

Gratitude and Thanksgiving

Through all that has been the year 2020, we are grateful . . . grateful to live, work and play in this wonderful community. We are honored to represent the very best of business communities. In this season of reflection, we are filled with gratitude. All of us at the chamber send our best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving holiday to our members and their employees. We appreciate you and look forward to continued professional and business relationships. Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!

NEW! Show Our Local Businesses the Love and Loyalty They Deserve

Let's make this week's Black Friday and Shop Small Saturday an opportunity to show our local retail businesses, restaurants, wineries and breweries the love and loyalty they need and deserve this holiday season . . . and all year long!

Our restaurants, tasting rooms, breweries, etc. are not the source of the recent surge in positive COVID-19 cases in Oregon. They should not have been required to close, again. Check out the [Op-Ed](#) by Jason Brandt, CEO of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association.

Here's what we can do to help! To ensure our favorite eateries...and more...survive "the freeze," new post-freeze mandates and restrictions, and the overall impacts related to the pandemic, please patronize by ordering takeout and purchasing gift certificates this holiday season! Also order/pick-up local wines and brews for our own holiday tables and as gifts for others! Let's make this week's Black Friday and Shop Small Saturday all about local . . . Get Vocal About Local!

[#shopblackfridaylocal](#) [#shopsmallaturday](#) [#shoplocal](#) [#buylocal](#) [#dinelocal](#) [#takeout](#) [#drinklocal](#) [#pickup](#) [#shopsmall](#) [#supportlocal](#) [#shoproseburg](#) [#landofumpqua](#) [#shopdouglascountyoregon](#)



But, there's more to do! Please join your chamber, the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce (OSCC), chambers and businesses throughout the state and send the message loud and clear . . . **Main Street matters! Local businesses need to be made whole, and they need to be able to re-open for business now!**

- Our businesses have been extremely responsible to our community and to the Covid-19 guidance coming from the state.
- Our local businesses deserve the same consideration as the larger corporations that have prospered due to elimination of small business competition and our government employees that have been kept whole.
- The remedies to small business currently being offered by the state are completely inadequate. Last week's distribution of \$20 million of small business grants by Business Oregon closed after 19 minutes due to oversubscription. Similarly, the \$55 million offered this past week by Governor Brown is wholly inadequate to match the current devastation in our local business communities. The economic damage to our local businesses and families is in the billions of dollars, not millions.
- Shutdowns are sending our employees into a failed state unemployment system unable to deliver timely benefits. This is disastrous for our valued employees and completely avoidable if they were simply allowed to work and earn their paychecks.

To help give our local businesses equal consideration, the Oregon State Chamber and chambers across Oregon are calling for:

1. Immediate re-opening of all Oregon businesses.
2. Substantial remedies to our local businesses that have been forced to shut down through no fault of their own as the state has deprived these businesses and employees of their livelihoods.

3. A \$75 million Hospitality Relief fund dedicated to helping our state's restaurants and hospitality businesses recover.
4. A Moratorium on new or increased taxes and fees at the state and local level. Whether direct or indirect, these increase the cost of business and further deprive our businesses of cash flow.
5. Stabilization of the commercial rental market through a short-term tax credit for property owners willing to waive debt for commercial tenants behind on rent.

OSCC is calling on Governor Brown and lawmakers to give local businesses and their employees the same consideration given to others during the Covid-19 pandemic. Local businesses and their employees have shouldered the largest costs imposed by state government and now is the time to help them recover.

Send Your Message Today

NEW! Douglas County to Receive \$1,473,569 for Local Business Assistance Fund

As you know, to help mitigate the financial impact "the freeze" will have on Oregon businesses, Governor Brown announced last week that she has directed \$55 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds to help those required to close.

The funds will be allocated to counties, with each county receiving a base of \$500,000 plus a per capita allocation of the remainder of the funds. The counties will be responsible for deciding how businesses apply to receive funds and communicating the application process to businesses. The Governor's office anticipates that the funds will be distributed to counties within the next several weeks. **Douglas County's share of those funds for local business assistance has been determined to be \$1,473, 569. County leadership is in the process of developing its business assistance grant application criteria and process. If your business has been impacted by these new restrictions, contact Douglas County at dcinfo@douglas.or.us and ask to be added to the COVID Business Funding Program mailing list to receive the latest updates and information.**

NEW! Safety Mandates & Guidelines After Two-Week Freeze Announced

Today, November 25, Governor Brown **announced a new safety framework** for all 36 Oregon counties once the "two-week freeze" ends next Wednesday, December 2. The framework will utilize the latest science and data to classify counties into four different risk categories: "Lower," "Moderate," "High," and "Extreme." 21 counties are currently categorized as being "at" "extreme" risk, six are "high," four are "moderate" and five are "lower." **Douglas County is currently one of the 21 counties identified as being at "Extreme Risk." Find county status information here.**

On Monday, November 30, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will reexamine county data to determine which counties qualify for each risk level on December 3, following the end of the "two-week freeze." In each subsequent two-week period, the OHA will examine and publish county data weekly, but county risk levels will not change until the end of the second week. In the first week, counties will be given Warning Week data to prepare for potential risk level changes. In the second week, county risk levels will be updated based on that week's data. More detailed information will be posted **here before December 3.**

Each of the four categories has **certain guidance for various activities.** The below disease metric chart will be used to identify the risk level for the county. The announcement today likely means that Oregon's more populous counties will be experiencing business and social restrictions for weeks to come.

However, bars and restaurants would be allowed to have a maximum of 50 customers dining outdoors, with tables limited to parties of six. Service would have to stop at 11 p.m. This is a departure from the guidelines in the "two-week freeze," which limits bars and restaurants to take-out only.

Retail capacity limitations are also changing. Under the "two-week freeze" requirements, all retail is limited to 75% capacity. Now, those counties classified as at "extreme" or "high" risk will be curtailed to 50%.

Again, the new COVID-19 regulatory system and metrics are posted on the Governor's website:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>

[Watch the governor's press conference here](#)

Post-freeze guidance is forthcoming and the chamber will post it in its Recovery Resource Center Library Re: COVID-19: Business/Employer Recovery Resources section on our website's **Current News** page.

Recovery Resource Library Related to COVID-19 Pandemic & Wildfires

Wildfire Recovery Assistance Information—UPDATED INFORMATION ONLINE****

For those impacted by the recent wildfires, the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce continues to update daily a detailed list of resources and information on our website to assist our local businesses and residents during recovery. Please check back often, as the resource information from FEMA, US Small Business Administration, the state of Oregon and the chamber's economic-growth/sustainability partners, is relayed to the chamber almost daily. The wildfire disaster assistance information is under the chamber's "Current News" page, "**Resource Information for Recovery Related to 2020 Wildfires**" section. FYI, it's the section past all the COVID-19 pandemic resource.

Information and Recovery Resources for Businesses Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic—UPDATED INFORMATION****

Please continue to check the chamber's online "**Business Recovery Resource Center Library Re: COVID-19 Pandemic,**" as the chamber updates its resource information almost daily. And, please share this link with friends and colleagues. The more our local businesses are armed with information and access to resources, the stronger our recovery.

Chamber News, Programs & Updates

Be sure and take a look at the chamber's November/December 2020 issue of **Business Perspectives**. There is much information about upcoming programs and events. Missed a past issue of Business Perspectives or one of those "oh-so-informative" members email blasts? No worries. They are posted on the chamber website on the **Monthly Newsletter page** . . . just scroll.

Time to Nominate! Be sure and download nomination forms for 2020 **first citizens, businesses of the year** and **chamber volunteer of the year** honors. And, grow your business in 2021 by participating in the "Shop Chamber & Save" exclusive member-to-member discount program. Download and return the **Shop Chamber & Save form**.

SAVE THE DATE! March 18, 2021 the Roseburg Area Chamber will host several programs and events throughout the day and evening for its annual celebration of business, recognition and awards event and annual membership meeting. Look for more information in early 2021!

Debbie

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Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce

