

The New Budget Coalition

Redefining Oregon's Budget Process through Legislative and Political Action

Purpose of the New Budget Coalition (NBC) Legislative Reforms

1. To redefine the budgeting process for Oregon state government
2. To require clear and transparent budgets and financial reporting for All Funds and all elements of state government
3. To strengthen oversight of state Agencies, and engage constructively in improving Agency program performance and cost effectiveness

MISSION: Provide a positive vision of improved budget practices for Oregon's state Legislature, and build consensus around fiscally responsible reforms and policies.

The NBC Legislative Agenda - Approved 7/22/04:

- Fund these two budget areas first: public safety, and K-12 education.
- Adopt "Performance Budgeting" a.k.a. Outcome Budgeting as the right direction for Oregon state budgets (Steven Goldsmith, Mayor of Indianapolis IN; John Norquist, Mayor of Milwaukee WI)
- Require the House to create a One Page Budget with the force of law. Pass as a House Rule that no spending or appropriations bill is in order on the House Floor unless accompanied by certification from Ways and Means that it fits within the One Page Budget. Until/unless the Senate and Governor concur, the House will treat its own One Page Budget as the one to use. (This requires only a House majority to adopt and will force the Senate and Governor to the table.)
- Prohibit any Legislator from taking any state government job that was created, or the pay of which was increased, during his/her term of office (duplicates the Federal ban).
- Prohibit retroactive taxes from being levied anywhere in the state.
- Take at least SOME legislative testimony under oath, esp. if it involves experts or if legislation and/or spending is based on facts presented; include enforcement, and actually do enforce this

Founders of the New Budget Coalition

Lou Beres, Richard Burke, Tom Cox, Bob Ekstrom, Derrick Kitts, Jeff Kropf, Russ Walker, Jason Williams
This diverse group of people worked together very successfully to fight Measure 30. We wanted to maintain the cohesion and momentum from that fight, and realized we needed a permanent coalition to advance the interests of fiscal responsibility for our state.

Members of the New Budget Coalition's Legislative/Candidate Caucus

Jeff Caton, Tom Cox, Marc Delphine, Linda Flores, Gary George, Derrick Kitts, Jeff Kropf, Dave Mowry, Tristan Reisfar, David Sanders, Mac Sumner, Kim Thatcher

Further reading:

The Wealth of Cities: Revitalizing the Centers of American Life, by mayor John O. Norquist, D- Milwaukee
The Twenty-First Century City: Resurrecting Urban America, by mayor Stephen Goldsmith, R-Indianapolis

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nbc_friends-subscribe@yahoo.com

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http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nbc_friends/