

Proposals Submitted to the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature

Proposal Number	Proposal	Committee Assignment	Committee Action and Outcome
01	<p>Member relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend that there be a 4 or 5-day leadership retreat prior to the beginning of session to build or strengthen interpersonal relationships. • Encourage inter-caucus interaction and informal collegiality • Encourage members to seek audience with the other party’s caucus to propose legislative ideas • Create a common lounge or break area where House and Senate members can encounter each other on a face-to-face basis socially everyday without the formality of committee or floor session 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
02	<p>Length of session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send a referral to voters for constitutional amendment for an ending date for sessions. • Include language for extending the length of session • Consider beginning session after Labor Day – legislature would have four months before holiday pressure to complete work and adjourn 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
03	<p>Annual sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget in even years • Evaluation of the legislative cycle – annual vs. biennial • Design a budget process that can be accomplished in three months • Under current process, important issues are overlooked due to the pressure on approving a budget • Date certain adjournment • Improve the ability to respond to budget issues • Set limit of 60 and 120 days (or similar) • Require interim committees to approve introduction of measures rather than session committees • Allow bills to roll from one session to another in a two-year period • Create two sessions: one for budget and the other for policy issues - the legislature could meet in budget session each year after the May forecast to decide and build the budget for the following year. Every other year, the legislature could meet before May or after Labor Day to address policy issues. <p>Have a trial run at annual sessions by agreeing to convene a special session</p>	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set deadlines, goals, and purpose of the trial run • If it works, refer and measure for annual sessions 		
04	<p>Legislator staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for full time personal staff and professional wages • Family wage job • Staff salaries and benefits • Staffing levels for members 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
05	<p>Holding public hearings around Oregon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of taking budget hearings on the road 	Human Resources	9/6 – Assigned to committee, HR
06	<p>Accountability and ethical standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics for legislators and staff • Encourage legislators to be respectful of hearing room audiences • Show up on time, pay attention and stay in the room • Report on member attendance to committee meetings • Is a member attending to vote only or participate in discussion • Discourage fraud • Need for sharper tools, steeper penalties, jail time and vulnerability of public officials • Subject those who cheat the public to double penalties, double jail time and forfeit all elected offices or appointed positions in the future 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
07	<p>Improving public access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate notice for meetings • People from farthest away testify first • Kiosks to explain the process to the public • More opportunities for public involvement • Explore ways to open the process to more citizens • Public respect for and effective, appropriate access to the legislature • Oregon’s shared belief in a representative government • What changes in structure of the process and in expectations for legislators, aides, lobbyists, and others would increase public support for the work of the legislature • Citizen participation as contribution and impediment 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
08	<p>Increase legislator compensation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in legislator pay and maybe per diem • Independent commission which would make recommendations about compensation for all state-elected officials from the governor on down. 	Human Resources	9/6 – Assigned to committee, HR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional salaries for legislators Adequate salary Should legislators be paid more Family wage job Establish performance measures or build in accountability for the increase in pay (attend committee meetings, don't miss floor votes, hold town hall meetings, better communication with constituents) Low wages: people who accept the job are either independently wealthy or retired. <u>Higher wages encourage diversity in the body.</u> 		
09	<p>Paperless floor sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laptops for members on the floor 	Facilities	9/6 – Assigned to committee, F
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review staffing and staff resources <p>Review organizational structure and staffing of legislative service organizations to ensure they serving the process to the best of their ability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of the Senate Chief Clerk of the House Legislative Administration (Committee Services) Legislative Counsel Legislative Fiscal Legislative Revenue 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
11	<p>Review of Sine Die process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the Sine Die process and whether the toll on staff is worth the risk of mistakes and stress on staff Continue to use the 2005 Sine Die resolution with no date/time specific adjournment time 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
12	In-district offices	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
13	<p>Training for legislative assistants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of Oregon/Legislature Process <p>Legislative assistant and caucus staff training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory training for ALL staff – how a bill becomes a law, understanding the committee process and timelines, connections to other branches and local governments, administrative rules Same training as legislators, but separate Take tests before and after to gauge progress 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in small groups 		
14	Need for a good archivist or legislative historian	Human Resources	9/6 – Assigned to committee, HR
15	Safety of electrical and water systems	Facilities	9/6 – Assigned to committee, F
16	Preventative maintenance on the building	Facilities	9/6 – Assigned to committee, F
17	Determine if hearing rooms are adequately equipped for video and audio coverage	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
18	<p>Training and education for all legislators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the process works • Mason’s Manual and parliamentary procedures • Dispute resolution training • Training to respect differences with other members and the public • Take anonymous tests before and after to gauge performance and improvement • Training in small groups for more opportunity for discussion • Mandatory training for ALL legislators – how a bill becomes a law, understanding the committee process and timelines, connections to other branches and local governments, administrative rules • Delegate planning for member training to new resource • Focus on early planning • Prepare and coordinate materials • Promote training to all members and staff • Offer a “potential legislator” training or workshop to give a realistic and optimistic picture of what it means to be a legislator • Establish a legislator exchange program between urban and rural areas and urban/urban and rural/rural areas • Create a pool of mentors for legislators • Help members focus on a long term view 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
19	<p>Partisanship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of partisanship • Non-partisan legislature • Decreasing partisanship • Discontinue all partisan staffing – add to political clamor • Require legislators to do their own political work • Are there advantages to a non-partisan legislature and how would that be 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P

	structures in terms of leadership and chairs		
20	Reduction of unnecessary conflict	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
21	Legislative time management	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
22	Preservation of the citizen legislature	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
23	Professional legislature	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
24	Reduce lobby influence on legislature	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
25	Unicameral legislature	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
26	Legislative process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they make laws and fix problems • Caucus policy • Session scheduling • Efficiency of the legislative process Review interim structure and function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Function of interim committees Re-time legislative session so that interim comes first, then a time limited session. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase productivity of interim and allow for organization and direction in each house • Use the first several months to review critical issues facing Oregon • Meet later in the year to debate bills that have support and have an informed basis for enactment 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
27	Personnel regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fringe benefit and benefit/salary balance • Civil service/ union protection vs. performance 	Human Resources	9/6 – Assigned to committee, HR
28	“The Institution” of the legislature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage • Demeanor • Formal and informal codes of conduct • Interaction between members and houses • Role of staff • Working with lobbyists, advocates, constituents, agency staff, governor’s office, 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI

	statewide officials and media		
29	<p>Role and function of caucuses, caucus offices and staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the impact of fundraising and the hand-to-hand politics of the election cycle on their ability to make decisions on policy • Issue of their credibility with new and returning legislators and staff 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
30	<p>Role of staff in the process – are they doing too much rather than legislators?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal staff • Chief Clerk and Secretary • LC, LFO, LRO and LAC staff • Committee staff • Caucus office staff 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
31	<p>Limit the number of bills introduced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By member only • Limit number of bills introduced each session by total number, members and committees 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
32	<p>Security issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background checks and badges for members, staff and lobbyists • Secure the underground garage – one car at a time to enter and exit the garage • Uniformed offices at entrances • Security review of the capitol (OSP, Office of Homeland Security) • Examine whether locked doors make sense from a security and public access standpoint • Public access to the building 	Facilities	9/6 – Assigned to committee, F
33	<p>Review technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV coverage • Websites • Computer and other hardware/software needs of legislators and staff • Technology available to legislature and citizens interested in the legislative process 	Facilities	9/6 – Assigned to committee, F
34	<p>Allow amendments on second reading of a bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for minority to get ideas heard in bill form • Allow for amending bills on the floor – consider rule changes, public notice, deliberation, counsel on the floor, printing and publishing 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
35	<p>Non-partisan staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect staff from partisan exuberance • Ability to provide unbiased information needed to make informed decisions 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M

36	Restructure the initiative process	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
37	Conform Oregon to effective practices in other states	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
38	Review efficiency of the state budgeting process	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
39	Evaluate staffing and make recommendations for interim work that will accelerate the time to complete budgets	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
40	<p>Facilities evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review office space • Consider complete renovation and updating • Renovation of capitol wings • Renovation of the Governor’s office • New drapes for House and Senate chambers • Safety review of the capitol (OSHA) • Add windows to chamber galleries and side aisles • Add windows to the member/staff doors to HR A-F • Make windows bigger in the front doors of HR A-F • Add handrails to outside staircases (east, west, north and front) • Use brighter light bulbs in the old building – third floor, stairwells, down the hall to west door • Hire an architect as an advisor for building changes and artwork issues • Sterilize or bleach the AC/heating system to prevent illnesses and add rubber gaskets to heating grates to quiet the circulation system <p>Gift shop issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During session, move external gift shop items to another location to decrease the logjam • Sell more Oregon related or capitol products – see the Oregon Historical Society gift shop <p>Artwork in the capitol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory and rotate artwork in the capitol • Acquire historical photos for artwork in the capitol 	Facilities	9/6 – Assigned to committee, F
41	<p>What changes need to be made to improve the state’s ability to get traction on the priorities of the state through the legislature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do to measure improvements • Establish new or make known the current processes and clarify how following 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI

	them serves the will of the people and guards the interests of the state		
42	Relationship of the legislative branch to the executive branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More or different exchanges that would move key issues and budget work more smoothly forward 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
43	Increasing public confidence in the legislature	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
44	Review the legislative branch budgeting process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry over from session to interim or interim to session • Biennium doesn't match the election cycle • Member expenses • Combining session and interim expense allowances • When funds revert, do they revert at the same time as everyone else? 	Human Resources	9/6 – Assigned to committee, HR
45	More staff needed in Legislative Fiscal to become more independent and less reliant on DAS and to handle the workload if Way and Means is divided	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
46	Organizational structure and staffing of leadership offices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Senate President • Senate Majority Office • Senate Minority Office • Office of the Speaker of the House • House Majority Office • House Minority Office 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
47	Review redistricting process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible commission process 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
48	Remove Commission on Indian Services from the Legislative Branch	Human Resources	9/6 – Assigned to committee, HR
49	Review legislative publications	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
50	Review distribution of video coverage of the legislature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute video coverage of committee meetings and sessions to more cable access stations. • Meetings don't usually fit neat timeframes • Develop segments that fit neat timeframes • During floor sessions, ask media to caption what bill is on the floor 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
51	Review House and Senate rules	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
52	Legislative research function	Management	9/6 – Assigned to

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reestablish the Legislative Research Office 		committee, M
53	Legislative audit function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Legislative Audit Office 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
54	Electronic voting in the Senate	Facilities	9/6 – Assigned to committee, F
55	Review the relevance and function of the Emergency Board	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
56	Review public relations and image	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
57	Review and revise all ORS pertaining to the Legislative Branch	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
58	Integrity as it relates to agreements made between members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve binding contracts 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
59	Increase number of legislators	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
60	Legislative records retention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails – building and district computers and emails • Paperwork – bill files • Who maintains files and where are they stored 	Human Resources	9/6 – Assigned to committee, HR
61	Assessment of Committee Services Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCSL report 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
62	Access to the state “datamart” at DAS(?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of access should the legislature have • Separation of powers issues 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
63	Explore performance evaluation and feedback for legislative agency heads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who can hire and fire • Review applicable statutes 	Human Resources	9/6 – Assigned to committee, HR
64	Limit passing of notes to legislators on the floor	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
65	Limit press access to members on the floor	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
66	Review possibility of statewide elected Lt. Governor to serve as Senate President	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
67	Consider introduction of revenue raising bills in both houses	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
68	Eliminate Senate confirmation of Executive Appointments	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to

			committee, PI
69	Establish a “superchief” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconfigure the Legislative Administrator job • Include administrative duties of the presiding officers • “Civilian King” of the legislature 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
70	Disallow committee chairs from not hearing a bill or not meeting with a sponsor	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
71	If a chair doesn’t hear a bill have an easier process for pulling the bill to the floor for discussion or assigning to another committee	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
72	Assign committee staff based on issue area experience if possible	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
73	Acknowledge the roll of committee staff in the committee process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate paperwork process between LC, LFO, LRO and the desks • Take direction from chair with input from caucus, members, lobby, agencies, public etc. • Provide support and advice on procedural options • Don’t take positions or advocate for policies or measures 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
74	Examine the role of caucuses and whether their meetings should be open to the public	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
75	Shift management of Committee Services to the Chief Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
76	Make Committee Services and independent statutory office similar to LFO, LRO and LC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve visibility and credibility of the office 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
77	Establish a training program for lobbyists and agency staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve on DAS training • Similar to legislator and LA training 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
78	Retain 48 hour notice on committee agendas during session	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
79	Make amendments available on the web with permission of the requestor	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
80	Encourage all offices (LC, LFO, LRO) to more effectively distribute paperwork electronically	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
81	Reduce paperwork by electronically distributing information from the Chief Clerk and Secretary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post documents on the web in an obvious location 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI

82	<p>Refocus the committee process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint chairs who are knowledgeable, interested or experienced in a particular topic • Make chair aware of caucus goals and priorities communicated by leaders 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
83	<p>Establish firm committee deadlines within the first month of session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider bill loads and communication with the chair • Clearly state extension of deadlines 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
84	<p>Committee chairs should have regular meetings during session and interim with caucus leaders and/or presiding officers to check in on progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include committee staff in on progress meetings • Political agenda setting meetings are separate from progress meetings 	Management	9/6 – Assigned to committee, M
85	Revamp the legislative website	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
86	Establish and enforce a dress code or provide uniforms for members and staff	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
87	<p>Don't allow members to leave the floor during session except for restroom or caucus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not respectful to other members and the audience • They don't participate in debate • Delays the end of floor session 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
88	<p>Set up an electronic live log, on the internet or TV, of what is happening on each floor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect propositions and motions to move a bill to a different day or the bottom of the calendar 	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
89	<p>All bills should have one subject only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deter "log rolling" • Force the question of "Is this a good or bad idea for Oregon?" 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P
90	Shift legislator focus to bigger more important issues than goose liver pate	Public Institution	9/6 – Assigned to committee, PI
91	<p>Don't separate the Ways and Means committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation causes two trips to Salem and extra expenses on agency staff 	Process	9/6 – Assigned to committee, P