



# OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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## Top Legislative Budget Writers Release Plan to Rebalance State Budget

SALEM – Today, the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means – Senators Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) and Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (D-NW Portland/Beaverton) and Representative Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) – released their budget rebalance proposal prior to an anticipated special session.

In the face of an unprecedented economic and public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the co-chairs worked to ensure that their proposal maintained essential services that Oregonians depend on, including critical investments in public education, health care, child welfare, housing and more. Maintaining these programs will be crucial in order to protect vulnerable Oregonians put the state on a path to recovery and work toward economic resilience.

The proposal judiciously uses a portion of the Education Stability Fund to spare students and teachers from devastating program cuts amid the uncertainty of the pandemic, while preserving a strong level of reserves to help weather upcoming budget cycles when state revenue is projected to further decline due to the dramatic impact the of the pandemic on Oregon's economy.

The scale of this crisis highlights the critical need for further federal action to support state investments in essential services that provide safety and security for all Oregonians, including the state's most vulnerable populations.

The full text of the co-chairs' budget rebalance framework is available [here](#). The Joint Ways and Means Subcommittees will meet next week to hear public testimony on the rebalance proposal at the following dates and times:

Wednesday, July 22: Natural Resources: 9 am-12 pm; General Government: 1-4 pm

Thursday, July 23: Education: 9 am-12 pm; Human Services: 1-4 pm

Friday, July 24: Public Safety: 9 am-12 pm; Transportation and Economic Development: 1-4 pm

Additional details on the plan's budget reductions and public hearing mechanics will be made public early next week.

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