



265 Strand Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
(503) 397-6272  
[www.sthelensoregon.gov](http://www.sthelensoregon.gov)

## 2021 Legislative Priorities:

- **Infrastructure** – This is an ongoing need and opportunity for economic recovery. Increase the state's investment in key infrastructure funding sources, including, but not limited to, the Special Public Works Fund (SPWF), Brownfield Redevelopment Fund, and Regionally Significant Industrial Site loan program. Advocacy will include seeking an investment and set aside through the SPWF for seismic resilience planning and related infrastructure improvements that will help make Oregon water and wastewater systems more resilient. Key investments:
  - Fund the **Business Oregon Broadband Office**
  - Long-term **transportation infrastructure** funding
  - **Drinking water & water quality** investment through the SPWF
  - **Brownfield Redevelopment Fund** – recapitalize the fund with a \$10M investment from the sale of lottery bonds.

**Bills supported:** HB 5023 Business Oregon Budget Bill, HB 5505 Bonding Bill, HB 2344 Labeling of non-flushable wipes, HB 3089 Creates the public drinking water and sewer ratepayer assistance fund, HB 2518 Creates Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund for remediation

**Bills Opposed:** HB 3040 Related to System Development Charges, HB2419/SB493 related to prevailing wage rates, HB 2324 Expands definition of "funds of a public agency" for public contracting.

- **COVID 19 Recovery** - Advocate for continued economic recovery strategies and investments for small business and workforce assistance in response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Assist displaced workers in meeting basic needs including food, housing and utility assistance (including water and wastewater direct assistance).

**Bills supported:** SB 330 – Landlord Tax credit, SB 282 tenant relief, HB 2966 extend payment grace period, HB 2343 Enterprise Zone employment flexibility, HB 2484 Requires landlord to allow rental use for child care

- **Property tax reform** – Reform of the property tax system is a longstanding priority. Property tax revenues have been outpaced by rising costs due to the harsh limits and restrictions on the property tax system. This system is broken and in need of repair due to Measures 5 and 50, which are both now more than 20 years old.

**Bills Supported:** 2634 Disabled and Senior Citizens' homestead property tax deferral.

**Bills Opposed:** SB 299 Creates Children's Service Districts (new, additional overlapping taxing district)

- **Mental and Behavioral Health Delivery** – Invest in mental and behavioral health services and work with providers toward parity in coverage. Increase the price of alcohol to increase service funding.



265 Strand Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
(503) 397-6272  
[www.sthelensoregon.gov](http://www.sthelensoregon.gov)

**Bills supported:** *HB 2086 Behavioral Health investments through the Oregon Health Authority, HB 2980A respite centers for individuals in crisis.*

- **Housing and Services** - Support increased investments for affordable housing, homeless assistance, and related services including funding for: shelter, homeless services, case management, rent assistance, the development and preservation of affordable housing, and permanent supportive housing.

**Bills Supported:** *HB 5011 Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Budget Bill, HB 5505/5506 Housing Development Bonding Bills*

**Bills Opposed:** *HB 3072 Urban Growth Boundary expansion required for workforce housing, HB 2558 Requires development density near transit stops.*

- **Disaster Relief and Recovery** - Invest in infrastructure upgrades, repairs and resiliency that will help rebuild communities, better ensure equity and access to critical services, protect public health and the environment, improve community resiliency and promote economic recovery.

**Bills Supported:** *Wildland fire policy – risk reduction (SB 248/SB 287/ HB2722), HB 2289 Study of issues related to wildfire impacted areas, HB 5042 Budget Reconciliation, HB 2488 Requires DLCD to address climate justice and equity through goal updates.*

- **Organizational Priority** - Avoid unfunded mandates, preserve local decision-making and problem-solving authority, preserve local revenue streams, and avoid shifting additional costs onto local government partners.

**Bills Supported:** *HB 2015 Increase local taxing ability on sale of marijuana items, HB 2930 Collective bargaining for law enforcement, creates statewide commission on standards of conduct and discipline. HB 5530 Department of Land Conservation and Development budget, support for technical assistance. HB 3244 Increases film industry tax credit program*

**Bills Opposed:** *SB 801/802 Workers' Compensation claims, HB 2704 Liquor Agent compensation increase, HB3194 Canned Cocktails - treats low-proof spirits as wine, reduces revenues HB 2204 Police tort liability increase for cities.*