



SALEM CITY CLUB

Celebrating 40 years of Exceptional Civic Discourse

“YOU MAY HAVE WONDERED WHY I CALLED YOU HERE”

The Oregon Legislature Meets in a 2008 Special Session

Please join Salem City Club on Friday, January 11, 2008 when our Senate President **Peter Courtney**, Democrat of Salem, and Senate Republican Leader **Ted Ferrioli** of John Day will present their perspectives and goals for the upcoming **February special session of the State Legislature**. This “test drive” of annual legislative sessions is slated to begin February 4 and to adjourn sine die no later than February 29.

44 out of 50 states already have annual sessions, enabling a quicker response to urgent problems or issues that crop up. A key measure of the success of this Oregon experiment will be the **ability of the Legislators to work through the issues** at hand efficiently and with a minimum of rancor. The joint legislative resolution that enabled this session stated that the special session will be “limited to consideration of the most pressing fiscal and policy issues”.

So, what are the issues that our Legislators are likely to discuss from February 4 through February 29? Subjects will likely include:

- adding troopers to provide 24-hour coverage on Oregon’s highways;
- resolving security questions about driver’s licenses;
- restoring funds for Oregon Project Independence;
- establishing a legislative audit office;
- funding a continuing study of Oregon’s land use laws;
- crafting consumer protections against lending practices that have lead to foreclosures;
- providing Columbia river water for NE Oregon farmers;
- toughening sentences for property crimes;
- promoting professional training/standards for educators;
- and more.

Both the Senate and House leaders seem determined that this month-long session will be a productive affair that will **persuade voters that annual sessions are a good idea**. The “discussion” format of this program should allow the speakers to demonstrate their commitment to a cooperative and productive session, both during the formal comment period and the generous discussion period that follows.

For lunch reservations email nelalind@aol.com or call 503-589-2975 before noon Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The community is welcomed and encouraged to join us! There is no charge to just attend the program at noon. Parking is free. Doors open at 11:30 AM. For more information on this program, about costs for different lunch options, and directions to the event, please go to www.salemcityclub.com.

When: Friday, January 11, 2008; 11:40 lunch | Noon Program
Where: Mission Mill Museum-Dye House, 1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR 97301
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