



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Martha Pellegrino, Director
1221 S.W. Fourth Ave., Room 410
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 823-4130
Fax: (503) 823-3014

1. Bureau Significant Issues

- Issue 1: Annual Sessions
 - The passage of annual legislative sessions by voters in November of 2010 means that the state legislative program will run year-round, with a shorter, more active interim between legislative sessions. The increased level of activity at the state level will mean that the office will need to hire an additional lobbyist and temporary Salem support staff in the near future to manage the increased workload.
 - Annual sessions also mean that the Director will require the support of the Federal Legislative Assistant to help manage the federal legislative program while the state legislature is in session. OGR requested permanent funding for the Federal Legislative Assistant and only partial one-time funding has been recommended. If additional staffing and support is not addressed, it could seriously impact the city's success at the state and federal levels.
- Impact of Budget Cuts on Significant Issues
 - The proposed cuts to the FY 2012-2013 budget will impact the amount of outreach OGR will be able to do at the state and federal levels and will mean a reduction in resources currently used to track federal legislation. OGR will mitigate the cuts by eliminating one lobbying trip to Washington DC, reducing subscriptions to federal research tools, and sending lobbying staff to fewer meetings and summits focused on legislation.
 - OGR has been creative in thinking toward the future by implementing a staff reorganization that elevated one of the lobbyist positions to a new classification of State Government Relations Manager. This position will help ensure better management of the state legislative program during annual sessions. It did not, however, add capacity to the state program. The scarcity of general fund resources will mean that OGR will need to postpone requests for additional capacity until the next budget year.

2. Equity Discussion

- The Office of Government Relations, in partnership with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, and under the leadership of Mayor Adams and Commissioner Fritz, have developed new ways of engaging the community in the development of the city's federal and state legislative agendas. Many individuals and groups attending the community forums encouraged the city to adopt issues in the city's legislative agendas that promoted equity throughout the State of Oregon. The City then lobbied on many of the issues that were identified. A few examples include: Tuition Equity (SB 742, 2011), Senior Property Tax Deferral (HB 4039, 2012), Affordable Housing Tax Credit (HB 2527, 2011), and the Farm worker Housing Tax Credit (HB 2154, 2011).
- OGR strongly encourages active participation in the City/County Diversity Conference. In 2011, OGR sent four representatives (half of the office) and then held a debrief for the whole office to discuss key issues that were raised at the conference. In 2012, OGR will seek to send members of the office unable to participate in 2011.

3. Portland Plan Discussion

- The Office of Government Relations assisted the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and the Mayor's office with the planning of the multi-jurisdictional conversations in each of the three areas identified.
- OGR also facilitates contacts between state agencies and city bureaus regarding proposed cuts to agency budgets and impacts on the city.