



CAPITOL INSIDER

OSB Public Affairs Newsletter for Bar Leaders

JANUARY 28, 2004

Ballot Measure 30 Remember to Vote

A special election will be held February 3 on Ballot Measure 30, the income tax surcharge measure. Ballot Measure 30 is a citizen referendum designed to repeal most of the new revenue raised by HB 2152, which was passed by the legislature in the final weeks of the session. At issue is \$780 million of the legislature's revenue packaged raised by HB 2152.

Please exercise your right to vote. Your completed ballot must be returned to your county elections office by election day, Tuesday, February 3, 2004. County election offices will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. For more background information on Ballot Measure 30 visit the Oregon State Bar's website: www.osbar.org.

May 1 Deadline for 2005 Legislative Proposals

Even though the legislative session does not begin until next January, the Bar's deadline for sections and committees to submit proposals to the Public Affairs Committee for the 2005 session is May 1, 2004 – less than four months from now. This deadline allows the Bar to file its bills through the Judiciary Committee before the session begins, and pre-session filing will place its bills among the first on which the legislature can act.

The Public Affairs Department can

assist your group in developing legislative concepts and language. We would welcome the opportunity to attend your executive or legislative committee meetings to assist you and to learn about your legislative plans. Please feel free to contact the Public Affairs Department with questions, requests for assistance, or information on the Bar's public affairs process.

Now is a good time to establish relationships with your legislators, since many are not too busy at this stage of the legislative cycle. To find out who your legislators are (and much more) visit the Oregon State Bar's Public Affairs website: www.osbar.org/govrelation/publicaffairs.html

Vacancies in the Legislature

Five special sessions in 2002, followed by the longest legislative session in Oregon's history, with the prospect of at least one special session looming in 2004 may be causing a number of legislators to seek other ways to effect public policy. Increasing time demands, nasty partisan politics, and low pay are among the reasons some members are leaving the Oregon Legislature.

Of special concern to the legal community is the potential exodus of legally trained legislators from Salem. Members with legal education and training are uniquely qualified to consider significant changes that affect the practice of law and the justice system. Only sixteen of the ninety legislators in the 2003 session were

legally trained, and that number may decline further in 2005.

A number of effective legislative leaders have either already taken other jobs, announced their intention not to run again, or are seriously considering not running.



- **Rep. Max Williams** (R, Tigard) has been appointed to lead Oregon's Department of Corrections. Rep. Williams served on House Judiciary Committee during each of his three sessions, and was chair during the last two. A practicing attorney, he was crucial in gaining adequate resources for the courts in 2003.



- Another practicing attorney who has served on the House Judiciary Committee during his four sessions is **Rep. Lane Shetterly** (R, Dallas). Rep. Shetterly recently announced he will not run for re-election in 2004. Like Rep. Williams, Rep. Shetterly was a significant force in obtaining adequate judicial funding in 2003.



- **Sen. John Minnis** (R, Wood Village) was appointed Director of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training effective January, 2004, and is vacating his Senate seat. Sen. Minnis was elected to the House of Representatives six times, and was elected to the Senate in 2000. A former Portland police detective, he chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee in both 2001 and 2003.
- **Rep. Tim Knopp** (R, Bend), the House Majority Leader, has announced that he will not seek re-election in 2004. Rep. Knopp has served in the Legislature for the past three sessions.
- **Rep. Deborah Kafoury** (D, N and NE Portland) led the Democratic caucus through the difficult 2003 session. In September, Rep. Kafoury stepped down as Democratic Leader in anticipation of the birth of her second child, and has now announced her intention not to run in 2004.
- **Sen. Tony Corcoran** (D, Cottage Grove) stepped down from his Senate seat in the fall, and has been appointed to the Employment Appeals Board.
- Finally, the Governor has named **Sen. Lenn Hannon** (R, Ashland) to the state Parole Board. For most of his 30 years in the Senate, Sen. Hannon served on the

Ways and Means (budget) Committee. In 2003 he was the President pro tem of the Senate and served on the Revenue Committee.

These retirements and potential losses represent a significant drain on the ability and institutional memory of the legislature, especially in the Judiciary Committees. Legislators have until March 9, 2004 to decide whether to run for re-election.

State Voters' Pamphlets

Despite budget restrictions, Oregonians will receive a voter pamphlet for the 2004 primary election and February 3rd special election. Most households have already received the voters' pamphlet for the special election and may have noticed less white space in the pamphlet deleted to save the state \$21,000.

When the 2003 Legislature failed to provide the production funds, the fate of Oregon's 100 year old voters' pamphlet was in jeopardy. There has even been discussion about releasing an on-line version in lieu of the traditional paper pamphlet.

The Oregon voters' pamphlet, an Oregon tradition, was first published in 1904. The pamphlet draws its roots from state law, which requires the Secretary of State to publish a pamphlet.

The Legislative Emergency Board met the first week of November and allocated \$373,000 to the Secretary of State for the production and mailing of the state voters' primary election pamphlets. The Secretary of State had requested \$1.2 million to cover the expense of printing and distributing pamphlets for Oregon's 2004 primary and general elections. The Emergency Board allocated the funds from the general purpose Emergency Fund, which means 1.6 million pamphlets will be mailed to Oregonians in early spring.

The Emergency Board has yet to allocate an additional \$827,000 to cover the costs associated with the voters' pamphlet for the November general election. The Emergency Board will continue to meet throughout the interim to address budgetary issues, including the funding for the voters' pamphlet for the 2004 general election.

OSB Public Affairs Department

The OSB Public Affairs Committee (“PAC”) oversees legislative activities and makes recommendations on major policy issues. Chaired by Gerry Gaydos of Eugene, other members include: Mark Comstock, Salem; Nena Cook, Portland; Lauren Paulson, Aloha; and Linda Eyerman, Portland. William Carter, OSB President, is also an ex-officio member of the PAC.

Please visit our Web site for other legislative information and updates on bar legislation at <<http://www.osbar.org/2practice/lawimprove/legislation.html>>

If you have questions about this newsletter or legislative issues, contact the Public Affairs Committee chair Gerry Gaydos at (541) 343-8060 or the Public Affairs staff at (503) 620-0222 or in Oregon at (800) 452-8260. You can reach staff, Susan Grabe at ext. 380 or by e-mail at sgrabe@osbar.org; David Nebel at ext. 317 or by e-mail at dnebel@osbar.org; or Jill Mallery at ext. 358 or by e-mail jmallery@osbar.org.

Times Are a-Changin’

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