League of Oregon Cities

101ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Prosperity Starts Local:
Strong Cities, Stronger Oregon

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OREGON CORRECTIONS ENTERPRISES

Oregon Prosperity Council

Recommendations for Oregon's Long-Term Competitiveness & Prosperity

Curtis Robinhold, Co-chair

Renee James, Co-chair

Purpose and Council Members

CURTIS

The Council was charged with advancing recommendations to improve Oregon's business climate, strengthen its workforce, and modernize the tools needed to support growth.

The Council's work aims to help Oregon retain and grow existing businesses, attract investment, expand economic opportunity, and ensure prosperity is shared across all regions of the state.

- Renée James, Founder, Ampere Computing – Co-Chair
- Curtis Robinhold, Port of Portland – Co-Chair
- David Booth, Tillamook Creamery
- Robert Camarillo, Oregon Building Trades
- Lois Cho, Cho Wines
- Andrew Colas, Colas Construction
- Alice Dale, Labor Consultant - SEIU
- Dave Drinkward, Hoffman Construction
- Diane Fraiman, Voyager Capital
- Stephen Laffoon, Penderia Technology
- Richelle Luther, Columbia Sportswear
- Toby Luther, Lone Rock Resources
- Laura Naumes, Naumes, Inc.
- Brad DePuyt, Fort George Brewing
- Jordan Schnitzer, Schnitzer Properties

Oregon is at an Inflection Point

RENEE

TOP CHALLENGES

49th

IN THE NATION

% change in non-farm employment

▶ **2nd worst in the nation**

(US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

41%

OREGONIANS LIVING BELOW THE ALICE THRESHOLD

Either living below the Federal Poverty Level or unable to afford basic expenditures in the community where they live

(ALICE Threshold, Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)

5.2%

OREGON'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

▶ **Above national rate of 4.3%**

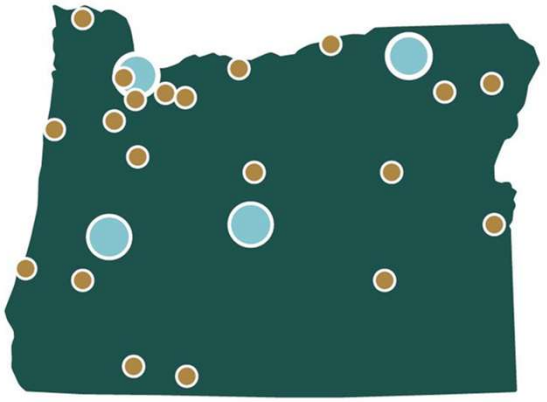
(US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Process and Engagement

CURTIS

The Council developed its recommendations following an extensive statewide engagement process and meetings around the state.





Prosperity Council working session locations included Portland, Pendleton, Eugene, and Redmond, as well as virtually. Place based-listening sessions were held throughout the state in-person and virtually.

Voices Across the State

RENEE



Hayden Homes Business Roundtable,
Redmond OR



Hill Meat Co. Production Tour, Pendleton OR

Priority Recommendations

Transform Business Oregon into the Oregon Commerce Authority

CURTIS



Strengthen Oregon's economic competitiveness with tax policies that are more pragmatic and in alignment with neighboring states. Near-term reforms should include:

- Modernize the Research & Development tax credit
- Update the Estate Tax with an emphasis on supporting family-owned businesses.
- Reform the Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) to reduce administrative burdens on small and medium-sized businesses while maintaining overall revenue levels.
- Reconnect the Qualified Small Business Stock (QSBS)

RENEE

Priority Recommendations

- Convene a nonpartisan, stakeholder-balanced, tax reform working group to develop a long-term reform proposal — RENEE
- Establish enforceable statewide permitting timelines and guardrails (a “shot clock”) — CURTIS
- Reduce regulatory and administrative burdens by 20% by 2029 — CURTIS
- Adopt a market-based Cap and Invest program for greenhouse gas emissions — CURTIS



Priority Recommendations

- Establish a dedicated and recurring site readiness and infrastructure fund of $250 million per biennium — CURTIS
- Modernize statutes and state policies governing land intended for industrial and business growth — CURTIS
- Establish a Governor's Cabinet of Economic & Talent Development — RENEE
- Strategically align higher education funding with West Coast states — RENEE



Call to Action

RENEE

The Prosperity Council urges the Governor and Legislature to move quickly in advancing the recommendations outlined in this report.

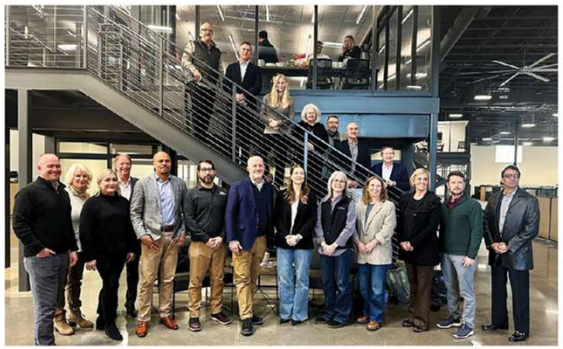
Read the full report on the Governor's Prosperity Council webpage.





Throughout this process, Council members consistently heard from stakeholders across Oregon that the state's economic challenges require urgent action and sustained leadership.





Clockwise from upper left: Prosperity Council held a Listening Session in Portland, Oregon; Prosperity Council and Governor Kotek meet with Southern Willamette Valley Business Leaders; Business Roundtable in Redmond, Oregon; and Prosperity Council visited Pendleton's UAS testing facility.

Images courtesy of the Prosperity Council.