Local Budget Law and Public Meetings

The Department of Revenue is responsible for providing municipal corporations with information on budgeting practices and Local Budget Law. In light of recent developments related to the spread of COVID-19, Oregon’s local governments may be conducting public meetings, including budget committee meetings, through electronic communications or other alternative methods. Please refer to the Attorney General’s Public Records and Meetings Manual for information on Oregon’s public meetings law. In addition to public meetings law requirements, Oregon's local budget law requires that members of the public be provided with an opportunity to ask questions and comment on a municipal corporation’s proposed budget as part of the official budget committee meeting under ORS 294.426. In order to comply with this requirement, a municipal corporation conducting a public meeting using electronic communications or other alternative methods must allow members of the public an opportunity to participate in the meeting and make comment, orally or written, in real time. If a municipal corporation chooses an alternate means for conducting its budget committee meeting, the meeting notices for that meeting must clearly describe how members of the public may participate in the meeting, ask questions, and make comments. Also, it may be helpful to make the proposed budget document and budget message available to the public in advance of the scheduled meeting and to offer additional methods for public comment including email or mailing options and an extended deadline for comments to be accepted. As a reminder, budgets must be adopted no later than June 30.

Please send questions to finance.taxation@oregon.gov

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