



# NEWS

**State Representative Jean Cowan**  
*House District 10 - Central Oregon Coast*

Contact: Patrick Sieng  
503-986-1990  
patrick.sieng@state.or.us

May 3, 2011  
For Immediate Release

## **Newport to host legislative budget committee hearing Friday**

SALEM – The Joint Committee on Ways & Means, the state’s budget-writing committee, has scheduled a public hearing for Friday, May 6 in Newport from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center Hennings Auditorium (2030 SE Marine Science Dr., Newport).

Committee members, including State Rep. Jean Cowan (D-Newport), will hear public testimony regarding the state’s proposed \$14.691 billion budget. This amount is projected to be \$3.5 billion less than the total required to continue state services at their current level.

“Balancing our state budget while protecting essential services like public safety, education, and human services is a very difficult task,” said Cowan. “These public hearings allow citizens across Oregon an opportunity to participate in the budget process and share their personal priorities with the decision-makers.”

The Newport hearing is the fourth and final public hearing outside of the State Capitol. Friday’s hearing will also be broadcast by video conference in Coos Bay. Other hearings were held in Portland, Medford, and Bend, with video conferencing in La Grande and Pendleton.

Those testifying are called in the order they sign up, and are limited to two minutes each, in order to accommodate as many members of the general public as possible. The sessions are able to accommodate 60-70 speakers.

The Legislature and the Joint Committee on Ways & Means must conclude deliberations on the state budget by June 30.

Cowan is serving her third term as State Representative for House District 10 on the Central Oregon Coast. She was first elected in 2006. She also serves on the Governor’s Commission for Senior Services and as Chair of the Oregon Coastal Caucus. Cowan served as a Lincoln County Commissioner from 1993 to 2004. She also served as Mayor and a City Councilor in Elgin, Ore.

###