



Senator
DICK ANDERSON
COASTAL DISTRICT 5



Senator Anderson for the Coast

Newsletter for State Senator Dick Anderson

We are about a month in now with the virtual session in Salem. I have been heading to Salem every week for some floor sessions, speaking with other members, and coordinating with my staff on our issues of the week. When we are not doing that, I have been sitting in front of my computer or on the phone trying to conduct the many many hours of committee hearings that we have every week.

I do not believe that a virtual session is creating transparency and trust in government. It creates an aura of hiding in the shadows finding ways to tax more, regulate more and erode our civil liberties without open public testimony. I have noticed numerous citizens signing up to testify only to have their internet fail, their electricity go out or another technology glitch bump them from that opportunity. I think that we can and should do more to open the process up to citizens.

For those on the coast, I will be working with the coastal caucus and my staff to ensure that we are standing up for bills that help the coast and bringing attention to “bad” bills. Sadly, there seems to be more bad bills versus good bills.

Please forward this email to friends, neighbors and family that are interested in signing up for my newsletters. We will do our best to put out timely information on bills and information important to the coast and Senate District 5.

New budget forecast going to be a tough pill to swallow

There will be a new budget forecast coming out, and it won't be good. Estimates now put us with a \$1.6 billion hole in the proposed budget from the Governor. It is safe to say that Oregon will have to tighten the belt in a hurry to put a balanced budget forward come June. There will be some hard choices to make as we move forward through the budgeting process.

We will work hard to make sure the coast gets its fair share of state dollars. We are all very aware how important the coast was to all Oregonians during the pandemic of 2020 to escape the cities and find some breathing room on our coastline. We will work for increased infrastructure dollars up and down the coast.

Forecast is supposed to come out February 24th.

Sen. Anderson introduces 'Stimulus Check Protection Act'

Senator Anderson and new staff ready to help coastal residents

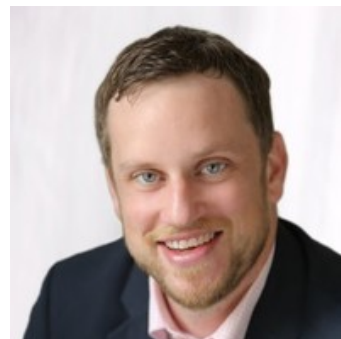
I have hired two staff people to help navigate through the process. The first is **Andrew Yoxall**, who worked with us on the campaign. He is handling phone calls, emails and calendar and working with constituents finding their way through problems, as needed. Andrew is not new to Salem as he has helped the Senate Republican Caucus and Senator Kim Thatcher in the past.

The second person on staff is **Matthew Friesen** who is also a very experienced person in the legislature. Matt will be sitting in on committee meetings with me and keeping track of bills and other committees I am not seated on to help me understand where bills stand as they change along the way. This will be especially helpful when I am in one committee meeting and know there is a bill very vital to our district that needs to be followed. Matt is analyzing bills and following through with questions I have about them by using many contacts in the Capitol he has developed through the years. Matt has served the Senate Republican Caucus in several areas, worked on campaigns, spent time as a lobbyist and worked in education in both South Korea and most recently, Laos. He is well travelled and has visited 47 states and 23 countries.



Andrew Yoxall
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Matt Friesen

Legislative Director

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It's time to focus on what is important

The legislature seems to be on pace to introduce over 4,000 bills. This would surpass any previous session. Astonishing since we all knew going into session that it would be a challenging fiscal biennium. Leadership sent out the message to focus on Covid, wildfire relief and balancing the budget. Yet, we have members introducing:

- Numerous new taxes
- Numerous gun bills
- A bill to establish a new university in Central Oregon separate from OSU
- Requiring all police officers, correction officers, parole and probation officers, regulatory specialists and reserve officers to have post secondary education even while we struggle to fill these positions
- Repeal of crimes of prostitution, commercial sexual solicitation and promoting prostitution

Just to highlight a few. Fortunately, even with the lack of focus from Leadership, only about 25% or hopefully fewer will actually become law.

If you want to testify on a bill, find out all the information right [HERE](#).



Committee assignments and the Coastal Caucus

The Capitol building is closed to the public, which is not good for transparency in government, and most of our work is done from home with virtual meetings but it is still nice to get to work on issues relevant to Oregon and our district.

Senator Courtney, President of the Senate, appointed me to committees that will be important to District 5.

I am serving on the following committees:

- Joint Committee On Ways and Means
- Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On General Government
- Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
- Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery - Vice-Chair
- Senate Committee On Housing and Development
- Joint Committee On Legislative Policy and Research
- Joint Committee On Conduct - Alternate
- Senate Committee On Conduct - Alternate

Housing, Human Services and Mental Health and Natural Resources committees are important for the district and my background in finance will be a plus for serving on Joint Ways and Means committee. I hope to serve you well.

I am also sitting on the Coastal Caucus as Vice Chair along with all seven of the coastal Senators and Representatives and on a new group of statewide legislators who have served in local government positions and meet to discuss the impact the State may have on city and county governments.

Committee meetings are happening virtually so my home office is getting a lot of use. When not in committee meetings; I am reaching out to meet with people in other state departments, groups who have an interest in bills that are starting through the process, getting to know other legislators and constituents.

Please visit the State webpage and sign up for my newsletter so you will continue to receive them. The link is: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/anderson>



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