City of Portland
2026 State Legislative Agenda

The State of Oregon and its local governments enter the 2026 legislative session facing significant fiscal pressures – less revenue, rising costs, declining federal funds, and compounding crises that strain core services and the economy. Without meaningful property tax reform, cities remain constrained by Ballot Measures 5 and 50, limiting their ability to fund essential services. As legislators make difficult budget decisions, the City of Portland urges protecting shared resources, avoiding cost-shifting and new unfunded mandates, and preserving local authority.

The following priorities, identified by Portland's Mayor, City Council, and administration, reflect our commitment to sustaining vital services, advancing shared values, and strengthening the economy.

Top Priorities

- **Local Authority & Revenue:** Safeguard essential municipal services and reduce exposure to increased costs or legal liabilities. Preserve municipal flexibility and protect shared resources. Defend local control over ordinances, voter-approved initiatives, bureau and program management, and local revenue.
- **Federal Overreach:** Strengthen state and local authority to maintain community trust and public safety as unprecedented federal actions unfold. Uphold constitutional rights to privacy, due process, and protection from unlawful detention and excessive force; promote transparency and accountability in law enforcement and immigration policies consistent with Portland's status as a Sanctuary City.
- **Economic Development:** Protect and strengthen programs that attract and retain quality jobs, build Oregon's workforce, support minority owned businesses and foster innovation and expansion in high-growth industries. Engage in efforts to ensure the Portland Trail Blazers have a lasting home in Portland for many years to come.
- **Revenue & Federal Tax Code:** As the State evaluates recent changes to federal tax code and federal disinvestment, the City will defend resources that fund essential City services

and seek to preserve financial tools that drive private investment in housing, infrastructure, and business growth vital to Portland's long term economic resilience.

- **Behavioral Health Capacity:** Safeguard equitable access to treatment and care for individuals with mental illness, substance use disorders, and co-occurring conditions and stand with providers in navigating limited resources to deliver services. A strong behavioral health system is vital to Portland's recovery and the safety, economic stability and the well-being of all Oregonians.
- **Housing, Rent Assistance and Shelter:** Defend state investments in housing production, housing-related infrastructure, rent assistance and shelter capacity. Sustaining these resources is essential to delivering safe, affordable homes and fostering resilient, equitable communities.
- **Public Meetings Law:** Update Oregon's public meetings and serial communication laws to enable timely, informed decision-making and improve efficiency and compliance while maintaining transparency and public trust.
- **CEI Hub:** Encourage policies and practices that help protect residents, workers, and the environment from seismic and climate hazards by mitigating risks associated with the CEI Hub in NW Portland, including promoting geographic diversity in fuel storage in Oregon and reinforcing corporate responsibility in hub operations and post-disaster cleanup.

General Principles and Areas of Importance

The following positions support the City's review of legislative concepts in alignment with the City's values, policies and programs:

- **Affordable Housing**: Preserve affordable housing and rental assistance programs, reduce rent burdens for low-income households, support people experiencing homelessness, and promote safe, age-friendly, accessible housing for Portland's lowest income residents, and protect first-time and minority homeownership opportunities.

- **Housing Production:** Advance housing production strategies aligned with the City's core values and Housing Production Strategy. Leverage public lands strategically, land banking, innovative financing, and sustainable construction methods like mass timber.
- **Clean and Safe Public Spaces:** Support policies that improve neighborhood safety through consistent maintenance of state-owned properties and rights-of-way, effective tools for addressing abandoned vehicles and RVs, enhanced safety around container redemption sites.
- **Arts & Culture:** Help strengthen Portland's arts and culture sector, recognizing their role in driving economic opportunity, supporting local businesses, and contributing to a vibrant, resilient City.
- **Community Safety:** Reduce community violence, human trafficking, and traffic fatalities. Maintain adequate state police training capacity. Support continued implementation of HB 4002 (2024) including deflection, as well as integration of mobile services – like Portland Street Response (PSR) and Community Health Assess & Treat (CHAT) – that enhance local response to lower-acuity behavioral health and non-emergency medical calls. Strengthen emergency management and preparedness efforts, including coordinated planning, mitigation, and disaster-response capabilities.
- **Civil Rights & Racial Justice:** Foster equitable outcomes consistent with the City's core values of equity and anti-racisms and the Citywide Racial Equity Goals. Uphold anti-discrimination protections, voting rights, and access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare services. Protect individual rights and maintain local decision-making authority associated with AI, cybersecurity, surveillance and other emerging technologies.
- **Transportation:** Back sustainable, modernized funding mechanisms for operations, maintenance, safety improvements, public transit access, and major regional projects. Promote high-speed rail opportunities and engage in the regulation of ride-hail services, autonomous vehicles, and e-micromobility devices to prevent adverse impacts on cities.

- **Land Use & Zoning:** Support land use and zoning that help meet housing, economic, and livability goals. Defend inclusionary zoning as a key affordability tool and prevent state-imposed mandates that limit locally tailored solutions.
- **Climate Change & Environment:** Encourage carbon reduction, clean energy transition, and affordability for low-income households. Foster energy efficiency, clean transportation, climate resilience, habitat restoration, flood safety, industrial symbiosis, and protections from emerging contaminants such as PFAS ("forever chemicals").
- **Property Tax & State Revenue Reform:** Champion reforms to Measure 50 and related mechanisms to create a more equitable, sustainable property tax system that ensures local government solvency. Support broader state-level revenue stabilization efforts that ensure resources flow reliably to essential community services.
- **Public Contracting:** Promote diversity in public procurement and contracting while avoiding new costs and administrative burdens on cities.