

Tools to Access “What’s Happening” in the 2021 Oregon Legislature

It is so important that our members submit written or provide verbal testimony on bills that are important to them and our local businesses. As the chamber previously shared, legislative committee days started in mid-January, the legislative session is now currently in process. Check out the [2021 legislative calendar](#). Following are some of the key dates that will govern this year’s 160-day session:

- Tuesday, Feb 23: Bill introduction deadline
- Friday, March 19: Original committee “work session” posting deadline
- Tuesday, April 13: Original committee “work session” deadline
- Friday, May 14: Second chamber “work session” posting deadline
- Friday, May 28: Second chamber “work session” deadline
- Friday, June 18: Leadership’s targeted date for Sine Die
- Sunday, June 27: Constitutional Sine Die

Here’s what we know so far about how the session will be conducted. The session will be virtual through at least early March. The first reassessment will be made on March 1. The only way the Capitol will be reopened is when Marion County enters the lowest of the COVID risk categories. Currently, Marion County is in the highest (“extreme”) risk category.

Right now there appears to be more standing committees meeting a little less frequently than usual. There will be more advance notice for hearings and work sessions. Although there are no bill limits this session (more than 3,000 bills have been introduced so far), there will be more prioritization and likely fewer bills being considered. There are indications that budgets won’t be addressed until later in the session due to uncertainty around revenue and potential federal aid packages.

It is so important that our members testify on bills that are important to them and our local businesses. The Oregon Legislative Assembly has established a process to accept remote verbal public testimony on bills by video or phone during this time, in addition to written public testimony.

Detailed information about how to testify in the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session is outlined in a [“How to Testify” during Oregon’s 2021 Legislation Session](#) PDF document.

Here are some additional links to help you stay connected during this legislative session.

- [Oregon Legislative Information System \(OLIS\)](#)
- [Receive Bill Alerts](#)
- [Watch Committee Hearings](#)
- [Find Your Legislator](#)
- [House Committees](#)
- [Senate Committees](#)

You chamber’s primary objective is to represent the interests of and advocate for our local business community. The chamber has its legislative and public affairs agenda and positions in place. We’re seeing a lot of bad-for-business bills (particularly looking for more revenue in the form of taxes and fees). The chamber will continue to monitor legislative activities daily throughout the session and, act on behalf of our businesses whenever pertinent. The chamber will continue to join with the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce, other chambers and business organizations around the state to make sure the voice of business is heard. Look for “Calls to Action” during the 2021 session and don’t hesitate to contact the chamber if you become aware of proposed legislation potentially adverse to business or if you have any questions about the session or chamber positions.

Free PPE Still Available to Roseburg Area Businesses

The Roseburg Area Chamber through a partnership with the City of Roseburg continues to provide free PPE to Roseburg businesses. The PPE available includes: 3-ply ear-loop disposal masks, washable reusable cloth masks, non-surgical KN95 masks, pump-bottle hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes and disposable nitrile gloves.

To receive the no-cost PPE, businesses should apply through the chamber’s website. To apply, visit [COVID-19 Business Recovery Resource Center Library](#) or click [HERE!](#)

2021 Roseburg Chamber Member-to-Member Discounts Online

Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce members can download their 2021 “Shop Chamber & Save” member-to-member discount list **HERE**. Please note, discount cards must be shown to claim member offers. RACC members can request discount cards for themselves and the number of employees covered by the company’s chamber membership, by calling 541.672.2648 ext. 17 or **email** us to request.

“Slight” Statewide Modifications to “Extreme” Risk Level Mandates

Effective January 29, the state of Oregon “slightly” modified guidance for counties deemed to be at the extreme risk level. In general, any/all indoor spaces, except restaurants, are allowed to have up to six people in a space of more than 500 square feet, under the modified guidelines. If owners/operators have more than 1000 square feet and can effectively divide the space internally, there can be as many as four distinct areas, each having up to six customers at a time.

For specifics:

- Indoor Recreation & Fitness Establishments: **Guidance FAQs**
- Indoor Entertainment Establishments: **Guidance FAQs**
- Outdoor Entertainment Establishments: **Guidance FAQs**
- Eating and Drinking Establishments; **Guidance FAQs** (Dining pod signage: **<https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3571.pdf>**)

Douglas County remains at the high risk level until at least February 25.

Still Time to Apply for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Businesses interested in a PPP loan (first or second), *particularly those unable to access PPP with a traditional bank or credit union*, are encouraged to get in touch as soon as possible. One such participating CDFI is **MoFi.org**. You can contact your local SBA office for more information on community financial institutions offering early access to PPP **here**.

If you received an initial PPP loan from a bank or credit union during the first round, please contact them regarding a second loan.

Updated PPP guidance can be found here:

- **[PPP Guidance from SBA Administrator Carranza on Accessing Capital for Minority, Underserved, Veteran, and Women-owned Business Concerns;](#)**
- **[Interim Final Rule on Paycheck Protection Program as Amended by Economic Aid Act;](#)**
- **[Interim Final Rule on Second Draw PPP Loans.](#)**

The U.S. Chamber created a new **Guide to Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Loans** to provide local chambers and our members with the latest information and answers to FAQs about the changes that have been made to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) Program as part of the end-of-year pandemic relief package Congress passed and which is tentatively slated to become law.

Click here to view the U.S. Chamber's new Guide to Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Loans. As the year-end federal pandemic relief package evolves and, we are confident, ultimately authorized and signed into law, we will continue to provide updates as the information becomes available.

Business Recovery Resource Center Library

Please continue to check the chamber’s online **“Business Recovery Resource Center Library Re: COVID-19 Pandemic,”** as the chamber updates its resource information at least weekly. 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

The Roseburg Area Chamber's 2021 "Shop Chamber & Save" exclusive member-to-member discount program flyer is [online](#).

The chamber's annual celebration of business and awards event tentatively planned for March 18 is postponed. As soon as we have a new date, we'll be sure and send out a "SAVE THE DATE!"

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce will be closed on February 12 and 15. Anyone with outstanding PPE orders to pick up can do so after 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 16.

Missed a past issue of *Business Perspectives* or one of those "oh-so-informative" membership email blasts? No worries. They are posted on the chamber website on the [Monthly Newsletter page](#) . . . just scroll.

Debbie

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