

76th LEGISLATIVE SESSION

This Session was historic with the House of Representatives evenly split between parties, 30-30. I believe Oregon benefited from the co-governance model. I served as Co-Chair of the House Committee on General Government and Consumer Protection. I also served on the House Committee on Judiciary and the Joint Ways and Means Committee. I continued to serve as the American Legislative Exchange Council Oregon public chair and as an Oregon Commissioner to the Education Commission of the States.

Rep Whisnant's Bills

- HB 3623- Ensured the Deschutes Water Mitigation program will continue in Central Oregon
- HB 3684- Created the "Keep Kids Safe" license plate to raise revenue for child abuse prevention programs
- HB 3361- Helped ensure mailboxes are ADA accessible
- HB 3521- Helped college students transfer credits from Community Colleges to Universities
- HB 3208- Authorized the Dept. of Veterans to work on another Veterans Home
- HB 5036- Gave OSU-CC authority to bond to purchase a new building for growing facility
- HB 3074- Expanded law for long term absentee voters (soldiers) to be able to vote by email
- HB 2020- Reduced the unlimited number of managers to employees in State Agencies
- HB 3487- Reformed State Agency authority to raise fees without Legislative approval

2011 Legislature's Accomplishments

Pro Business

- Federal Reconnect- SB 301 kept \$96 million in the hands of Oregon businesses by reconnecting to federal tax law.
- Enterprise Zones- HB 3017 extends sunset and keeps effective enterprise zone program active. Businesses can receive certain exemptions if they operate in a qualifying enterprise zone.

Education

- Funded schools first by assuring the education budget was passed early in April to give schools certainty to develop their own budgets.
- Reforms included promoting school and charter school choices.
- Established the Oregon Education Investment Board (SB 909).

Government Efficiency

- One of my priorities was asking the Ways and Means committees to reduce the number of vacant positions kept in agency budgets. I worked to bring this issue to the attention of legislative leadership. As a result, the Legislature cut over 500 vacant positions for the 2011-2013 Budget.
- Made state spending more sustainable by implementing "revenue-based budgeting."

Bipartisan work

- The Legislature passed the new district lines for Legislative and Congressional districts based upon 2010 Census data.
- Oregon Health Insurance Exchange passed. SB 99 establishes the Oregon Health Insurance Corporation.

I will continue to work to help you, my constituents, and to help the Legislature work towards creating a more business friendly atmosphere in this state. I believe we must have an educated work force and use the natural resources our State has to assure a successful future for all Oregonians.

If you would like to be added to our newsletter, please email me at rep.genewhisnant@state.or.us