



ADVOCACY ALERT



JANUARY 2010
VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1

Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Hunger Task Force

Quarterly Newsletter

Community Food Champions join meeting

Last November the Oregon Hunger Task Force and South Coast Food Share organized a community meeting in Coos Bay. The meeting was held to gather community input for a statewide action plan that will look at the root causes of hunger. The event began with a panel representing government and community-based services, county government and people who have experienced hunger. Staff from Oregon Food Bank were also in attendance, having organized a morning tour of South Coast Food Share and discussion with local state legislators.

Community members voiced the urgency of the

current need and how it is critical to meet this while working on root causes. They also talked about the strong desire of communities to be involved as part of the solution as well as the need to better connect elected officials to the realities of hunger and poverty in their communities.

The meeting was attended by two local Community Food Champions from the south coast region. Last fall Oregon Food Bank began recruiting local community members to become part of a network of advocates in all 60 of Oregon's state representative districts. This event offered one of the first opportunities to personally meet with these individuals

and connect them to their local food bank. They participated in the community meeting and subsequently acted with other Community Food Champions throughout the state to ask Senators Wyden and Merkley to expand afterschool meal programs for children.

Overall the meeting provided valuable input as both the Oregon Hunger Task Force and Oregon Food Bank look to address the root causes of hunger. To learn more about the Community Food Champion program or to become involved contact Lori at lvaldez@oregonfoodbank.org.



take five
(actions that take five minutes or less)

Message:
Educate yourself about two important measures in preparation for voting in the special election on January 26, 2010.

Action:
Read the article below or more information about Measures 66 and 67 is at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/comm/lro/>.

Take five minutes and find another person who cares about hunger issues and encourage that person to vote.

The Oregon Votes toll free information line is
1 866 ORE VOTE / 673 8683

Oregon is a great place to live

Fact sheet from the Oregon Hunger Task Force.

Previous investments in quality education, economic stability for families and a thriving business community has made our state a place we love to call home. That's why economic recessions like the one we've endured this past year are so painful. Last spring, during the worst economic recession

since the great depression the Legislature was faced with a \$4 billion deficit and made painful cuts in public structures like education, human services and public safety that impact us all:

- \$850 million of cuts for the remaining 2007-09 biennium,
- \$2 billion of cuts from the 2009-11 biennium

In addition, the Legislature:

- drew down \$255 million in reserves,
- utilized \$978 million in federal stimulus dollars, and
- passed \$733 million in two new tax measures on the state's higher income earners and corporations to fill in the remaining gap.

Considerations
The \$2.850 billion worth of cuts over the two biennium

nia included significant reductions in human services and education programs. Proponents of the measures note that:

- More than 90% of the state's budget goes directly to human services, health care, education and

(cont. on second page)



Oregon is a great place to live (cont. from front page)

- public safety.
- Failure of the two measures would result in significant new cuts to programs such as JOBS and support services for families on TANF, additional teacher cuts and potential days trimmed from school schedules.
- Also potentially vulnerable to cuts would be the Oregon Food Bank general fund dollars for food, state funds for health care, and affordable housing dollars.
- These cuts would also lead to job loss in both the public and private sectors since many of the state dollars go to non-profit partners.
- The taxes will only move the needle slightly on Oregon's job climate, moving personal taxes from 17th lowest to 19th lowest, and business tax burden from 3rd lowest to 5th lowest among states. Furthermore, some of the corporate tax increase is offset by their ability to claim state and local taxes as a deduction on their federal tax forms.

Opponents of the measures note that:

- Raising taxes during a recession is the wrong time to do so, resulting in potential private sector job losses.
- Higher taxes could cause individuals and businesses to move out of Oregon
- Other corporations may choose to not locate in Oregon

- All the taxes should have been temporary, rather than some parts becoming permanent changes
- Some business interests felt that their voice was not adequately paid attention to in the process

We recognize this is not a perfect solution and that Oregon's tax system needs to be overhauled to add stability over good and bad times and enough revenue to fund essential services so that Oregon will attract and keep businesses and provide a good opportunity for all who live here.

We also recognize that cutting additional services for health care, education, and public safety will jeopardize many Oregonians and slow the economic recovery.

Following is a description of the main provisions in each measure.

Measure 66

- Reduces taxes for unemployed Oregonians by temporarily exempting the first \$2400 of unemployment insurance from taxation (2009 only).
- Imposes a temporary tax rate increase of 1.8 to 2% on taxable income (after deductions) over \$125,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples. Starting in 2012, this rate is lowered to a permanent increase of .9% (for instance, a

couple claiming \$260,000 in taxable income would pay the new 9.9% rate on the \$10,000 above \$250,000, or an extra \$90).

Measure 67

A) The minimum tax on S corporations will go from the current \$10 minimum to a new \$150 minimum.
B) Partnerships, LLPs and LLCs will be taxed for the first time at the \$150 minimum rate. C-Corporations pay either the minimum tax, or income tax based on profits (Oregon taxable income), whichever is higher.

- Those that pay corporate income tax will pay an additional 1.3% on profits above \$250,000 in 2009-10 and an additional 1% in 2011-12. In 2013 and subsequent years, the additional 1% will apply only to profits above \$10 million.
- Those that pay the minimum will do so on a sliding scale based on Oregon sales, starting at \$150 (up from the \$10 minimum in place since 1931) and capping at \$100,000 for corporations with \$100,000 million or more in Oregon sales.

Revenue raised from the additional 1% corporate income tax on profits above \$10 million starting in 2013 will be dedicated to the state's rainy day fund.

Advocacy Alert is published jointly by Oregon Food Bank (OFB) and the Oregon Hunger Task Force (OHTF).

OFB Advocacy Staff:
(503) 282-0555 [Portland area]
1-800-777-7427 [outside Portland]
Jon Stubenvoll X206
Jeff Kleen X204
Tammy VanderWoude X230
Stephanie Tama-Sweet X243
David Osborn X267
<http://www.oregonfoodbank.org>
advocacy@oregonfoodbank.org

OHTF Staff:
Patti Whitney-Wise
patti@oregonhunger.org
Nancy Weed
nancy@oregonhunger.org
Jessica Chanay
jessica@oregonhunger.org
Annie Kirschner
annie@oregonhunger.org
Rick Freed
rick@oregonhunger.org
<http://www.oregonhunger.org>
503-595-5501



Legislative Yellow Pages

State Legislative Information

1-800-332-2313 (outside Salem) 503-986-1000 (in Salem)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/citizenguide/>

Federal Legislative Contacts

Senator Merkley
(503)326-3386
Senator Wyden
(503) 326-7525
Rep. Wu (District 1)
(503) 326-2901
Rep. Walden (District 2)
(541) 776-4646
Rep. Blumenauer (District 3)
(503) 231-2300
Rep. DeFazio (District 4)
(541) 465-6732
Rep. Schrader (District 5)
(503) 588-9100