

Accepting Applications for 2025-26 Leadership Roseburg

The chamber is now accepting applications for its 2025-26 Project Leadership program. Are you or one of your employees interested in enhancing your knowledge, strengthening our community, developing relationships and expanding your horizons? Then Project Leadership Roseburg is where you belong. The chamber's 36th year of Project Leadership Roseburg begins on September 11, so <u>APPLY NOW</u>. For details about this distinguished leadership program, check out the chamber's <u>May/June issue of *Business*</u> <u>Perspectives newsletter</u>. For 2025-26 curriculum, program specifics and application forms, <u>CLICK HERE!</u> Mail your application and a check for the \$50 application fee early enough to ensure the chamber receives it by the 5:00 pm deadline on Thursday, August 21, 2025. If the class reaches capacity before August 21, the deadline will close early. Don't delay.

Oregon Legislative Update

The Good

Last week include the Oregon DEQ's two-year delay of its Advanced Clean Trucks rule, pushing enforcement out to the 2027 model year. RACC supported proposed legislation related to the delay.

<u>HB 3921</u> which approves city of Roseburg and Douglas County 2024 ordinances that provided for amendments to the city's urban growth boundary, the city boundaries and the city and county's comprehensive plan and land use regulations, has passed both the House and the Senate, signed by the Speaker of the House and Senate President. It now awaits the Governor's signature.

The Bad

The state's May revenue forecast (for 2025-27) projected a \$750 million drop from its previous March forecast, mostly due to personal income taxes declining by about \$500 million.

Consequential bills this week included <u>SB 426A</u> and <u>SB 916</u>. RACC opposes both bills.

SB 426 would hold property owners and contractors liable for unpaid wages to a subcontractor's employees, even if the subcontractor was fully paid for services. Despite proponents' statements to the contrary, the current version of the bill imposes liability on homeowners, including for their primary home. That reality has landed for legislators and several amendments have been drafted but none have properly addressed the issue of liability for owners. The latest <u>amendment</u> exempts primary residences or real property consisting of five or fewer units on a single tract. SB 426A was adopted by the House Committee on Labor and Workforce Standards with the amendment <u>—A22</u>. The bill is expected to go to the House floor for a vote next week.

SB 916 would provide unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to striking workers. SB 916A was adopted with amendments <u>-A26</u> (which provides relief for public entities) on May 22 by the House Committee on Labor and Workforce Standards. The bill is expected to go to the House floor for a vote next week. RACC will issue an Action Alert.

The Ugly

Statewide chamber and business efforts are ongoing to stop attempts to divert transient lodging tax (TLT) dollars away from its intended use for tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities. HB 3962 would allow local governments to use the funds for community infrastructure and public safety. RACC opposes this bill, as anti-business, especially harmful to small businesses and, contrary to business and economic development. RACC president & CEO was invited to serve on a work group convened by the chair of the House Committee on Revenue regarding HB 3962. RACC will keep members updated as the session progresses.

Important upcoming session deadlines:

On May 23, the Legislature will reach the deadline for most committees in the second chamber to take action on bills. A bill dies if it does not get voted out of committee and either sent to the floor or to a committee exempt from deadlines. After May 23, only House Rules, Senate Rules, House Revenue, Senate Finance and Revenue, and joint committees will be able to act on bills. June 18 is the target for Sine Die and, June 29 is the Constitutional Sine Die (mandatory last day of session).

For more detailed information about RACC positions and Oregon State Chamber of Commerce (OSCC) weekly bill tracking, visit <u>RACC Issues & Positions</u>.

Celebrate Small Business Month!

May is National Small Business Month! Celebrate and support our local small businesses, they are the backbone of our community!

Did you know? 97% of U.S. importers are small businesses? Of the 242,515 total importers in the United States, 97% (or 236,045) are small businesses according to the Commerce Department. And, did you know small business play a significant role in U.S. international trade? Small businesses were responsible for a third of the total value of goods imported into the U.S.

Small business resources from the US Chamber of Commerce:

AI Tools for Small Business

19 Free Resources to Level Up Small Businesses

Learn the Steps to Remain Payment Card Industry (PCI) Compliant

10 Free or Low-Cost CRM Tools for Small Businesses

Grants, Loans & Programs to Benefit Small Business

More Chamber News

A quick reminder that the chamber's membership meeting lunches are on hiatus for the summer, returning on Monday, September 15. Save these dates!

August 21 Project Leadership Application Deadline

September 11 2025-26 Project Leadership Roseburg Begins

September 15 Membership Meeting Lunches Return

October 16 Coffee & Commerce

October 20 Membership Meeting Lunch

November 1 Nominations Open for 2025 Businesses of the Year & First Citizen Recognitions

November 17 Economic Forecast 2026

November 17 Membership Meeting Lunch

Read the May/June 2025 issue of Business Perspectives to learn about new members, renewing members, chamber programs, activities and more. See past RACC-member communications HERE and "Current News" online. Check out RACC "Issues & Positions." Visit the Chamber Calendar online for chamber programs, events and deadlines. Friends visiting the area this summer? Check out our Visitor Event Calendar online for local events of interest to out-of-area guests.

Be sure to follow us on **Instagram** and **Facebook!**

Happy Friday! Have a safe Memorial Day Weekend.

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