



To: Oregon Institute of Technology Board  
From: Brittany Miles, Government Relations Manager  
RE: Election Results November 2016  
Date: November 15, 2016

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### National Election

College affordability and student debt are top tier issues in national and state wide polls. Expect greater scrutiny of public university administration and administrative compensation.

### Statewide Ballot initiatives

#### Revenue

Measure No.		Final Ballot Title
97 (failed)	"A Better Oregon VI"	Increases corporate minimum tax when sales exceed \$25 million; funds education, healthcare, senior services.

**The failure of measure 97 means no significant new revenue streams for the state of Oregon. It is estimated that Oregon will face a budget gap between 1.2-1.4 billion dollars in the 2017-18 biennium budget.**

#### Veterans

Measure No.		Final Ballot Title
96 (passed)	Legislative referral	Amends Constitution: Dedicates 1.5% of state lottery net proceeds to funding support services for Oregon veterans.

**This session Oregon Tech will advocate that some of this veteran allocated revenue be spent on completion scholarships for veterans. The completion scholarship seeks to bridge the gap between federal GI benefits and degree completion.**

#### Education

Measure No.		Final Ballot Title
95 (passed)	Legislative referral	Amends Constitution: Allows investments in equities by public universities to reduce financial risk and increase investments to benefit students.
98 (passed)	"Oregonians for High School Success Initiative"	Requires state funding for dropout prevention, career and college readiness programs in Oregon high schools.

**M98 is significant because it requires an estimated \$300M for K12 education, reducing available funds for the Public University Support Fund.**

## Statewide Races

**Governor Kate Brown (D):** In a widely expected victory, Governor Kate Brown defeated her Republican challenger. She will now serve two more years, finishing the term of former Governor Kitzhaber, before facing a reelection campaign for a full four-year term in 2018. Her stated legislative priorities: increasing high school graduation rates and lifting families out of poverty.

**Secretary of State Dennis Richardson (R):** In an upset, Dennis Richardson is the first Republican to win Statewide office since 1994. Expect the audit division of the Secretary of State's Office to investigate spending at the public universities with a particular focus on administrative costs and compensation.

## Oregon State Senate

Democrats will maintain the majority, after losing one seat, reducing their majority to 17-13.

Oregon Tech Klamath Falls has a new state senator:



**Dennis Linthicum (R) Klamath Falls**

Linthicum is a large-scale database development manager, and rancher who is presently a Klamath County Commissioner. He has a bachelor's degree in Economics from UCLA and a master's degree from Biola University.

**Legislative Priorities:** Restore local control for rural Oregon

## Oregon State House of Representatives

Oregon State's House of Representatives: 40% of Oregon State's House Representatives will be new this year. Democrats will maintain their majority 35-25.

Oregon Tech Klamath Falls has a new state house representative:



**Werner Reschke (R) Klamath Falls**

Reshke grew up in Beaverton. After starting at Judson Baptist College in The Dalles, graduated from Oregon State University with BA (honors) degree in Business Administration. His employment history includes time with Georgia-Pacific, Tektronix, and Xerox.

**Legislative Priorities:** Limit Salem's scope and power, no new taxes or rate increases

Oregon Tech Wilsonville has a new state house representative:



**Rich Vial (R) Hillsboro**

Vial, a native Oregonian, is an attorney specializing in condominium and planned community developments. He is a graduate of BYU with a degree in Business and Accounting, and he completed his law degree at Willamette. He has served on the Washington County Planning Commission, Land-Use Advisory Committee, and County Fair Board.

**Legislative Priorities:** Transportation package and land use issues

**Other new legislators of interest:**

**Alan DeBoer (R) Ashland** – DeBoer, the one Republican pick-up in the Senate, will fill the seat left vacant when Democrat Alan Bates died unexpectedly in August. The Jackson County seat is a “split district” – comprised by two House districts, one held by a Democrat, the other by a Republican. DeBoer is a car dealer, and has served as Mayor of Ashland and as a member of the local school board.

**Pam Marsh (D) Ashland:** new state representative for Ashland. Marsh is a city council member, small business owner and manager of Ashland’s nonprofit food bank. She was involved in the management and operation of Green Springs Inn and Cabins, which she currently owns and manages with her husband and son. Marsh is a graduate of Southern Oregon University with a BA in Political Science.

**Universities respond to election results**

Oregon’s seven public university presidents issued a statement calling for a \$100 million increase for higher education:

We understand that yesterday’s vote means some very tough choices lie ahead for the Legislature and the Governor. In the face of these challenges, we believe that by working together we can still keep our public universities affordable for all Oregon students. Now is the time to continue the progress we have made over the last biennium. As our elected leaders weigh difficult budget decisions, we urge them to invest a minimum of \$100 million for Oregon’s university students to continue to clamp down on student costs and debt. This investment will allow all campuses to keep tuition increases to a manageable level for the next two years and ensure that students can graduate without taking on a lifetime of debt. Oregon’s public universities are the incubators of ideas and solutions, and we are educating the workforce and leaders of tomorrow. We stand ready to work with legislators and the Governor to address the challenges that lie ahead.

**Next steps:** In early December, Governor Brown is required to propose a balanced budget for consideration during the 2017 session. State budget writers have been working on scenarios for the past three months. The Governor’s proposal will be further informed on Wednesday, November 16 when the State Economist issues his third quarter revenue forecast. That forecast will indicate what to expect for the remainder of the current biennium as well as what’s ahead for the biennium that begins on July 1, 2017. The forecast will be available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/das/OEA/Pages/forecastecorev.aspx>

Following Wednesday’s Economic and Revenue Forecast, Governor Brown will put the finishing touches on her Recommended Budget (known as the “GRB”) which is scheduled to be released on Thursday, December 1.

Meanwhile, legislative leaders are putting together committee rosters for the 2017 session. In the Senate, with a turnover of only four members, we do not anticipate significant changes. Sen. Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin) will continue to Co-Chair the Joint Ways & Means Committee.

In the House, Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) is working to assign a significant number of new members to committees and to designate committee chairs to replace a number of veteran legislators who are retiring or moving to different offices. Two questions important to higher education include: Will the House Higher Education Committee be continued into the next session, and if so, who will chair it? And, who will co-chair the Joint Ways & Means Education Subcommittee which oversees the universities’ operating budgets? Rep. Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene), has already taken the reins from retiring Rep.

Peter Buckley (D-Ashland) as co-chair of the full Joint Ways & Means Committee, and will continue in that role in 2017.

Legislative Committees will meet for three days, Monday – Wednesday, December 12-14. Committee agendas will likely include a preview of legislative concepts that will come before the legislature when it convenes in January.