



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

For Immediate Release

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OREGON HOUSE OPENS 2011 SESSION ELECTS NEW LEADERS UNDER HISTORIC AGREEMENT

SALEM—The Oregon House of Representatives opened the 2011 session with the election of Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg) and Rep. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) as Co-Speakers. The election of Republican and Democratic presiding officers is part of a historic co-governance agreement between the parties in an evenly-divided House.

“Today, the Oregon House begins an historic trek of self-governance where we will share responsibility for operating efficiently and meeting our constitutional obligations to balance the state’s budget,” said Speaker Roblan. “Oregon once again has the chance to show the nation that bipartisanship can work and that we can conduct our business with respect for our colleagues. Approval of the governance agreement today sends a message that we can accomplish those goals.”

“As House leaders, we understand that Oregonians expect us to work together to confront the challenges facing our state,” Speaker Hanna said. “Though our parties will have differences over the next two years, we’ve established a fair process that gives all members a voice and allows the House to pass solutions that have broad appeal. We will take a similar bipartisan approach to developing a balanced 2011-13 budget.”

Both Speaker Hanna and Speaker Roblan will share and, in certain cases, alternate constitutional duties. The House also elected Tina Kotek (D-Portland) and Rep. Andy Olson (R-Albany) as Co-Speakers Pro Tempore to maintain shared governance in the Speakers’ absence.

The shared governance agreement also applies to House and Joint committees and protects all of the traditional characteristics of a democratic legislative process.

Co-Speakers Hanna and Roblan will hold a media availability in the Media Press Room at 3:15 p.m.

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