



# Public and Government Affairs Update

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## STATE RELATIONS

### Reminder of election rules for UO employees *Two tax measures on January 26 election ballot*

A statewide special election is scheduled for January 26, 2010, to decide two tax measures which have been referred to the ballot—Measures [66](#) and [67](#).

University of Oregon employees may not advocate for or against any ballot measure or candidate on their work time or use state resources. Restrictions include the use of UO e-mail accounts. The Secretary of State's office provides a detailed list of what state employees can and cannot do in a publication called [Restrictions on Political Campaigning by Public Employees](#).

Here are some things university employees can and cannot do:

**YOU CAN** provide balanced, objective informational background on ballot measures, but **YOU CAN'T** spend work time advocating or opposing a ballot measure or candidate.

**YOU CAN** use your own time, including lunch hours or coffee breaks for political work, but **YOU CAN'T** use state resources (copying machines, faxes, computers, postage) for political work on a ballot measure or to help a candidate.

**YOU CAN** wear campaign buttons at work, but **YOU CAN'T** post political posters or flyers in public work spaces or facing out on doors or windows.

**YOU CAN** write letters expressing your opinion on ballot measures and candidates, but **YOU CAN'T** use your university title in a way that suggests you represent the University's position.

**YOU CAN** discuss your political opinions with co-workers during breaks or away from work, but **YOU CAN'T** require or coerce those who you supervise to take a position or participate in political activities.

More detailed information can be found on the UO's Government and Community Relations website at <http://gcr.uoregon.edu>.



**The deadline for new voters to register for the January 2010 election is Monday, January 5th. Voter registration forms must be clearly postmarked or hand-delivered to county elections offices no later than January 5th.**

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For more information about this newsletter, please contact Eric Stillwell in Government and Community Relations at (541) 346-5381 or email to [ees@uoregon.edu](mailto:ees@uoregon.edu).

If you are interested in inviting government officials to a UO event, please contact us first. We can help! Give us a call or send an email to [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu).

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FEDERAL AFFAIRS

## DeFazio tours new collections vault at UO museum

On Friday, November 13, UO President Richard Lariviere and U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore), toured the Museum of Natural and Cultural History's new collections wing and public galleria. The tour took them behind-the-scenes of the working museum and research facility to see how it stores 500,000 artifacts and archeological finds, many of which were discovered during state and federal transportation projects in Oregon. Jon Erlandson, museum director, conducted the tour of the new facilities.



(L-R): Museum director Jon Erlandson, Congressman DeFazio and President Lariviere.

The new collection space doubles the museum's storage capacity and provides secure, modern preservation conditions for invaluable archaeological and scientific collections formerly housed in several World War II-era buildings scattered across campus. The Oregon Legislature established the state's natural history museum at the UO in 1935 for safekeeping to help keep artifacts and specimens from going to other states or countries. The museum and its staff and faculty serve as the state's principal archeologists when highway and public works projects are completed.

DeFazio was instrumental in securing \$2.2 million from the 2005 highway bill to enable the expansion project for research purposes. Private gifts covered approximately \$600,000, including a grant from the Ford Family Foundation and others for a public galleria.

Learn more online about the [Museum of Natural and Cultural History](#).

STATE RELATIONS

## State revenue forecast

Oregon's fourth quarter state revenue forecast was released on November 19. State economist Tom Potowski reaffirmed prior estimates and forecasted revenues to decline another \$30.3 million for the 2009-11 biennium, bringing the total projected shortfall to \$212.6 million. However, these numbers could change dramatically depending on whether voters approve Measures 66 and 67 on January 26, 2010. The measures provide \$733 million currently budgeted for education, health care and public safety.

You can read the full report on the website of Oregon's [Office of Economic Analysis](#). The next revenue forecast will be released in late February 2010.

## Town Hall meeting January 9

State legislators from the Eugene-Springfield area will host a town hall meeting at Eugene City Hall on January 9, 2010. This is an opportunity for members of the community to interact with their elected officials and express support for important issues facing the legislature during their February special session, including higher education.

**Town Hall Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 9, 2010**  
9:30 am to 11:30 am  
City Council Chamber  
777 Pearl Street  
Eugene, Oregon

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## UO Dept. of Public Safety citation authority approved by City Council

On November 9, the Eugene City Council voted 7-0 to approve an amendment to the city code which will allow enhanced citation authority for the University of Oregon's Department of Public Safety (DPS). The new authority will allow DPS officers to cite individuals on campus for misdemeanors. This follows the public hearing which took place on October 19 at which DPS Director Doug Tripp, Dean of Students Paul Shang and Associated Students of the University of Oregon President Emma Kallaway testified in favor of the proposed code amendment.



STATE RELATIONS

### East campus residence hall financing to be considered

The State Board of Higher Education approved the University of Oregon’s proposal to build a new East Campus Residence Hall during its meeting on November 6. The approval authorizes the Chancellor or designee to seek Legislative approval to issue \$75 million in Article XI-F(1) bonds to construct a 449-bed multi-purpose facility that will contain faculty offices, classroom space and other programming in addition to being a residence hall.



An early artist's rendering of the East Campus Residence Hall. (This conceptual image does not represent the final design.)

UO Vice President for Student Affairs Robin Holmes told the Board that this is part of the university’s intention to develop a long-range housing plan, with the goal to have on-campus housing for up to twenty-five percent of university undergraduates by 2020. This new housing will add to current options and bring greater faculty participation into the student residence experience. This residence hall would be on the corner of 15th Avenue and Moss Street. The next step in the approval process will be a hearing in front of the Joint Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon Legislature in mid-January 2010.

#### UO Government and Community Relations



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Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) held a forum on infrastructure at the University of Oregon’s White Stag building in Portland on November 30. The meeting was attended by more than 70 policymakers and community leaders. The forum allowed for discussion among Portland policymakers about ways to finance infrastructure improvement and close financing gaps. Blumenauer is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee and a leader on livability issues.

STATE RELATIONS

### Frohnmayr proposes new funding model for Oregon’s public universities

A white paper commissioned by the Oregon University System and prepared by UO President Emeritus Dave Frohnmayr, was released November 18. The report, entitled *The Coming Crisis in College Completion: Oregon’s Challenge and a Proposal for First Steps*, explores alternative funding models for the higher education system in Oregon.

The report reviews Oregon University System funding and how funding instability and fluctuations affect student access, success, and completion. Frohnmayr concludes that the demographic data, historical trends, comparisons to other states, and a review of current educational attainment rates all point to a public higher education system in Oregon that is not sustainable.

Read the full report [here](#).