

# Deschutes County 2024 End-of- Session Report

March 2024



**NORTHWEST  
POLICY ADVOCATES**

# Session Overview

- 135 (of 331) bills passed in 32 days
- Goals: Housing & Ballot Measure 110 reform
- But...Few investments in:
  - Youth programs, or
  - Projects for many parts of rural and Eastern Oregon, despite lawmakers having \$560 million more to spend



# 2024 Session



# Policy and Funding

Passed



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# Ballot Measure 110 Reform

***Numerous hearings (late into the night)***

***Hours of closed-door meetings***

***Several iterations of the bill***

***Joint Addictions Committee arrived at a compromise***

[HB 4002](#) passed the House 51-7 and Senate 21-8.

Mix of incentives (and potential criminal penalties), plus enhanced substance abuse treatment options. Counties will be assigned much of the task of implementing this new system. Workforce in this area remains a key concern

***The bill is likely to take a potential fall 2024 ballot measure off the table.***



**Oregon fentanyl deaths: the 'staggering' statistic for how we compare nationally**

Overdose fatalities in Oregon are up more than 1,500% since 2019.

# Behavioral Health

***Legislators introduced dozens of concepts to improve behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment this session.***

## Passed:

- **HB 4150** – notifies providers of overdoses
- **SB 1553** – makes drug use on public transit a misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail, a fine of up to \$6,250 or both. Defendants would be eligible for treatment programs
- **HB 4001** – creates a Task Force on Specialty Courts
- **SB 1503** – sets up a Firearm Suicide Prevention Task Force
- **HB 4151** – establishes a Youth Behavioral Health Workforce Subcommittee in the System of Care Advisory Council to improve licensure for youth behavioral health service professions
- **HB 4092** – requires a study on what it would take for counties and their partners to respond to state behavioral health mandates



# Behavioral Health, cont.

The Legislature **funded critical behavioral health and substance use disorder** prevention and treatment programs in its "Christmas tree" bills ([HB 4002](#)/[HB 5204](#)):

- \$7.5 million for **Aid & Assist**,
- \$14.6 million for **Counties' Community Corrections**, and
- Funding for Deschutes County's **Impacts** program
- \$525,000 to **expand detox capacity** and
- \$1.5 million to develop **culturally specific SUD residential capacity** in Central Oregon
- \$1.5 million for the **Deschutes County Stabilization Center**
- Outpatient clinics, residential facilities, sobering centers, opioid treatment (**MAT**) in jail, public defenders and court diversion programs.
- \$18 million for [recovery houses](#)
- **Free on the Outside** – received \$850,000

[HB 5203](#) also allocates \$18.3 million to the Problem Gambling Fund

# Housing & Homelessness

*The Governor introduced just one bill this session, **SB 1537** (refined legislation that had failed on the last day of the **2023 Session**).*

Numerous provisions designed to speed up housing approvals, give limited opportunities to cities to expand their Urban Growth Boundaries, etc. SB 1537 is the policy portion of the Governor's agenda. SB 1530 includes much of the funding to make all of this happen.

**SB 1530** appropriates **\$279.6 million** General Fund for housing-related projects:

- \$65 million for **shelter support**
- \$34 million for **homelessness prevention services** + \$7 million to the Urban League
- \$5 million for **Individual Development Accounts**
- \$15 million to OHA's **Healthy Homes Repair Fund**
- \$18 million for **housing projects for people recovering from SUD**



# Housing & Homelessness \$, cont.

**HB 4134** and **HB 4128** will help **cities** fund **infrastructure projects** to develop housing. HB 4134, which passed and is now on the way to the Governor for her signature, includes funding for 4 cities, as well as key criteria requiring that projects: be inside the UGB, have completed land use evaluations, be ready for construction, and generate housing that critical workers can afford (teachers, fire, police, etc.). The funding will be fast-tracked (within 60 days) through "Business Oregon." Several projects from the original version of HB 4128 were also included in SB 1530.

SB 1530 and HB 4134 also fund critical **water, sewer and stormwater projects in Central Oregon**, including:

- \$2.5 million to Redmond
- \$1.425 million to Madras
- \$2 million to Prineville
- \$1.3 million to Culver



# Property Tax Foreclosures

***One of the more complex bills of session, HB 4056***

***Supreme Court ruling Tyler v. Hennepin County, Minnesota.***

***Oregon must change its process for owners of tax foreclosed properties to claim any possible surplus funds.***

- Last week of Session: Public hearings and work sessions in both chambers.
- Lane and Deschutes Counties testified
- Asked that Senate Revenue adopt the -6 amendment.

However, the Committee passed the bill as amended (with the -8 amendment). Senator Lynn Findley (R-Vale) noted the concerns expressed by Deschutes County and others, and voted no in Committee, pointing out remaining issues with the bill that should have been addressed. The bill eventually passed the Senate, and will now head to the Governor. Counties are already planning to jointly develop a model ordinance.



# Juniper Water Bill Fix

**SB 1501** includes the technical fix the *Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council* needs to implement NWPA's 2023 **Stream Restoration and Juniper Management Act**.

Should immediately eliminate the hold-up at the Dept. of Administrative Services. This has prevented COIC from working with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to identify additional potential funding sources for this important water conservation work through Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.



# Other City & County Issues

**HB 4003** The Oregon State Police will study the causes and ways to address the shortage of **medical examiners** under a bill passed this session. Expect their report by October of 2025.

**SB 1576** expands the definition of recreation under the state's "**recreational immunity**" law to include walking, running and bicycling, and would protect local governments from lawsuits for one year. The bill will lead to a longer-term solution in time for the 2025 Legislative Session. It passed along partisan lines.

**HB 4045** lowers the **retirement age for firefighters and police officers** with five years on the job from 60 years to 55. The bill reclassifies district attorneys, forensic scientists and evidence technicians as police and increases retirement benefits for employees involved with patients at the Oregon State Hospital and 911 operators. Most of the provisions will take effect Jan. 1, 2025.

# Other County Issues, cont.

## Passed/funded:

- **SB 1575** – Limits public bodies from including a **duty to defend** requirement in a construction agreement with people providing architecture/landscape architecture/engineering/photogrammetric mapping/transportation planning/land surveying or related professional services, except to the amount of the person's proportionate fault.
- **SB 1566** – Lets counties charge a **maximum fee of \$500 for work on water/sewer/power/other types of infrastructure in road rights of way**. Sunsets Jan. 1, 2031.

# Early Childhood Funding

- **Employment Related Day Care (ERDC)** – Dept. of Early Learning & Care will receive \$99 million to address existing caseload. \$72 million is allocated to a “special purpose account (SPA)” to address additional deficits and hopefully bring some families off the waitlist next year
- **CHIPs & Child Care** ([HB 4098](#)) – \$5 million to increase access to child care near new semiconductor chip manufacturing centers
- **Birth to 5 Literacy** – \$9.4 million in a 2023 SPA was allocated to the Dept. of Early Learning & Care in [HB 5701](#). Half will go to the Early Childhood Equity Fund through culturally specific grantees, and half to the Kindergarten Partnership Fund through Hubs
- **Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education** – \$22 million to restore 2023 session cut to the Dept. of Ed. in HB 5701
- **Relief Nurseries** – \$2.7 million in the Joint Addiction & Community Safety Response Committee ([HB 5204](#))
- **Nurse Family Partnership** – \$3.2 million in HB 5204



# Missed Opportunities

Failed bills and funding

# County Issues

## Failed/not funded:

- CORE3/21st street
- Mountain View Village RV
- [HB 4107](#) – \$ for loss/injury to livestock/dogs by wolves





# Wildfire Prevention & Protection

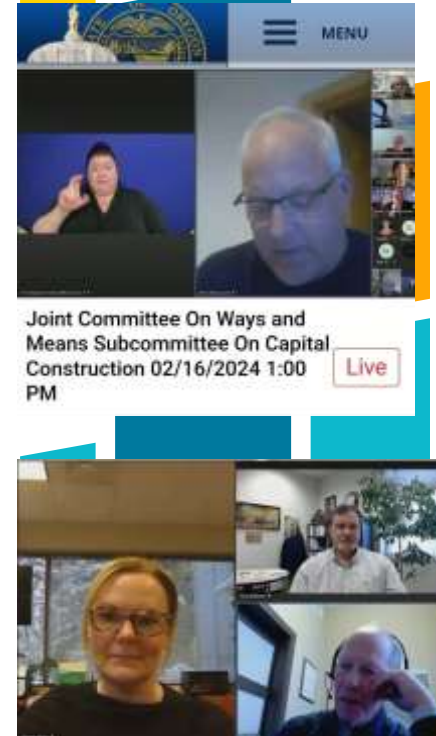
Three bills to fill funding **gaps for wildfire prevention and protection** failed:

- **HB 4075** was a referral for a ballot measure to Oregon voters to raise property taxes to pay for wildfire programs
- **SB 1593** would have asked Oregonians to vote to reinstate a severance tax on the value of industrial timber harvests for the first time in 30 years
- **HB 4133** would have raised an existing tax on the volume of logs companies harvest while reducing timber and ranch landowner fees for wildfire protection

# Key Bills and Funding Requests

Mysteriously stuck in Ways & Means. Some may return in 2025:

- [SB 1592](#) – would have appropriated \$6 million for 5 higher education schools to expand their existing programs to train the **behavioral health workforce**
- [SB 1594](#) – **Behavioral Health Workforce Safety** Task Force (**\$4.7 million** to OHA & **\$1 million** to United We Heal to help employers implement safety measures)
- [HB 4097](#) – would have **modified the process for setting aside convictions, dismissals, citations and guilty except for insanity**
- Funding for critical local projects, including **fire/EMS resources**, transportation infrastructure for **housing/homeless/RV resources** in rural areas, etc. were left by the wayside, although Legislators are already promising to make these a priority in 10 months for the "long" session in 2025.



# Key Bills and Funding Requests, cont.

Mysteriously stuck in Ways & Means. May return in 2025:

- **HB 4070** – would have provided **mental/behavioral health funding to schools** with and without **School Based Health Centers**. The bill also included a **workforce adjustment** (for the first time since 2013), allowed up to 10 more school districts to plan for SBHCs, and incorporated an innovative “modular” SBHC construction program. Rep. Maxine Dexter (D-Portland) and her co-sponsors were dismayed that the bill did not move. **Rep. Dexter, Senator Sollman** and others were **true champions for kids** this session, and pledged to continue the fight.

Read the [Capitol Chronicle](#) article on “Kids Left Behind”

## Oregon Legislature allocates millions for adult addiction, stumbles on funding for children

Oregon lawmakers failed to put nearly \$18 million into school-based health centers that provide drug and mental health counseling among other services



Ⓜ An \$18 million bill that would have expanded school health centers failed in the Legislature. (Amber Lohman/Oregon Capital Chronicle)



# Next Steps

Preparation for the Election  
& 2025 Session

# Potential 2025 Issues for Deschutes

- HB4056: Foreclosure Efforts (AOC Led)
- Ongoing Groundwater Discussions
- HB3126 / Child Psychiatric Center
- Wildfire funding
- Overall transportation system funding crisis
- CORE3 funding
  - 21st St.
  - 2nd construction bond allocation



# Elected Official News

All 60 Oregon House seats and 15/30 House seats are up for election in Nov., as are Sec. of State, Treasurer and Attorney General, and all 6 US House of Representative seats:

- Rep. **Julie Fahey** (D-Eugene) will replace Speaker **Dan Rayfield** (D-Corvallis) who is running for AG
- WM Chair Sen. **Elizabeth Steiner** (D-Portland) is running for Treasurer. Current Treasurer **Tobias Read** is running for Sec. of State against 5 Ds, including Sen. **James Manning** (D-Eugene)
- 6 Senators can't run for their seats in 2024: **Tim Knopp** (R-Bend), **Art Robinson** (R-Cave Junction); **Brian Boquist** (I-Dallas) is running for State Treasurer; **Dennis Linthicum** (R-Klamath Falls) filed for Sec. of State; **Bill Hansell** (R-Athena) and **Lynn Findley** (R-Vale) will retire.
- **Competitive races:**
  - Senate: **Bend**-based 27th district, **Dick Anderson** (R-Lincoln City), **Chris Gorsek** (D-Troutdale)
  - House: **Kevin Mannix** (R-Salem), **Jeff Helfrich** (R-Hood River), **Cyrus Javadi** (R-Tillamook), **Tracy Cramer** (R-Gervais), **Emerson Levy** (D-Bend), **Annessa Hartman** (D-Gladstone), and **Hoa Nguyen** (D-Portland)
- Running for the legislature (again): **Christine Drazan**, **Bruce Starr** and **Mike McLane**
- Running for US House: District 3 – Rep. **Maxine Dexter** (D-Portland), District 5 – Rep. **Janelle Bynum** (D-Clackamas)



# Interim To-Do List

- ☐ **30+ Days:** Thank and meet with local delegation
- ☐ **90 Days:** Spend time getting to know 1st term members and candidates
- ☐ **60 Days:** Identify potential 2025 issues
- ☐ **Ongoing:** Work with Governor/agencies
- ☐ **Ongoing:** Collaborate with regional/local partners/AOC
- ☐ **Ongoing:** Participate in interim legislative hearings (Possible Bend Hearing with the Joint Committee on Transportation)

# Short Session Done!



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