



CAPITOL COMMENTS

*State Legislative Bulletin of the
Oregon Bankers Association*

January 8, 2007

74th Oregon Legislative Assembly Convenes Today

The regular session of the 74th Assembly of the Oregon State Legislature convened this morning and is expected to remain in session for approximately six months. We will be publishing this bulletin two to four times per month throughout the session as a way to keep our membership informed about the state legislative process and the issues affecting our industry.

From broader issues like education, transportation, healthcare and taxation, to more specific issues like credit file freezes and public fund deposits, we expect dialogue and legislation on a wide range of issues. Throughout the session, we will keep you updated on key issues affecting our industry.

In addition, we will again provide access to our online bill tracking system. The next edition of *Capitol Comments* will provide details on accessing our [new system](#) and will summarize the list of bills OBA will be introducing this session on behalf of our member banks.

New Leadership Named in House and Senate

With the re-election of Governor Ted Kulongoski and Democrat majorities in both the House of Representatives and Senate, Oregon will experience a legislative process entirely under Democratic leadership for the first time in 17 years. OBA has always taken a bi-partisan approach to our lobbying and advocacy efforts, so we are optimistic about the coming session and our ability to work effectively with the new leadership and the entire legislative body.

Key leadership positions include Senator Peter Courtney (District 11), who will continue to serve as President of the Senate; Senator Kate Brown (District 21), who will continue as Senate Majority Leader; Representative Jeff Merkley, (District 47) who will serve as the new Speaker of the House; and Representative Dave Hunt (District 40), who has been selected to be the new House Majority Leader.

Also important are the numerous committee chairs and members that have been named. The list of committees will be available throughout session at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/>, and we will highlight key committees in our next edition of *Capitol Comments*.

Building Our Grassroots Network

A key element of the OBA's legislative process continues to be our expanding grassroots program. To help us develop a current list of grassroots contacts within the industry, we are attaching a *Political Contact Survey*. Please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to the OBA. It is critical that we have at least one key banker identified as a contact for every Oregon legislator. Feel free to copy and share this form with others in your bank that might have a relationship with a legislator.

Bankers Day at the Capitol

Mark your calendar now for Bankers Day at the Capitol. Scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2007, this important event provides an opportunity for our industry's collective voice to be heard at the Capitol. A full-day of events is being planned and will include individual visits with various legislators and a legislative reception at the Salem Conference Center, so please plan to spend most of this day in Salem. In 2005, we enjoyed a turnout of approximately 100 bankers! This year, with your participation, we plan to exceed our 2005 numbers. Watch for details in the coming weeks, but mark your calendar today.

Our Government Relations Team

The OBA has enhanced its government relations team for the session. The team of contract lobbyists and staff members focused on our state legislative efforts includes:

Tim Martinez, OBA Lobbyist. Tim has represented the OBA at the Capitol for many years and continues to serve as our lead contract lobbyist. His focus will be on moving our bills through the process, defending against onerous legislative proposals, and working with other members of the lobby, legislators and industry groups to find workable solutions on key business and industry issues. Please note that Tim is best reached during session on his mobile phone: 503-510-9019.

Dave Barrows, OBA Lobbyist. Dave and his team at Barrows & Associates have rejoined the OBA lobby team for the 2007 session. Dave has 40 years of experience representing financial services clients – including the OBA for several years – before the Oregon legislature. He is considered the “Dean” of the Oregon lobby and brings additional experience, perspective and influence to OBA's government relations program.

Ken Sherman, Jr., OBA General Counsel. Ken continues to play a critical role on the OBA's team. His review of each and every bill introduced during the legislature and his corresponding analysis of each helps assure we consider the potential impact of all proposals on our member banks. In addition, his legal expertise is employed throughout the process for drafting bills, amendments and testimony. With 30 years of experience serving as the OBA's general counsel, Ken is a highly respected expert on the Oregon bank code and issues related to financial services.

Abigail Young, OBA Public Affairs Associate. Abigail is the newest member of the OBA staff, joining us this month in anticipation of the session. Her newly created position will be focused on government, community and public relations. During the 2007 Oregon legislative session,

Abigail will provide critical coordination and member communications services, and she will staff our Government Relations Committee. Abigail comes to us with great experience and top-notch recommendations from her prior positions within the American Bankers Association Government Relations Department and Farmers and Merchants Bank in Tallahassee, Florida.

Jennifer Schubert, OBA Member Relations Associate. Jennifer continues to serve as a liaison with OBA members through our extensive committee structure. She will continue to work with many of our committees on the legislation that is referred to them for consideration.

Linda Navarro, OBA President & CEO. Linda will direct our legislative efforts, as well as serve as a registered lobbyist, focusing on key issues. Prior to her work at the OBA, Linda worked for a number of years in the legislative arena.

Additionally, the entire OBA staff is focused throughout session on our legislative strategies. Contact the OBA office at 503-581-3522 at anytime for information or assistance.

Gavel to Gavel TV Coverage Hits the Airwaves

The new Oregon Channel now provides gavel-to-gavel, unedited television coverage of state government and public affairs in Oregon, including: floor sessions and committees, State Supreme Court hearings, state agency hearings, boards and commission hearings, capitol news conferences and special events, and other public affairs, civic and cultural programming provided by partner organizations. The Oregon Channel will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. To find a channel listing in your area, visit the following link at the Oregon Legislature's website at: <http://www.oregonchannel.org/uwatch.htm>.

More information about the Oregon legislative process, members of the legislature, and recent announcements such as this are available at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/>.

Thought for the Week

When you are right you cannot be too radical; when you are wrong, you cannot be too conservative. –*Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)*



2007 Political Contact Survey

Tell us who you know!

On difficult issues, elected officials respond best to constituents and friends. In order to tap our hidden reservoir of influence, the OBA must identify bankers who have personal and/or professional relationships with state and federal public officials.

Please take time to complete this form and return it to the OBA by fax (503-581-8714), email (ayoung@oregonbankers.com) or mail (OBA, PO Box 13429, Salem, OR 97309).

Your name: _____

Bank: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please provide names of Oregon elected officials with whom you are acquainted. Check the appropriate boxes for your relationship to the individual:

Elected Official's Name: _____

Friend Professional Acquaintance Contributor Campaign Worker
 Other _____

Elected Official's Name: _____

Friend Professional Acquaintance Contributor Campaign Worker
 Other _____

Elected Official's Name: _____

Friend Professional Acquaintance Contributor Campaign Worker
 Other _____

Additional Comments (business partner, relative, member of church, etc.):
