



CHAIR

P	Governor Tina Kotek
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MEMBERS

P	Ana Molina		Jesse Beason		Marisa/Mariesa Zapata
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P	Janice Mason	P	Marcus C Mundy	P	Tristen Edwards
	James Parker	P	Maria Elena Guerra (Meg)	P	Tiffany Monroe
	Jenny Pool Radway	P	Marin Arreola		

OTHER ATTENDEES

P	Andre Bealer		Morgan Gratz-Weiser		Kate Nass
P	Bob Livingston	P	Shana McConville		Kerry Thomas
P	Chris Warner		Taylor Smiley Wolfe	P	Melinda Gross
P	Javier Cervantes		Valerie Colas		Michael Reese
	Jesse Hyatt	P	Vince Porter	P	President Rob Wagner
P	Kelly Brooks	P	Yasmin Solorio		Shanda Haluapo
P	Kristina Narayan	P	Barry Pack	P	Speaker Fahey
P	Rachael Moser		Erin McMahan	P	Scott Moore
P	Matthew Tschabold	P	James Alan Parker	P	Tobias Sherwood
	Maya Crawford Peacock		Jennifer Purcell		

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Welcome and Introductions	Governor Kotek provides welcome statement.	
GRB/RJC Priorities Overview	<p>Governor Kotek: Thank you for your time last month and the priorities overview. The forecast this week allows for additional resources that gets us closer for what we're spending as a state projected to in the next two years. The goal that I have taken with the budget is to really continue and maintain the investments we have made here in the last two to four years as a state to concentrate on things that are working to get to current service level and then make sure we can invest in things that we're in this year's two-year budget. What you'll see in my budget is not surprising, continuing to focus on serving our unsheltered neighbors, focusing on housing production, focusing on expanding access, and reliability of our behavioral health system for folks.</p> <p>We will be funding restorative justice grant program and other investments important to people. New investment in DOC for gender specific services –</p>	

particularly body scanners. Reminder that some of the money from Future Ready will get blended into the next biennium. Investments in early literacy, more sustainable summer learning. Environmental equity - water well safety, community renewable energy program. Health equity and human services – behavioral health investments, supporting youth experiencing homelessness, maintaining OHP, etc. Culturally Responsive Property Management.

Stay tuned for release on December 2nd.

Marin: Given revenue forecast, is the budget cuts for agencies still the same percentage? Is it 10 percent? How does it impact cuts?

Governor Kotek: Depends on agency, we will still see reduction in admin overhead, vacancy savings, things like fiscal discipline. Trying not to cut programs that directly benefit people. You’ll see 1-2 percentage in stuff like CSL. We will need to make those arguments with the legislature that “*these* are the right things to do.”

Governor Kotek introduces Presiding Officers.

Presentations from Presiding Officers

a. Senate President Wagner

b. House Speaker Fahey

Senate President Rob Wagner provides introduction.

President Wagner: Life affirming life changing impact of post-secondary is something state government has a huge responsibility. Providing families a pathway through poverty is important. Legislature can do better on how to put a pause on the bills pass and making sure bills passed are supposed to be what they intended. RJC is central to advocacy. Please feel free to go to our office and meet with priorities.

Speaker Julie Fahey provides introduction.

Speaker Fahey: Represent Lane County. Working to represent basic rights and freedoms in the state. Focused on affordability, making government work, and protecting rights and freedom. These are based on what Oregonians say and what it takes to meet those challenges. We are seeing a big increase on utility fees. Consumer protections – around junk fees. Investing in our future – investments in early learning for children, funding schools and ensuring they are delivering real results. Economic investments. Making government work – transportation package. Renewing funding for Medicaid program – half of all children in OR receive healthcare through OHP. Safe communities – wildfire and funding. Shelter funding and homelessness.

Questions:

Paul Solomon: As chair of CJRC, there are already grant programs that are at risk that may go away because we are a sanctuary state. Likely other agencies at risk due to federal funding. Anything we can do that is proactive? Likely significant shortfalls in revenue.

Governor Kotek: This has come up with county leaders. Inventory is often at the county side. Did see drop offs at federal level.

Speaker Fahey: Currently assessing risk at each level – policy decision and funding. We need to prioritize what is likely to happen, need to stay focused and targeted. I’ve asked policy chairs to talk to agencies on funding and policy risks on what is most likely to happen. Not sure on Medicaid funding but that would be huge changes for our state if there were changes there.

President Wagner: Its attention to preparation and caution. Theres a Democratic

Governor's Association – national associations that exist that are bi-partisan. Working the last two years on building relationships with blue state relationships. Maybe leveraging state policy making on a national level. We need to shift focus.

Marin: What are some of the policies, ideas, or goals as leaders to tackle the severe poverty with the spread of income that we see with different communities? In terms of jobs, in terms of services, and of course, housing - the big issue. What are your ideas or policies in the future to address the severe disparity in income? Inflation increased dramatically over the past couple of years, the cost of housing increased dramatically over the last two or three years, and we know that a lot of working class are working two or three jobs to support their families. Often they must use DHS services, even though they're working two or three jobs. What are your plans in that space of issues that we're dealing with?

President Wagner: Maybe it's starting with a global observation. It's just like political science literature but there's more. When you look at this election and how people were voting on cost of living a lot of the exit polling where the number one reason people were aligning themselves around a particular candidate was cost of living issues.

There's more that aligns Eastern Multnomah County with all of Eastern Oregon, when you actually look at the economics of who lives there and how they're struggling to try to support their families and get ahead. We've done a lot with the resources that we have available at the state level. Obviously, we can't deficit spend, direct support and aid is about making really tough choices in balancing our state budget but trying to leverage strategic investment where we can. I think there is a commitment, regardless of who is the leadership and where they come from. In the state of Oregon, if you just look at our budget we provide, it's almost kind of like the blue-state red-state issue where blue states are providing actually a lot more federal income tax and then red states are the beneficiaries of social programs. We have a little bit of a similar model where you've got a lot of Portland area income, Eugene, these places that are providing a lot of personal income tax. Then a lot of those resources are being distributed throughout the state to be able to support families. I don't think there are easy answers when it comes to housing across the state. I mean I think you see that the three people on this call, and the legislature, and especially the folks that are in the majority, are committed to exactly addressing what you're what you're focusing on. It's just going to be making some really tough priorities and strategic investments where we can.

Speaker Fahey: I'll just add a few things onto that. I think when you look at the data about Oregon's economy how individual Oregonians and families are doing, we have seen good movement over the years in terms of our income levels. They are rising even to the point where our federal Medicaid matches are dropping because our incomes are rising high enough. Income inequality is being reduced and just recently there was a fair amount of coverage over the percentage of Oregonians with college degrees. It is increasing. There has been good movement but and clearly there are people still struggling. The poverty we're seeing around the state is still a challenge we need to address. I think about this in two ways, one is how do we alleviate that poverty, the poverty that we're seeing, and folks are experiencing now. And that is often services - housing assistance, healthcare, childcare, food assistance. We've done good work on those. I also want to mention the child tax credit.

Tristen: One of the things that the Governor was talking about when she was reviewing her budget was continuing investments for programs that have already been established and trying to move certain programs from one time funding and for biennium's, into current service level budget. CJRC is advocating for the continuation of the restorative justice grant program. Curious if either of you have advice on how to navigate that difficult budget issue conversation around what can

get that second round of maybe one-time funding for a biennium, and how to shift that. There is need for longevity and stability as we pilot these different ideas.

Speaker Fahey: I appreciate the question. When we allocate one time funding, as you mentioned, it's much harder for these programs to get off the ground and to hire people if they're not sure if that position is going to stick around. It can be a challenging way to do business. We had a lot of one-time funding in the pandemic from federal government. One thing I will say is be prepared to talk about the results that that one-time funding achieved. I think that's if you're looking for advice about how to make the case for continuing that funding, being prepared to talk about the outcomes is a really important piece. We do a lot of pilot work a lot of one time work in the legislature that to try and test things out and see if they work and if they work we should be ready to continue those investments.

President Wagner: We are constitutionally required to balance the budget every two years. I have a bucket of 500 marbles on my desk in my office and there's little cups around the side that are plastic and different colors. One says K12 education, another says higher education, one says general government, one says environment. I come in and say well here's the 500 marbles, if you're going to spend it over there for a program or sustainable program from federal funds and you're going to try to backfill with state dollars, what are you going to cut. You we just have to be honest in terms of the available resource that we have and having to make really tough decisions. It may be that you're coming in and saying this works better than something else, so why don't we actually fund this or shift that. Shift the direction of that state agency or of that appropriation because you're actually demonstrating that it's impactful and it's having the intended impact on the community.

Meg: Can we talk about infrastructure and how it impacts affordable housing.

Governor Kotek: I'd be really surprised if there's going to be a lot of resources for a lot of new things. I do think there's some really strong advocacy of maintaining and expanding the payroll tax that is statewide to pay for transit. I think some folks are very organized in that regard because I think that's important because you have communities where having more public transit is super important and the statewide dollars that we do have would be good to maintain them and expand them.

President Wagner: Tough choices in what we invest in.

Speaker Fahey: We know that in some communities its water, wastewater, etc. that are limiting them from building affordable housing. Evaluating projects on bang for buck.

Latiffe: How do you see your role with other local government entities and partners in ensuring a strong resistance and coalition, specifically those that are preemptively retreating from equity initiatives out of fear? What can you do to amplify the values that we say we have as a state?

President Wagner: There's a real tension, I'll just give this K12 as an example. You can see it in in other local governments as well, there's we can come in with state mandates over the top of local governments and have expectations that people are meeting what we're telling them. There's an expectation both in terms of when we're giving them resources or direction intentionally in our laws, in our state statute, but enforcement can be really tough. Ultimately it's at the local level where there's a cultural issue, you have people that are actively resistant through their own experiences, and it becomes really hard. I think about just again in the K12 space because that's where I came out of, I think about kids that are facing harassment in those communities. If you're a trans kid in a really tough community, what are what are we doing at the state level to make sure that those children are feeling protected. I think that there's real challenges on what we can do to pass policy and maybe it's

linking it to budget, maybe there's other things we can do. I do know at the state level we can't back off of our commitment or allow people to be able to discriminate against anyone in local communities, especially through local government.

Speaker Fahey: I think you know on the “what can you do to amplify the values” that we say we have as a state, something I've been reflecting on for the last two weeks, having lived through the first Trump administration as an elected official, is how do we effectively use our voice and our platform to articulate the values that we stand for and that our state stands for. To say this is not *here*, we still value clean air and clean drinking water, *here* in this state. Also how reactive to be in terms of that messaging. We are working bodies in the state legislature, we have a huge workload even before you layer on the federal changes that are happening. I can't be issuing a press release every day that says this bad thing that happened, is bad. We have a responsibility to speak out to make sure that our communities know that we are looking out for them. I've been reflecting on how I find that balance as we move into next year and as we move into this session. On the local governments, I live in Eugene and this is probably a different answer than folks who live in other places, but a couple days ago there was a there's a group of women locally that are local elected leaders, City Council, school board, welcoming the incoming mayor that got together and I was late because I was in Salem till 6:00pm and I showed up and it sort of felt like everyone was like Julie will have the answers tell us what to do. We talked about our responsibilities at each of our level to continue governing and continue our core function and to send that message both with our words and with our policies that we're still a welcoming place here, even if we don't have all the answers. There was a lot of uncertainty, a lot of fear around you know that school board folks are wondering what's going to happen with special education funding, what's going to happen around policies around trans kids. For us, it's staying focused. Making sure we're using our voice and our platform when we can.

Governor Kotek: Were trying to figure out how we can over communicate. All levels of government have to be coordinated, we see where there is lack of alignment.

Update from Office of Culture Change

Melinda: Thank you, we are setting the landscape of what is happening with DEI at the State with the new administration coming in and the federal government.

Melinda shares overview of the Office of Cultural Change.

Tobias: Last Friday Melinda and I were in a new directors forum, we went deep into racial hierarchy, hierarchies around other identities, how disparities show up in state government, around standards of scrutiny, around safety, around mobility, who's protected and promoted, who's not. We are navigating a space where how do we provide a baseline equity and inclusion training to 45,000 folks who work for the state, in some capacity or another, it's a really massive adaptive challenge that I think our office is up for. We must close disparities. Living out in Eastern Oregon, I can help them see themselves in the work of inclusion and hopefully eventually in the work of equity, racial equity and otherwise. I really believe that relationships are the vehicle for making the change that we need to make and closing these disparities.

Melinda: Partnering with the Governor's Office. Andre and Javier work on the public community side. CCO office works within agency and their work.

Every agency needs a DEI plan and expectations. We are meeting with agencies quarterly to see their progress and bring in training and building capacity. We have a commitment to do the work we say. Hoping to change the way government runs to be more welcoming, a cultural change, to ensure it welcomes all.

For REIS overview, wanted to share the last time you all reviewed Racial Equity Impact Statement (REIS) as budget – only 20 or so did deep meaningful presentations for RJC. Every agency now has to answer a set of questions around budget, have a DEI action plan, and their affirmative action plan.

There was varying responses on how agencies responded – some in depth with questions and others didn't answer at all.

We are developing a statewide DEI plan, “North Star” and summit. It is a toolkit and guidelines for agencies to implement DEI initiatives and plans. North Star is guiding DEI values and provides direction and accountability. Working on a summit to launch the North Star and updating Statewide DEI Plan. Capacity building for DEI practitioners and agency leadership.

Jan Mason: EO 22-15 is where a lot of the DEI five-year plan was directed for agencies to do. Now that we've had some time pass - what was missing and what could have been improved upon? I love that you're talking about a North Star. ESG provides some ranking and rating systems that help to frame it. City of Vancouver has an equity ranking for system projects. May not be something that's widely adopted but maybe it's something unique to Oregon. We could have something like that through your office, that is what you're calling the North Star - it's a rating system so that directors are accustomed to being measured.

Marin: Love your concept about relationships because a lot of planning is done, but then whenever planning is done, the reality is that how it's implemented or how it happens is very different. From a cultural perspective, how are you making state government allow that type of environment - to eliminate barriers, eliminate systems that are maybe creating barriers for people, to be more transparent, more accountable, more relationship based. Structured government is so complex and so large that sometimes systems can create barriers. The planning is great but then how do we get a reality in terms of the engagement because I know sometimes working with state government from the outside, we want to ask questions, we want to know about how things happen.

We just want to be sure that the government serves the people. How do you change that culture? How do you how do you navigate that because it's very complex.

Melinda: We work with agency leadership and DEI practitioners on a quarterly basis to check-in on their plan. Also, checking in that their agency leadership is modeling the work. Part of this is evaluations from supervisors for each – supervisors and agency leaders. Biggest gaps we see is managers have most important role in agency work. There is a new customer service policy that is about to be released, ensuring that you get a response from someone. How we treat and respond to one another is part of the work.

Tobias: Gathering themes from across state government and then elevating them. Using our sphere of influence to apply health pressure for culture change. For example, the way conflict is managed – something safer for more vulnerable people rather than going into an *investigation* right away. Another theme is healthy pressure on agency leadership to be owners of the work.

Governor Kotek: We'll continue to have these updates. Thank you and wish you well.

Update of Nonprofit Contracting Work

Andre shares Modernizing Grant Funding and Contracting Task Force Recommendations

Andre: We as state government need to have a world view to ensure we are not

asking to much of the folks doing the work for us. A taskforce was established last year. Looking into what are the changes that we need to on an enterprise-wide scale to remove those burdens and unintentional barriers that can sometimes be created in the processes that we put into place. There were six areas that the committee was tasked to provide recommendations on and changes to state procurement practices that support living wages for employees.

It's pretty well known that folks in the nonprofit sector are often significantly paid less than their counterparts in both the public and private sector and so looking at how to support living wages on the nonprofit side as well creating and establishing uniform application procedures. Working with one agency the processes are different than working with another agency and so trying to figure out a way to align across the enterprise - taking a look at our contracting language where is their flexibility, where do we have the ability to negotiate terms, for example where do we have the ability to put multiyear contracts into place, sufficient reporting requirements, are we asking for information that we don't do anything with, are we asking folks to spend a lot of time and resources that they may or may not have compiling these really vast reports that we end up putting on a shelf and never looking at again. So, what is the absolute minimum information that we need and how are we using that information to inform how we continue to work with these folks.

Setting up mechanism for ongoing review of processes. We need to understand how they're working and make changes as they move forward.

- Procurement practices around living wages. Development of a workforce standard board.
- Use of prospect of budgeting – projecting cost of future expenses. How much an agency can afford based on funding they have available.
- Uniform application procedures. Launch a single statewide grant database.
- Build program year-offset.
- Create a new set of Oregon Revised Statutes and OARS. This is to help grants and procedures to limit confusion and create continuity across state government.
- Creating non-profit stakeholder review.
- Sufficient Reporting Requirements.
- Payment models that prioritize full cost recovery.
- Mechanisms for Ongoing Review.

Marin: How to make the recommendations a reality, are you thinking this session to get something proposed?

Governor Kotek: There is a legislator taking this forward. These are 5 to ten years to implement.

Mark: Can we get a list of the legislators who'll help champion these recommendations?

Andre: It is Senator Campos and Representative Hartman.

Announcements

Governor Kotek: Contemplating on shorter full council meetings every other month. Possibly an hour on off-months, to help give legislative updates.

Andre: Working on cadence for one-hour meetings on off-months. Put in the chat for committee co-chairs. Javier to be out of office at the start of December.

Calendar for December Committee Meetings
 Education Committee (December 2, 1-2 PM)
 Economic Opportunity (December 10, 2:30-4:30 PM)

Scheduling one hour RJC check-in's on the off-months during legislative session.

	<p>Criminal Justice Reform Committee (December 16, 3-5 PM)</p> <p>Environmental Equity Committee (December 18, 1-2:30 PM)</p> <p>Health Equity and Human Services (December 18, 3-4:30 PM)</p> <p>Housing and Homelessness Committee (December 20, 2:30-4 PM)</p>	
Adjourn	<i>Andre adjourns the meeting.</i>	

Materials	<p>Office of Cultural Change Partnership & Updates, slide presentation</p> <p>Modernizing Grant Funding and Contracting Task Force Recommendations RJC, slide presentation</p>	
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