

A BLUEPRINT FOR A 21ST CENTURY LEGISLATURE

REPORT OF THE

**PUBLIC COMMISSION ON THE
OREGON LEGISLATURE**

TO

THE SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



**In Accordance with Senate Bill 1084 (2005)
November 2006**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

One of the benefits of living in a democracy is the ability to personally engage in making changes to the structure and function of government, peacefully. Over the past 15 months 32 Oregonians had that opportunity as appointed members of the Public Commission on the Legislature. Over 100 other Oregonians appeared before this Commission and committees to discuss their ideas, opinions and make suggestions for change. Many others communicated with us by e-mail, letters and phone calls in order to make their thoughts known. This has truly been democracy at work.

Since 1859, when Oregon became a state, only two other commissions have been tasked with reviewing the operations and structure of the Oregon Legislature. The Blueprint for a 21st Century Legislature, as presented by this 2006 Commission, reflects the thinking and values of our time.

We are indebted to President of the Senate, Peter Courtney and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Karen Minnis for taking the bold step of creating the Commission and giving us direction to engage at any level necessary to bring the best thinking and ideas to this work. We are equally indebted to the members of this commission, citizens who spoke with our committees, citizens who followed our proceedings, and many legislative staff who provided counsel or support for their time, energy, thought and debate that contributed to Commission recommendations in this report. Future generations of Oregonians are the beneficiaries of your work.



Judge Laura Pryor, Co-Chair



Gary Wilhelms, Co-Chair

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