

2016 CRSOA LEGISLATIVE SESSION FINAL REPORT



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OREGON'S THIRD CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 71 at the November 2010 ballot. Voters had rejected a similar measure in 1990, but resoundingly supported the Constitutional revision in 2010 with 68% of voters favoring limited annual sessions.

Legislative sessions, although now held annually, are now limited to a maximum of 35 days in even numbered years and 160 days in odd numbered years. However, the legislature can extend by five day increments with an affirmative 2/3^{rds} vote of each chamber. This was the third even-numbered year constitutionally mandated legislative session.

Some of the Legislative arguments in support of the bill that provided the following justifications and reasons in support of the measure included:

- The Legislature will meet for fewer days overall, and will be able to provide greater accountability and more consistent budgeting.
- By not waiting every two years to do the people's business, taxpayer dollars would be enhanced through government transparency and efficiency.
- The Legislature could increase responsiveness and get the greatest value for every tax dollar to improve the delivery of vital services.

Many legislators from both chambers, and both parties, expressed a great deal of angst about the number of big issues that were addressed this session (e.g. ban on coal, low income housing package, minimum wage). It was clear that although annual sessions may have been advertised as a mechanism to provide increased transparency, budget adjustments and technical changes to bills passed in the preceding session---this short session was anything but the sort.

STATE BUDGET SOLID WITH REVENUE FORECASTS

At the conclusion of the 2015 legislative session, the legislature approved a spending plan of \$18.9 billion in general fund and lottery revenue over the next two years, which was a \$2.2 billion increase or 13% more than the previous two-year budget. The legislature set aside approximately \$325 million in reserves. Since lawmakers approved the budget last year, revenue estimates based on the previous two forecasts, coupled with the current forecast provided during the second week of the 2016 session, showed that general Fund and lottery revenues had increased approximately \$69 million from the close of session forecast. The February 10th forecast set the stage for the budget co-chairs to make the necessary modifications to the budget based on the latest revenue. This increase enabled the Legislative Assembly to make additional expenditures as described later in this report.

2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

Prior to the 2016 legislative session's opening gavel several controversial and high profile issues emerged as legislative priorities for the Governor and the Democratic majority. Unlike the last short session in 2014, big pieces of legislation addressing minimum wage, affordable housing, and banning coal were adopted. From the outset it was clear that policy makers were intent on addressing more than budget adjustments and technical fixes. Policy measures were filed to address a number of issues including but not limited to, testing of sexual assault evidence kits, delisting gray wolves from the endangered species list, creating a statewide school safety tip line, lottery dollars for veterans, whole-sale changes to public records laws, gun background check limits, wrongful death judgments, cap and trade, law enforcement officer identity concealment when deadly force is used, and changes to marijuana legalization laws. Leadership, as they did in 2014, limited each member's ability to introduce legislation to a maximum of two bills. Committees were prohibited from introducing more than three pieces of legislation, with a few exceptions. In the end approximately 283 pieces of legislation were introduced for consideration.

The 78th Oregon Legislative Assembly, 2016 Regular Session convened on February 1st with Democrats controlling the Senate by an 18 to 12 margin. In the House of Representatives Democrats held a 35 to 25 majority over their Republican counterparts. Measures that were not posted for a work session by February 5th were considered dead and those that were posted, but had not been moved out of their originating committee by February 11th, were also considered dead under the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 (2015). As a result of these deadlines, many of the bills introduced and printed at the beginning of the session saw no further action. Bills that moved to the second chamber were required to be posted for a work session by the 18th and moved out of committees by the 23rd. These strict timelines did not apply to the Joint Ways & Means Committee, both chamber's Rules Committees, nor the House and Senate Finance and Revenue Committees.

A few high profile measures did ultimately make it to the Governor's desk. In an effort to thwart threatened ballot measures related to minimum wage and a coal ban, legislation was passed to address both issues. Finally, a package of bills related to affordable housing was also adopted. These measures were largely passed with a handful of Republicans supporting the bills and the Democratic majority. Other less controversial measures that passed did so with broad bi-partisan support in both chambers.

Unlike previous sessions, the final details of the budget were released with over a week remaining in the legislative session. Typically, the Joint Ways & Means committee releases their budget adjustments and expenditures during the final 24 hours of the session. However, with the general Fund and lottery Revenue forecast having been issued early in the session the Ways and Means Committee issued their spending plan earlier than usual. The three significant

expenditure measures were the Lottery Bonding bill (HB 5201), the General Obligation Bonding bill (HB 5202), and General Fund Expenditure bill (SB 5701).

In the end, the Legislative Assembly adjourned *sine die* shortly after 1:00 p.m. on March 3rd – three days short of the constitutionally required adjournment. A total of 283 bills were introduced with about 124 of those measures being passed by both chambers during the abbreviated legislative session.

SUMMARY OF WAYS & MEANS EXPENDITURES:

HB 5201 – Lottery Bonding Bill

Lottery revenues had experienced over 5% growth from the close of session forecast, and as a result, some additional bonding was approved under this measure including the following:

- \$2,825,000 of lottery revenue bonds were approved to provide an additional \$2.5 million of proceeds to the Housing and Community Services Department for grants to preserve existing affordable housing with expiring federal subsidies.
- \$3.4 million of lottery revenue bonds were approved to provide \$3.0 million of proceeds to the Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the City of Warrenton to finance the rebuilding of a dock in Warrenton, Oregon, which was destroyed by a fire.
- \$2,825,000 of lottery revenue bonds were approved to provide \$2.5 million of proceeds to the Oregon Business Development Department to support a collaborative effort between government, industry, and academic organizations to invest in manufacturing infrastructure to promote advanced manufacturing.
- Reauthorized the expenditure of \$400,000 to the Oregon Business Development Department to support the redevelopment of the Port of Port Orford Cannery Building.
- Existing allocations to the Oregon Business Development Department were increased by a total of \$1,100,571, including: \$260,514 increase to expand administrative support for the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (2015), and a \$100,000 increase to conduct a Willamette Valley Intermodal Hub Feasibility Study.

HB 5202 – General Obligation Bonding Bill

- The Legislature approved increases in General Obligation bonding under this measure in order to address a number of projects including: \$30,460,000 for repairs and improvements to the Oregon Capitol Building and;
- \$20,340,000 to complete implementation of the Department of Transportation’s State Radio Project.

SB 5701 – General Fund Expenditure Bill

Additional General Fund expenditures were approved under this measure. Some of those expenditures included the following:

- \$120 million in general funds to state agencies for employee compensation.
- Increased available resources to the Emergency Board by \$2 million for a total of \$32 million available to the committee for expenditures for the remainder of the biennium.
- \$2 million to be allocated to state and local governments that incurred costs not reimbursed by the federal government related to the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.
- \$200,000 for disbursement to Douglas County to partially reimburse public safety costs associated with the October 1, 2015 incident at Umpqua Community College.
- \$10 million to the Housing and Community Services Department to be utilized as follows: \$8 million is for homelessness assistance and prevention services through the Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) program and \$2 million is to the State Housing Assistance program (SHAP) for operational support for emergency shelters and supportive services to shelter residents.
- \$230,000 general fund to provide information for the 2017 legislative session on how a market-based carbon reduction system would work in Oregon.
- \$2.5 million general fund appropriation to expand the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) current Oregon Air Toxics Program.
- \$23,115,122 in the general fund appropriation made to the Department of Forestry, Fire Protection Division for the payment of emergency firefighting costs associated with the 2015 forest fire season.
- \$705,288 to facilitate a groundwater study for the greater Harney Valley in coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey.

A few other expenditures worthy of note include:

- In response to the needs at Umpqua Community College in the wake of the shooting last year, the state provided more than \$6 million to repair the academic building where the shooting took place, and make improvements to security and safety systems.
- Adding \$1.5 million to the Oregon State Police Forensics Unit to address the backlog of untested sexual assault kits.
- Adding staff to process background checks for gun purchase by allocating \$1 million to the Oregon State Police.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

HB 4084 – Brownfield Cleanup with Property Tax Incentives

This bill allows cities, counties and ports to adopt an ordinance or resolution providing property tax incentive programs that grant special assessment to brownfields, or exemption to new and existing improvements and personal property on brownfields, for period of up to 10 years, with additional period up to five years based on locally adopted criteria. The bill explicitly caps the dollar amount of benefits at specified eligible costs as outlined below. It also clarifies that the tax incentives end when the time period called for in the local ordinance or resolution, or total tax benefit equals eligible cleanup costs, whichever is sooner. Over-lapping taxing jurisdictions must agree to the ordinance or resolution based on a ratio of 75% of the property tax value's agreement with the plan. Owners who contributed to any contamination are not eligible to participate in program. The bill also clarifies that the incentives are attached to the property rather than to the owner, and lays out requirements for a new owner to continue to receive benefits after property has changes hands. Eligible costs equal the discounted present value of estimated after-tax costs directly related to remaining work necessary to remove, contain, or treat contamination of the brownfield. It provides for claw back of property tax benefits upon disqualification for failure to comply with eligibility requirements or making reasonable progress on remediation or redevelopment, or for misleading or false statements in an application to participate in the program. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this new authority, the bill sunsets the authority to adopt an ordinance or resolution on January 2, 2027.

HJR 202 – 1.5% of Lottery Revenue for Veterans – Legislative Referral

Due to the passage of this resolution, in November, the voters of Oregon will decide whether this proposed Constitutional Amendment should dedicate 1.5% of future lottery revenues to be expended for the benefit of veterans.

The Constitution, originally, dedicated the net lottery proceeds to the purpose of creating jobs and furthering economic development. This was expanded by Measure 21 (May 1995) to include financing public education, and by Measure 66 (November 1998) to include restoring and protecting Oregon's parks, beaches, watersheds, and critical fish and wildlife habitats. Measure 21 also gave lottery bonds first claim on lottery proceeds and dedicated 15% of net proceeds to the Education Endowment Fund. Measure 66 dedicated 15% of net proceeds to the Parks and Natural Resources Fund with 50% dedicated to parks and recreational areas and 50% dedicated to fish and wildlife habitats. Measure 19 (Sept. 2002) converted the Education Endowment Fund to an Education Stability Fund, transferred \$150 million of the principal to the State School Fund, and increased the lottery dedication to 18%. If the balance in the Stability Fund reaches 5% of general fund revenue, the lottery dedication is reduced to 15% and deposited in a new school capital matching subaccount. The 2005 legislature (HB 3466) repealed lottery games on sporting events starting in July 2007. The same bill also dedicated 1.0% of lottery proceeds to fund sports programs at Oregon universities. Measure 76

(November 2010) made the 15% dedication to parks and natural resources permanent and allocated 12% to regional parks and grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

SB 1547 – Coal to Clean

In 2007 Oregon adopted a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that directed Oregon utilities to meet a percentage of their retail electricity needs with qualified renewable resources. For Oregon's three largest utilities (PGE, PacifiCorp and Eugene Water & Electric Board) the standard starts at 5% in 2011 and increases to 15% in 2015, 20% in 2020, and 25% in 2025. Other electric utilities in the state, depending on size, have to meet standards of 5%-10% by 2025.

SB 1547 requires PGE and PacifiCorp to eliminate coal-fired resources from their supplies by January 1, 2030. The bill also revises the RPS for PGE and PacifiCorp to require that at least 27% of electricity sold in years 2025-2029 be generated from renewable energy sources; 25% by 2030-2034; 45% by 2035-2039 and at least 50% by 2040. The bill contains a 4% cost cap containment provision. PGE estimates that their rates will increase by one and a half cents per year as a result of this measure's passage.

The bill also includes provisions related to utilities acquiring another utility's service territory without consent, requirements that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) adopt rules implementing a community solar program, and several biomass provisions.

Finally, the bill clarifies that the term "public utility" does not include Public Utility Districts (PUDs) or electric cooperatives for the purpose of regulation by the PUC.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS

SB 1574 – Cap and Trade

In 2007 the Oregon Legislature adopted greenhouse gas reduction goals. These goals require Oregon to begin to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2010, to achieve greenhouse gas levels that are 10% less than 1990 levels by 2020 and to achieve levels that are 75% less than 1990 levels by 2050.

SB 1574 would have established a cap on greenhouse gas emissions and mandated DEQ to operate a carbon pollution market on January 1, 2020. Emission sources that meet or exceed 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually would have been subjected to the program

(manufacturing categories such as pulp, paper and metals industries would have been significantly affected). The bill failed to pass but the provisions of SB 5701, which passed; require DEQ to report back to the legislature prior to the 2017 session to include the following:

1. Identify the type, scope, and design of the greenhouse gas emissions cap to link with other jurisdictions and meet the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.
2. Assess how a market-based program would interact with existing programs (e.g. RPS, Clean Power Plan and LCFS) and achieve the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.
3. Study and evaluate how existing market-based programs in other jurisdictions control leakage and how those methods might be adapted to align with Oregon's economy and business sectors.
4. Study and evaluate how existing market-based programs address potential impacts and benefits to disadvantaged populations and rural communities and how those methods might be adopted in Oregon.

Environmental advocates have publicly stated that Oregon adopting a cap and trade system is their number one priority for the upcoming 2017 legislative session.

LABOR LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

HB 4067 – Whistleblower Protections

Oregon's whistleblower statute, ORS 659A.199, makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to "discharge, demote, suspend, or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee with regard to promotion, compensation or other terms, conditions or privileges of employment for the reason that the employee has, in good faith reported information that the employee believes is evidence of a violation of a state or federal law, rule or regulation." The statute also outlines prohibited conduct by employers, including prohibiting employees from engaging with Legislators or staff or threatening disciplinary action for disclosure of information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of a violation of federal or state law.

HB 4067 expands the whistleblower statutes to include an affirmative defense to criminal or civil charges brought about as a result of an employee's good faith and objectively reasonable disclosure of information that the employee believes shows a violation of state, federal, or local law, regulation, or rule so long as the disclosure is to a state regulatory agency, law enforcement, a manager of the employee, or a licensed attorney. Importantly, the bill removes the defense in cases in which information is disclosed under an exclusive negotiation agreement or non-disclosure agreement. Additionally, the bill requires public and nonprofit

employers to establish and implement a policy on employee rights and requires that policy to be delivered to each employee.

SB 1532 – Increases to the Minimum Wage

The minimum wage is the lowest hourly wage a non-exempt employee may be paid by an employer. Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. In 2002, Oregon voters enacted Ballot Measure 25, setting the Oregon minimum wage at \$6.90 per hour and directing the Labor Commissioner to annually adjust the wage for inflation as measured by the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index (CPI). Oregon’s minimum wage is currently \$9.25 per hour. SB 1532 creates three different “regions” in the state and raises the *base* (Urban Counties) minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour by July 1, 2022. Employees who work within the Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) (Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties) will earn \$14.75 by 2022 and employees living in Non-Urban Counties will earn a minimum wage of \$12.50 by 2022. The bill adjusts the base minimum wage annually for inflation based on the CPI starting July 1, 2023. Individuals working within the Metro UGB will earn no-less than \$1.25 wage after June 30, 2023. Individuals living in Non-Urban Counties receive no-less than \$1.00 less than the base minimum wage after June 30, 2023. Counties in the Urban and Non-Urban Counties are listed below and a table outlining wage increases is also listed below.

Non-Urban Counties: Baker, Coos, Crook, Curry, Douglas, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler.

Urban Counties: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Deschutes, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington, Yamhill.

	Non-Urban Counties	Urban Counties	Metro Urban Growth Boundary
July 2016-June 2017	\$9.50	\$9.75	\$9.75
July 2017-June 2018	\$10.00	\$10.25	\$11.25
July 2018-June 2019	\$10.50	\$10.75	\$12.00
July 2019-June 2020	\$11.00	\$11.25	\$12.50
July 2020-June 2021	\$11.50	\$12.00	\$13.25
July 2021-June 2022	\$12.00	\$12.75	\$14.00
July 2022-June 2023	\$12.50	\$13.50	\$14.75
July 2023 & after	-\$1.00 of Urban Counties	CPI adjusted	+\$1.25 of Urban Counties

It has recently been widely reported that Speaker Kotek and Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick intend to modify SB 1532 during the 2017 legislative session. Discussions center on how to incorporate a “training” wage, or adjusted minimum wage, for young individuals

without harming older workers trying to provide for their families. Another issue that is being discussed is how to mitigate job losses around the Idaho border where the minimum wage will be \$5 less than those who work in Oregon when fully implemented. Finally, an additional unresolved matter centers on whether Linn County, and potentially other governments, will claim that the new minimum wage violates Ballot Measure 30 (1996) which requires the state to pay for unfunded mandates (new programs or increased levels of services from existing programs).

PUBLIC SAFETY LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

SB 1523 – Emergency Connectors for Fuel for Emergency Response Vehicles

Liquid fuel is stored in various facilities located across the state, in varying capacities, both above and below ground. In order to pump fuel out of these storage facilities one needs energy to do so. Many emergency response entities possess generators that could be used to pump fuel out of a storage facility during a power outage, but not all generators are capable of connecting to all fuel storage tanks.

SB 1523 is the product of a work group that included private fuel companies, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The bill enables OEM to develop a grant program to target large-capacity fuel storage locations along critical routes, and distribute funds to install connectors that are compatible with generators used by emergency response personnel during an emergency to pump fuel.

TAXATION LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

SB 1565 – Industrial Improvement Exemption

Proponents of economic development believe that encouraging business investment in industrial property will contribute to economic development. There are approximately 2,500 state-appraised industrial property accounts located on roughly 900 sites statewide. On average about 100 to 150 industrial property owners had state appraised industrial property in amounts greater than \$1 million in value. The provisions of this new program are intended to be utilized for industrial property when other tools to incentivize expansion of existing small or medium size businesses to create jobs are not available.

SB 1565 allows cities and counties, by passing an ordinance or resolution, to establish a property tax exemption or deferral for newly constructed or installed industrial improvements that cost a minimum of \$1 million and a maximum of \$25 million. Exemptions or deferrals under the program may be granted for up to five years, but properties must be located in rural areas (entirely outside of an urban growth boundary of a city with a population of more than 40,000 or more—a provision similar to the existing strategic investment program statute).

The exemption will not take effect unless other taxing districts are in agreement that the exemption should be granted (75% or more of the total combined tax rate must approve). Special districts successfully lobbied for this provision to ensure that cities and counties would have to consult and receive approval from affected special districts prior to granting a property tax exemption.

Cities and counties are permitted to impose additional requirements for eligibility. Applicants will be required to increase employment in order to receive the exemption by greater of 110% of annual average employment or annual average employment plus one employee (the same standard contained in the existing enterprise zone statute). Furthermore, applicants are required to enter into first-source hiring agreements (applicants and publicly funded training job trainers refer qualified candidates for job openings or new jobs). The program's performance data will be posted on the state's Transparency website. The bill sunsets on January 2, 2027.

WATER/WASTEWATER LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

SJM 201 – Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels, have caused irreparable ecological damage to many water bodies in the United States. The estimated cost of efforts to prevent and control the spread of these mussel populations since their arrival in North America in the late 1980s exceeds \$5 billion. Dreissenid mussels have not yet been detected in the waters of the Pacific Northwest. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (Act) was signed into law on June 10, 2014. The Act authorized \$20 million for the Secretary of the Army to establish watercraft inspection stations in the Columbia River Basin to prevent the introduction of dreissenid mussels and other aquatic invasive species. The Act also authorized \$4 million in the 2016 fiscal year budget for the Army Corps of Engineers for watercraft inspection. Senate Joint Memorial 201 A urges Congress to continue appropriating funds to enhance aquatic invasive species prevention efforts.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Politics/Numbers Game of the House and Senate

The House of Representatives currently is comprised of 35 Democrats and 25 Republicans. Fourteen current members, nearly one quarter of the body (4 Republicans and 10 Democrats) are either not running again or are seeking a different office. Of the 60 seats in the House, 23 seats did not draw an opponent from the opposite party (13 Democrats and 10 Republicans) and are guaranteed to hold that seat in the November general election. There are 4 House republican and 9 House democratic primary election challenges. Due to redistricting in 2013,

House democratic members made significant gains in registration numbers in a number of districts. This has made it difficult for republicans to make any gains in control of the House. In addition, presidential general elections are noted in Oregon for significant democratic turnout which could negatively affect republican efforts to unseat democrats.

Democrats control the Senate by a supermajority (2/3rds vote; enough to raise taxes without a single republican vote). Some of the most closely watched races will be: on the South Coast where incumbent Senator Arnie Roblan (D) will face the former Lincoln City mayor, Dick Anderson (R). In Gresham, where retired registered nurse and incumbent Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson (D) will face Jamie Tlustos-Arnold (R) a registered nurse, former Fairview city councilor, and Mt. Hood community college board member.

Additionally, due to the sudden resignation of Governor John Kitzhaber in February of 2015 Kitzhaber's replacement (former Secretary of State) Kate Brown is required to run for Governor in 2016 (should she win in 2016 she will also be required to run again in 2018).

2016 Interim Process

The legislature has designated three separate blocks of "interim committee days" to receive reports and updates on designated issues and to preview legislative concepts for 2016: May 23-25; September 21-23; and December 12-14.

Several key dates for interest groups seeking to introduce legislation are listed below:

- Pre-Session Legislative Requests Due – September 26th
- Pre-Session Legislative Drafts Returned – December 7th
- Pre-Session Filing Closes – December 21st

State agencies must submit legislative concepts to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by April 15, 2016. DAS will approve introduction of agency concepts by June 3, 2016. Legislative counsel will have completed all agency legislative concept drafts by November 1, 2016. The Governor's office will then review approved DAS legislative concepts no later than November 16, 2016. Pre-session filing closes for state agencies on December 9, 2016.

Initiative Petitions

Prior to the 2016 Legislative Session, initiative petitions addressing minimum wage and reducing Oregon's dependency on coal were filed. As a result of ballot measures being threatened, the 2016 Legislature took swift action to address these issues. Subsequently, initiative petition proponents have indicated that they will abandon their ballot measure efforts.

Petition sponsors of other measures have until July 8, 2016 to submit the required number of valid signatures in order to place a measure on the ballot. Measures that propose to change Oregon's Constitution need 117,578 valid signatures and statutory changes require 88,184 signatures.

Several measures are currently actively gathering signatures for the upcoming ballot. It is likely that several of these measures will qualify:

- 2.5% Gross Receipts Tax (\$5 billion tax increase on corporations)
- Privatization of Alcohol Sales
- Estate Tax Revisions
- Lottery Monies for Outdoor School
- Limit Legislative Uses of Emergency Clauses
- Prohibit the Purchase or Sale of Animal Parts

However, last election cycle, four of the measures that qualified for the ballot did not begin collecting signatures until April/May (therefore it is difficult to determine at this point what will and won't appear on the November ballot).

Legislative Referrals

The 2015 legislative assembly referred one measure to the voters of Damascus and one to voters statewide. This May, the voters of Damascus will vote to un-incorporate or remain an incorporated city. In the statewide November election, voters will consider repealing the current mandatory retirement for state judges (currently they must retire once they reach 75 years of age). The 2016 legislative assembly referred two measures to the November 2016 ballot. Voters will approve or reject these measures at the statewide general election:

- **HJR 202**
Requires 1.5% of lottery revenues to be expended for benefit of veterans
- **HJR 203**
Permits public universities to own stock in companies, associations or corporations