. The state now requires all providers of debt management services to be registered with the state, limits upfront fees, gives debtors the right to cancel contracts, and specifies improper advertising practices. The Attorney General also will investigate instances of unfair debt collection practices, such as making threats or calling a borrower repeatedly or at unreasonable hours.

## Preserving Our Environment, Protecting Public Health

***Protecting the Metolius River Basin – One of Oregon’s Natural Treasures:*** The Governor has always believed that the Metolius River Basin deserves special protection. Under a bill passed this session, this basin will be protected from large-scale development and preserved for future generations of Oregonians. [HB 3298]

***Bringing Salmon Home to Oregon:*** Legislation passed to fund the potential decommissioning and removal of four dams on the Klamath River Basin. Doing so will bring the largest river and salmon restoration project in U.S. history, as well as bring water security to farmers and fishermen. The legislation includes ratepayer protections. The total cost to ratepayers is capped and if the dams are not removed, funds will be returned to ratepayers. [SB 76]

***Protecting Public Health – Ending Field Burning:*** Phasing out over two years the practice of field burning in the Willamette Valley except for the steep slopes of Silverton Hills. [SB 528]

***Establishing Oregon’s First Marine Reserves:*** The Department of Fish and Wildlife will develop a work plan to establish Oregon’s first two marine reserves and support further evaluation and collaboration on four other potential sites. Legislation also sets the stage for important research opportunities and further collaboration between ocean users and marine resource managers to help in the development of policy that promotes ocean health and sustainable fisheries. [HB 3013]

***Acquiring Oregon’s Newest State Forest Since the 1940’s:*** Through the purchase of industrial forest land, the Oregon Department of Forestry will manage 95,000 acres as a new state forest. Purchasing the Gilchrist Tract is a significant step toward preventing forest land from being divided up and sold for non-forest uses, a significant threat to industrial forest lands in Central and Eastern Oregon. [HB 2216, SB 5506]

***Increasing Penalties for Polluters:*** To prevent pollution and hold polluters accountable, legislation passed to increase the maximum penalties for violations related to air quality, asbestos abatement, hazardous substance cleanup, hazardous waste, on-site sewage, solid waste, underground storage tanks, and water quality; higher penalties for negligent or intentional spills and even higher for ones that create a likelihood of extreme hazard to public health or extensive environmental damage.[SB 105]

***Adopting the Big Look Task Force Land Use Recommendations:*** Updating Oregon’s landmark system of land use planning by tailoring land classifications to be more relevant locally and by facilitating local problem-solving processes. Also directs a policy-neutral review and audit of the land use system to reduce complexity. [HB 2229]

***Authorizing “gray water” home systems to conserve water:*** Allows homeowners to install systems that reuse water from their homes to water lawn or gardens. It is estimated that families could reuse about half the water used in their homes. [HB 2080]



***Protecting Oregon against Aquatic Invasive Species:*** Giving explicit authority to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Marine Board, and Department of Agriculture to inspect vessels and clean or recommend cleaning of vessels contaminated with aquatic invasive species. The bill also imposes a civil penalty on individuals that knowingly transport aquatic invasive species within the state. [HB 2220]

## **Keeping Communities Safe & Smart Public Safety Policy**

***Providing 24/7 State Police Coverage:*** Fully funding and accelerated implementation of the 139 additional patrol positions authorized in the 2007-09 biennium for the Oregon State Police. [HB 5055]

***Planned Phase-In of Measure 57 to Protect Vital Public Safety Programs:*** The Legislature passed a phase-in of Ballot Measure 57 that creates savings needed to fund vital public safety programs such as state troopers, Oregon Youth Authority beds and courts. The phase-in also honors the intent of measure 57 by investing in drug treatment to property offenders while making sure that those who do not complete treatment serve their sentence. [HB 3508, HB 2290]

***Enhancing Public Safety by Improving Offender Re-entry:*** Virtually all of the 14,000 inmates in the custody of the Oregon Department of Corrections will eventually be released. How these offenders return to Oregon communities makes a difference in whether they will reoffend, causing new victims and draining government resources. [HB 2489, HB 2490, SB 275]

- ✓ **Identification for released offenders.** The Department of Corrections and the Department of Transportation will adopt rules and agreements necessary to assist offenders to obtain a driver's license or identification card prior to release from prison. Released offenders cite identification as their biggest hurdle to successful re-entry. [HB 2489]
- ✓ **Verification of work and program participation upon release.** The Department of Corrections will provide documents at the time of release that will verify an inmate's work record, educational programs and treatment programs. These documents may then be given to prospective employers. [HB 2490]
- ✓ **Assisting mentally ill persons release back into the community.** Inmates with serious mental illness residing in a public institution for 12 months or more can apply for medical assistance prior to release, allowing them to receive medical and mental health benefits immediately upon release to the community. In partnership with the Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections is already providing this service to those inmates who are likely eligible for Medicaid based on disability; this bill would put the practice into statute, thereby assuring us that this process will continue to be prioritized by both agencies in the future. [SB 275]

***Strengthening Supervision of Sex Offenders:*** Seven bills related to sex offender registration closed loopholes in Oregon’s current sex offender registration laws, and move Oregon toward compliance with the federal mandates of the Adam Walsh Act. The bills expand the classes of person who must report as sex offenders, clarify venue to ensure that warrants will be issued when an offender moves and fails to re-register, ensure consistency in the granting of relief, and clarify reporting requirements. [HB 2169, HB 2170, HB 2171, HB 2172, HB 2173, HB 2174, HB 2175]

***Collecting Unpaid Court Fees from Federal Tax Refunds:*** Following the recommendation of the Governor’s Federal Forest Payments Task Force, the state now has the ability to tap into the tax returns of offenders who owe delinquent criminal court fines and fees. Once authorized by Congress, this will enable to state to boost collections that benefit local governments, victim’s compensation and services, criminal investigations and public safety training. [SB 93]

## **Supporting Oregon’s Veterans & Military Families**

***Supporting Oregon’s Veterans and Service Members:*** This session historic legislation passed to provide greater security for returning troops and their families, including strengthening existing reintegration efforts; establishing a statewide task force to facilitate formal communication and resource sharing; ensuring protected unpaid leave for military families during times of deployment; adding disclosure protections for military discharge records on file with county clerks; increase veteran service officers on community college and university campuses; provide instate tuition for all veterans in Oregon; and simplify the definition and increase efforts to better identify all veterans in Oregon so they can access the federal and state benefits they have earned. Voters will have the opportunity to expand the Oregon Home Loan Veterans Fund so that all veterans qualify for the low-interest loan when purchasing a first home. [HB 2178, HB 2744, HB 3104, SB 96, SB 618, SB 700, HJR 7]

***Supporting Oregon’s Military Families:*** Oregon is the first state in the nation to create an annual day of recognition of military families’ sacrifice and service through the establishment of Military Family Appreciation Day – May 8 of every year. Legislation also passed to establish criminal penalties for predatory business practices against military families, expand financial protections for families of active duty military, including reduced credit card interest rates and requirements for lenders to work with families if mortgage payments cannot be made; grant families greater legal rights for financial institutions that violate their responsibility to families of active servicemembers; and increase enforcement of employment protections for deployed National Guard and Reservists. [HB 2762, HB 2303, HB 3020, HB 3256]

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