



DaltonAdvocacy INC

Dates of Interest:

- Sept. 24-26 – Interim Days
- Sept. 28th – Bill Concepts Due
- Dec. 5th – Bill Concepts Returned
- Dec. 12-14 - Interim Days

FWAA Interim Legislative Update – July 2018

Sen. Boquist Challenges SB 1528 (2018)

Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, Vice Chair of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, has filed a lawsuit in Oregon Tax Court against legislative leadership arguing SB 1528 passed during the 2018 Session is unconstitutional. SB 1528 disconnects from the federal tax rate for the purposes of determining state income tax liability for small businesses that are currently allowed to utilize the new federal 20% deduction on pass through business income. The bill passed both chambers with a simple majority. Boquist argues that the bill counts as a bill for raising revenue and under the state constitution, required a three-fifths majority vote and was required to originate in the House (not Senate) as a Revenue Raising Bill. Read lawsuit: <https://pamplinmedia.com/documents/artdocs/00003612285331-0048.pdf>

New Statewide Transit Tax – Effective July 1, 2018

The new statewide transit tax which was part of the 2017 Transportation Package (HB 2017) becomes effective July 1, 2018. Among other provisions, HB 2017 requires all employers to withhold, report and remit one-tenth of one percent (.001) of wages paid to their employees to the Department of Revenue (DOR). Employees include Oregon residents and non-residents who perform services in Oregon. DOR is setting up employer ‘statewide transit tax’ accounts. Employers will need to remit the funds withheld quarterly, or annually for agricultural employers. You can learn more about online account/payment options at www.oregon.gov/dor and click on ‘Revenue Online.’ More information is also available online at www.oregon.gov/dor/business.

Minimum Wage Increase – Next Step Increase Effective July 1, 2018

As a reminder, July 1, 2018 brings another increase in the Oregon minimum wage. The 2016 Legislature established a series of annual minimum wage rate increases that began July 1, 2016 and continue through July 1, 2022. There are 3 different regions. View region map: <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/WHD/OMW/Documents/OR-MW-Map-BW.pdf> Beginning July 1, 2023, the minimum wage rate is indexed to inflation (CPI).

Date	Standard	Portland Metro	Nonurban Counties
July 1, 2018	\$10.75	\$12.00	\$10.50
July 1, 2019	\$11.25	\$12.50	\$11.00

July 1, 2020	\$12.00	\$13.25	\$11.50
July 1, 2021	\$12.75	\$14.00	\$12.00
July 1, 2022	\$13.50	\$14.75	\$12.50
July 1, 2023	CPI Increase	\$1.25 over the Standard Wage Rate	\$1.00 less the Standard Wage Rate

POLITICS

Candidate News

Democrat Paul Diller challenging **Sen. Kim Thatcher** has withdrawn from the General Election in Senate District 13. Democrats will have an opportunity to replace him on the General Ballot in advance of November.

Wilsonville resident **Ryan Spiker-D** has also withdrawn from the November General Election. Spiker was challenging **Rep. Rich Vial-R** for House District 26.

FuturePAC, the political arm of the House Democrat Caucus withdrew its support for its nominee in a key swing seat in Bend. City Councilor Nathan Boddie was set to challenge Cheri Helt in House District 54, being vacated by Rep. Knute Buehler. From a joint statement, the Speaker and Majority leader noted their decision comes in response to “serious allegations of inappropriate behavior.” From the statement: “Based on FuturePAC’s investigation, I believe these allegations are credible, and we are very disappointed in Dr. Boddie,” said Oregon Speaker of the House Tina Kotek. “Elected leaders and candidates should be held to the highest standards, regardless of the political cost.” In addition to the caucus support, other groups withdrew their endorsements including: AFSCME, Bend Fire Fighters Local 227, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon PAC, the Oregon AFL-CIO, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters PAC, and the Oregon Nurses Association. Area democrats will be able to replace Boddie on the November ballot.

Initiative News*

Yes! Keep Groceries Tax Free Qualifies for 2018 Ballot

Voters will get to weigh in this November on an initiative that would ban all taxes on food in Oregon. The Secretary of State’s Office announced mid-June that supporters of Initiative Petition 37 submitted more than 121,000 valid signatures, several thousand more than needed. The deadline to submit signatures for measures to be considered on the November 2018 Ballot are due July 6th.

Gun Storage Initiative – IP 44

The Supreme Court has certified the ballot title for the initiative that would require gun owners to store their weapons with trigger locks, cables or in a locked container, require firearm owners to supervise children using guns and report lost or stolen firearms to the police within 24 hours. The measure also makes anyone who ignored the storage requirements liable for injuries caused with the weapons, unless the injury resulted from self-defense or defense of another person. **Within days of approval, supporters of the proposal withdrew the measure**

from consideration citing the limited time to gather and submit the necessary signatures. They plan to pursue a legislative solution in 2019 or another ballot measure in 2020.

IP 43, which would ban the sales and manufacture of a broad range of semi-automatic firearms and high capacity magazines in Oregon and would require current owners of the weapons to pass a criminal background check and register with the state to keep their firearms, is still pending before the Supreme Court. As of press time, the Supreme Court has ordered for modifications to the ballot title, **essentially ruling out any chance of circulating this measure in advance of the July 6th deadline.**

IP 31 “A Tax is A Tax” Campaign Submits Necessary Signatures

Initiative Petition 31 had submitted more than 145,000 signatures to the Secretary of State’s Office for validation. The campaign needs to submit 117,578 valid signatures by July 6th to qualify for the November 2018 ballot. IP 31 would clarify that the Legislature is required to achieve a three-fifths majority vote to pass any tax increase.

**A complete summary will be distributed after the July 6th deadline of qualifying ballot measures.*

