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## CAPITOL COMMENTS

March 7, 2022

### February Session Quietly Comes to a Conclusion

The 2022 Oregon legislative session adjourned sine die at 11:58 am on Friday, March 4. While there were plenty of political fireworks, the session, which convened on February 1, ended several days before the March 7 constitutional deadline to adjourn and without quorum-denying walkouts that have been employed during the past three sessions.



Democrats continued to hold supermajorities in both the House (37 to 23) and Senate (18 to 12). That said, there were several changes to leadership in the two bodies. In the House, representatives selected Representative **Dan Rayfield** (D-Corvallis) as Speaker of the House, replacing former Speaker **Tina Kotek** (D-Portland) who resigned to run for governor. Representatives **Julie Fahey** (D-Eugene) and **Vikki Breese-Iverson** (R-Prineville) were selected by their respective caucuses as majority and minority leaders replacing Representative **Barbara Smith Warner** (D-Portland) and former Republican Representative **Christine Drazan** (who also resigned to run for governor). Senator **Tim Knopp** (R-Bend) received the Senate Republican Caucus leadership nod to replace Senator **Fred Girod** (R-Stayton) as Senate Republican leader. In addition to new leadership, more than 10% of the legislature has turned over since the start of the 2021 session for a variety of reasons including retirement, expulsion or having accepted a new job. Suffice it to say there was a fair amount of change in the air.

and much more. Despite political headwinds that continue to challenge the Oregon business community, OBA had a good session. While we did not introduce proactive legislation, we were successful in playing defense on several measures. Fortunately, few bills directly targeted the banking industry.

Highlights from the session:

- OBA was able to stop a measure that would have amended the Oregon Constitution to allow the legislature to create a state-owned bank ([House Joint Resolution 205](#)).
- OBA successfully amended a problematic bill dealing with data privacy and data brokers that ultimately died in committee ([House Bill 4017A](#)).
- OBA obtained an amendment striking lien provisions that could have created challenges for banks ([House Bill 4016](#)), and we secured an exclusion for banks in a bill that prohibits places of public accommodation from refusing to accept cash as a form of payment ([House Bill 1565](#)).
- Given the positive shape of the state budget, there were no major tax plans implemented and additional dollars were targeted to housing and workforce training.

### Final Top 10

OBA's Top 10 bill list has been updated and is available [here](#). The Top 10 is a snapshot of the 2022 bills likely to have a major impact on the banking industry and/or those with a significant political impact. This was a fluid list and changed as additional bills of importance were introduced, amended or died during the course of the session. If you have an interest in a particular bill introduced during the 2022 session, you can click [here](#) to review it.

### Join OBA on March 29 at 3:00 pm for a 2022 Session Debrief

With the completion of the 2022 Oregon legislative session, OBA is holding a free Zoom meeting for member bankers on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, from 3:00 to 3:30 pm to recap the results of the session. The call will highlight legislation that passed during the session that is likely to impact Oregon banks. Note that no other organization will be holding this kind of briefing for bankers regarding laws passed during the session. Click [here](#) to sign up for the free briefing.

### Thank You!

Thank you to all the bankers who helped us during the session. Whether it was serving on a committee, testifying before the legislature, contacting a legislator or letting us know the benefits or concerns your bank had with a particular piece of legislation, we truly appreciate your help.

If you have any questions about the session or particular legislation, please contact OBA's Senior Vice President & Government Affairs Director Kevin Christiansen at (503)

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## Election Season Heats Up

With the conclusion of the 2022 legislative session, election season now shifts into high gear. The race for governor is set to take center stage with competitive Republican and Democrat races as well as an independent challenge from former Senator **Betsy Johnson**. Arguably, this is the most open race in a number of cycles given the fact that there is no incumbent (or former incumbent like **John Kitzhaber**) running. Additionally, the entire Oregon House of Representatives and half of the Oregon Senate are up for election this year. Federally, one of our two U.S. Senate seats is up in 2022 as are all six of Oregon's seats in the House of Representatives. Yes, six. Oregon picked up an additional seat following the 2020 Census. It goes without saying that it's likely to be a hotly contested election year.

Candidates seeking office must file with the Secretary of State to run by the close of business on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Oregon's primary is set for Tuesday, May 17, 2022, with the general election being held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Once the filing day is complete, OBA's BankPAC Trustees will review the slate of candidates and decide which individuals BankPAC will support. We strongly encourage all bankers to give to BankPAC to make sure that our industry's voice is heard on election day. It is critical that we support elected leaders who will in turn support a healthy Oregon business climate. After all, a thriving business community provides jobs for families, pays taxes for better schools, improves access to health care and grows our state's economy. Moreover, by giving to BankPAC, you may be eligible to take advantage of the Oregon Political Tax Credit. You can contribute to BankPAC by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions about giving to Oregon BankPAC, contact **Jennifer Schubert** at [jschubert@oregonbankers.com](mailto:jschubert@oregonbankers.com).

### What Needs Fixing?

A reminder that OBA is gathering legislative concepts for possible introduction during the 2023 Oregon Legislative Session. Now is the time to get those ideas for change submitted. If you have a proposed change to a law, please forward that with a brief description to OBA Senior Vice President & Government Affairs Director **Kevin Christiansen** at [kchristiansen@oregonbankers.com](mailto:kchristiansen@oregonbankers.com) so that we can begin the vetting process. We're happy to work with you to refine the concept and answer potential questions that you may have.



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