



Corvallis Chamber of Commerce

2026 Policy & Legislative Agenda

Adopted: 2/26/26

BILL TRACKING TABLE

Priority	Bill	Focus Area	Chamber Position	Notes / Impact
High	HB 3145	Factory / Modular Housing	Support	Encourages innovative housing solutions to expand workforce housing supply.
High	HB 2964	Housing Funding	Support	Increase state funding for housing development and affordability programs.
High	HB 3918	Permitting Reform	Support	Streamlines permitting process, reducing development costs and accelerating housing projects.
High	SB 1586	Jobs Act	Support	Supports workforce development and job creation initiatives.
High	HB 4134 / HB 4148	Transient Lodging Tax (TLT)	Oppose	Protects tourism and business interests by limiting new lodging taxes.
Medium	HB 2258	LCDC	Monitor	Workforce housing implications; monitor state-level planning decisions.
Medium	SB 684	Mixed-Income Housing	Monitor	Potential impact on workforce housing availability.
Medium	HB 2698	Homeownership Goals	Monitor	Promotes access to homeownership for local workforce.
Medium	SB 1566	Prevailing Wage Exemptions	Support	Reduce construction costs, supports local development projects.
Monitor	SB 1507	Federal Tax Disconnect	Monitor	Administrative/technical; low local impact.
Monitor	SB 1510	SALT Cap	Monitor	Administrative/technical; low local impact.
Monitor	SB 1505	Labor Standards Board	Monitor	Administrative/technical; low local impact.

Priority	Bill	Focus Area	Chamber Position	Notes / Impact
Monitor	SB 1541	Climate Superfund	Monitor	Mostly technical; monitor for any local business impact.
Monitor	HB 4084	Governor's Bill	Monitor	Administrative; monitor as needed.
Monitor	SB 1593	Recreational Liability	Monitor	Not core to housing or workforce development; low priority.

OVERVIEW

The Corvallis Chamber's 2026 Policy & Legislative Agenda provides a structured framework for advocacy at local, state, and federal levels. This agenda reflects our commitment to fostering a pro-business environment, supporting economic competitiveness, and engaging strategically on issues affecting our members. It is informed by:

- Board-adopted Business Advocacy and Economic Development principles
- Input from: Chamber members, Chamber Board, Chamber Staff, Government Affairs Committee members, and industry partners
- Insights from the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce (OSCC), Oregon Business & Industry (OBI), and U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Community engagement, including results from the Mayor's Open House and ongoing task force outreach
- Insights from other community partners, including but not limited to: Oregon State University, Samaritan Health, City of Corvallis, and Benton County

KEY OBJECTIVES: RESPONSIVE AND TIMELY ACTION

While this agenda outlines current priorities, issues evolve rapidly. To ensure effective engagement:

- Chamber staff are authorized to monitor and act on emerging issues aligned with agenda principles
 - The Board of Directors maintains oversight to ensure alignment with core priorities
 - Advocacy will focus on direct economic impacts for local businesses
- Next Steps:
 1. Leaders' Advisory reviews and recommends adoption
 2. Upon adoption, Chamber staff will:
 - Track legislation and engage policymakers at all levels
 - Inform members through communications and programs
 - Mobilize member support or opposition for key initiatives

POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Economic Development

Policies:

- Support regional collaboration that strengthens innovation, workforce development, and business growth in Corvallis
- Advocate for local policies that foster a diverse, resilient economy and support existing and emerging industries
- Encourage alignment between City/County economic development efforts and regional strategies

State/Federal Tracking & Engagement:

- Maintain active participation in the Southern Willamette Valley Innovation Corridor
- Maintain active participation in regional Economic Coalitions to ensure Corvallis business interests are represented
- MONITOR and engage in state and federal economic development programs, funding opportunities, and policy initiatives impacting regional competitiveness

2. Downtown Vitality

Policies:

- Support careful exploration of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district for downtown investment
- Promote safe, clean, and accessible public spaces for businesses and visitors
- Advocate for infrastructure and placemaking initiatives recommended by the Downtown Vitality Strategic Task Force (DTVSTF)

Local/State/Federal Tracking & Engagement:

- MONITOR redevelopment programs and grants supporting downtown investment
- Advocate for urban revitalization tools

3. Housing & Livability

Policies:

- Support policies enabling construction of affordable housing units, middle housing, and ADUs
- Encourage public-private partnerships to expand workforce housing options
- Advocate for transportation, childcare, and infrastructure investments that support residents and the local workforce

- Promote land use and development policies that balance housing growth with neighborhood livability and access to services
- Support efforts that reduce cost burdens for residents and employees, including utility, permitting, and mobility considerations

State Legislative Bills:

- HB 2258 — Preapproved residential plans for streamlined local approval
- SB 6015 — Permit-ready plans to accelerate housing development
- HB 2964 — Predevelopment funding for affordable housing
- SB 684 — Expands financing for mixed-income housing
- HB 2698 — Statewide homeownership goals

Local/State/Federal Tracking & Engagement:

- MONITOR CDBG and federal housing programs supporting workforce housing
- SUPPORT efforts reducing costs and regulatory barriers
- MONITOR housing codes and land use changes for local impacts

4. Regulatory Environment, Permitting & Civic Engagement

Policies:

- Monitor zoning, land-use, and downtown development codes for impacts on business operations and investment
- Monitor potential local ballot measures affecting taxes, fees, liability, or regulatory requirements
- Support an informed electorate by encouraging civic participation in local elections

State Legislative Bills:

- HB 3918 — Streamlines permitting processes and improves transparency

Local/State/Federal Tracking & Engagement:

- Permitting Reform Coalition Letter
- MONITOR the Climate Protection Program (CPP) and cap-and-trade proposals
- Advocate for economically viable, business-practical regulatory alternatives
- MONITOR state rulemaking affecting business compliance obligations
- MONITOR EPA, environmental, and energy regulations impacting businesses and operating costs

- SUPPORT legislation and policies ensuring clear, predictable, and timely permitting processes
- SUPPORT economically viable environmental and climate policies that balance sustainability with business competitiveness
- MONITOR regulatory, environmental, and ballot initiatives for unintended business impacts
- Inform members about candidates, ballot measures, and policy issues impacting the business community

5. Infrastructure

Policies:

- Support investments in streets, transit, civic campus, and downtown amenities

Local/State/Federal Tracking & Engagement:

- Track funding proposals affecting regional connectivity and infrastructure
- Support federal and state grants aligned with business needs
- SUPPORT strategic infrastructure investments
- OPPOSE disproportionate cost burdens or regulatory barriers

6. Voter Measures & Local Ballot Items – Support Upcoming Council Elections

Policies:

- Host a nonpartisan “Get to Know Your Candidates” forum or seminar to provide members with direct access to local candidates
- Provide structured opportunities for candidates to share priorities related to business, economic vitality, and community livability
- Encourage informed civic engagement among Chamber members and the broader business community

Local/State/Federal Tracking & Engagement:

- MONITOR potential local ballot measures affecting taxes, fees, liability, or regulations
- Inform members about candidates and political platforms

7. Transient Lodging Tax (TLT)

Policies:

- The Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) is a critical funding mechanism for tourism, economic development, and hospitality in Corvallis. The Chamber supports policies that ensure TLT funds are used effectively to grow the local economy and promote tourism while minimizing burdens on local businesses.

- Monitor proposals that could increase TLT rates or redirect existing funds away from economic development initiatives
- Advocate for transparency and accountability in TLT fund allocation
- Support investments in downtown and hospitality-related projects funded by TLT revenues

Local/State/Federal Tracking & Engagement:

- Track statewide legislation affecting TLT collection, reporting, and allocation rules
- Monitor proposals that could shift TLT funds from local economic development purposes to other priorities
- While TLT is primarily a local/state revenue tool, monitor federal tax and tourism incentives that could interact with lodging and hospitality industries
- SUPPORT legislation that protects TLT funding for local economic development and tourism
- OPPOSE measures that dilute or divert TLT revenues away from intended purposes

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & NEXT STEPS

Members are encouraged to:

- Stay informed through Chamber policy briefings and legislative updates
- Participate in advocacy, coalition efforts, and testimony
- Provide input on evolving issues
- Schedule meeting with city staff, mayor, and council to review 2026 Chamber Policy Agenda

Adoption:

This agenda will guide all Chamber advocacy in 2026 at local, state, and federal levels.