



Senator Richard Devlin

District 19

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to take a moment out of your busy schedules to give you an update on news from the Capitol. I have been quite impressed and feel pleased about how smoothly this session has proceeded forward. The Oregon Senate has 15 Democratic members and 15 Republican members. Outside of Oregon a legislative chamber in this situation would normally be referred to as “deadlocked,” nothing could be further from the truth. Senate Democrats and Republicans came to agreement on what could become a national model for sharing power and working effectively in a tied body.

Unfortunately, Oregon has also made national news based on our budget problems. I am deeply concerned about the state Oregon is currently in, and I would like to inform you on our progress in addressing critical issues. In this issue you will find information on the current budget situation as well as samples of legislation that I am working on and bills that I feel are pertinent to our communities. I welcome your feedback-- my door is always open! Email me anytime at Sen.RichardDevlin@state.or.us.

Capitol News:

The Ways and Means committee, which I am a member of, has been reviewing budgets since session started in January. The co-chairs of Ways and Means will release their draft budget on April 18th. Given the current economic situation we can expect that essential programs will not be adequately funded.

I anticipate that the outcome of the budget will propel the legislature to reconsider the state’s revenue sources. There has been an underlying feeling in the Legislature that we need to create sustainable solutions that will address our shortfalls. This is a statewide problem that needs a cohesive statewide

solution, and I believe we will find a way to resolve the differences between the rural and the urban areas of Oregon.

District News:

The State Legislature has deemed specific days of the session “In-District Days,” as a means for members to have more contact with their constituents. March 28th was the first of these dates, and Representative Macpherson and myself held a forum in the Mary’s Woods community. This was an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns and for us to better serve our district. I was pleased with the great turnout and the magnitude of attention that this session is receiving. It was a pleasure to work with this community and be able to address their concerns.

**** Our next “In District Day” will be April 25th. On this date, I will be visiting Uplands Elementary School and Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Byrom Elementary School in Tualatin, and Athey Creek Middle School in West Linn. Unfortunately on this day Portland Public Schools is having a teacher planning day, but I will be visiting this portion of my district in the near future. I am looking forward to the opportunity to meet with students, teachers and faculty at each school.**

If you are ever interested in meeting with me but are unable to make it all the way to Salem, I do hold meetings in district on the weekends. If you have a question or concern that you would like to discuss with me, I would love to meet with you over coffee, at a coffee shop of your choice.

Bill Watch:

SB 819: Representative Macpherson and I introduced this bill to address the school funding crisis. This bill increases the amount of money that is allowed to be raised within the limits of the existing Local Option and property tax statutes. This bill is not a permanent solution to our funding problems, but would allow schools the ability to raise funds at the local level.

SJR 11: This bill would create annual sessions for the Oregon Legislature. Representative Miller and I have introduced this bill because Oregon is currently one of six states that does not have annual session already in place. Annual sessions would allow for a more efficient legislative session, would limit the need for special sessions, would allow members to plan in advance and would actually require less time than we currently spend in session.

Sincerely,

Richard Devlin
State Senator

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