

Oregon State Senator Floyd Prozanski

South Lane and North Douglas Counties

District 4

February 2009

503-986-1704 900 Court St. NE, S-417, Salem Oregon 97301

Email: sen.floydprozanski@state.or.us

Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/prozanski/>

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that the 2009 Oregon Legislative Assembly kicked-off on January 12. I don't need to tell you that this session opens during trying economic times. Much of the Legislature's attention will be focused on ensuring that Oregon weathers the current recession and emerges stronger than before.

I would like to start by thanking those of you who came out on Saturday, January 17 for my town hall with Representatives Phil Barnhart and Paul Holvey. I value opportunities for dialogue with constituents and encourage you to contact me with questions or concerns by phone, mail or email.

Response to the Economic Downturn

We received more sobering news recently when the state economist confirmed an accelerating decline in Oregon's economy. The Office of Economic Analysis believes that a decrease of \$300 to \$600 million in state General Fund revenue is possible beyond the \$142.1 million shortfall projected in December. Decreases could exceed \$600 million, creating a possible shortfall for the current biennium of more than \$700 million. For the 2009-2011 biennium, the General Fund balance available could be more than \$1 billion below December's forecast.

The Legislature also learned recently that Oregon's unemployment rate leapt to 9% in December, the highest since April 1985. More than 174,000 Oregonians were unemployed in December.

We aren't taking this news sitting down. The first employment and economic revitalization bill of 2009 should be on the Governor's desk this week - in time to qualify for a proposed February sale of state-backed bonds.

Oregon's jobs package is multifaceted. One component, a list developed by the Legislative Fiscal Office, totals \$122 million. It represents projects in 11 state agencies in all 36

counties on which work can begin in April. That list also includes projects at Oregon universities.

Another part of the package lists projects at all 17 community colleges across the state. The community college allocation totals \$51.5 million in bonding and \$16.5 million in local funds for a total of \$68 million in projects.

Both lists are available, [here](#).

Committee hearings established criteria for the projects. Preference will be given to projects that can begin immediately with long-term benefit to the state, or those that will create jobs or prevent additional layoffs.

Agencies approved for projects must prove to the Legislature that the projects will begin on time and have no cost overruns. Agencies will report in March on the status of the projects, including the number of jobs created or saved, and expected completion dates.

I anticipate other capital construction bonding measures to be considered later in the session as part of our effort to create and protect jobs statewide.

All state agencies are tightening their belts, and the Legislature is no different. As the branch of government responsible for balancing the state budget, we are going to do our part by making \$4.3 million in cuts (5% of our 2007-2009 budget).

What District 4 Can Expect

The list of projects covers every county in Oregon. The stimulus plan would provide Douglas County with projects which could be as much as \$5.5 million and Lane County with projects which could be as much as \$11.2 million as follows:

Lane County Projects include:

- Approval of up to \$8 million in bonds to benefit Lane Community College, including proposals to update classroom technology, increase energy efficiency, and comply with the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act
- Over \$2 million in bonds for the University of Oregon to upgrade buildings to comply with safety codes and electrical updates
- Approval of \$139,800 for the Department of Forestry to upgrade buildings in Springfield and Veneta

Douglas County Projects include:

- Over \$1.5 million to fund deferred maintenance projects in Douglas County, including upgrades to facilities managed by the Forestry Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and ODOT

- \$4 million to Umpqua Community College, including proposals to remodel instructional culinary kitchens, upgrade security, and replace walkways

2009 Committee Assignments

This session, I will serve on two committees and chair another. My assignments are the Senate Judiciary Committee (which I chair), the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, and the Commerce & Workforce Development Committee.

A full and regularly updated list of committee meeting times and agendas can be found, [here](#).

Thank you!

Finally, I want to thank you for your interest and active input. Please continue to share your thoughts and experiences with me and my staff. Also, please contact me if you need help dealing with a state agency or issue. It remains my privilege and honor to serve you.

Very truly,



Floyd

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [User Profile Page](#). You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact support@govdelivery.com.

GovDelivery, Inc. sending on behalf of Oregon State Legislature · State Capitol · Salem OR 97301 · 503-986-1000