



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

## What to Expect: Ways & Means Road Show edition

Every two years, the Ways & Means Committee of the Oregon Legislature sets a budget for the coming two-year period. The process is long and complex, but it begins with two things:

- First, an understanding of how much money is available to spend,
- Second, a proposal known as the “Co-Chairs’ Budget”, and
- Third, an opportunity for Oregonians to share their budget priorities with the Legislature. These opportunities are called the “Ways & Means Road Shows” or “budget town halls”

### What is a Ways & Means Road Show?

A Ways & Means Road Show is a series of meetings where Oregonians can come share their budget priorities with the budget writers of the Oregon Legislature. The road show travels all around Oregon so that people can come and share their opinions with the budget committee about the proposed budget.

### Where does the Road Show visit?

In 2017, the Road Show will visit:

- 1) Salem: Friday, February 10, 5 – 7 pm**  
Oregon State Capitol, Hearing Room F, 900 Court Street NE, Salem
- 2) Portland: Saturday, February 11, 12 – 2 pm**  
Main Mall, Amo DeBernardis CC Building, PCC, Sylvania campus, 12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland
- 3) Hermiston: Friday, February 17, 5 – 7 pm**  
Main Commons, Hermiston High School, 600 S 1st St, Hermiston
- 4) Madras: Saturday, February 18, 1 – 3 pm**  
Performing Arts Center, Madras High School, 390 SE 10th St, Madras
- 5) Ashland: Friday, February 24, 5 – 7 pm**  
Rogue River Room, Southern Oregon University, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd, Ashland
- 6) Eugene: Saturday, February 25, 1 – 3 pm**  
Lane Community College, Rooms 308-309 Building 17 (The Forum), 4000 E 30th Ave, Eugene
- 7) Tillamook: Friday, March 3, 6 – 8 pm**  
Officer’s Mess, Port of Tillamook Bay, 6825 Officers Row, Tillamook

### **Should I go?**

Yes, absolutely! This is your chance to talk to the Legislature about your priorities as an Oregonian. Housing programs are not adequately funded in the proposed budget. **We need to make sure housing is a priority! Your stories are incredibly important. They help the Legislature understand what is going on in their communities.**

### **What should I expect when I show up?**

- It will be crowded.
- You will need to show up at least one hour early to sign up to testify.
- When you arrive, go immediately to the room listed, and find the table to sign up to testify. The sooner you sign up, the sooner you will get called to speak.

### **What should I expect when the Road Show starts?**

Often, local elected officials, the president of the local university, or another dignitary will get to speak first. Then, the presiding Chair (the person in charge) will start calling names of people who get to speak.

Usually, the presiding chair will call two panels – the panel that gets to speak next, and the panel immediately following. They may call this panel “on deck,” meaning you have a few minutes, but should be ready soon. There will be a table up front with microphones for people who are speaking.

People will get anywhere between 1 and 3 minutes to speak. It will go quickly. There could be a stoplight set up to tell people when their time is up, or even a loud buzzer. **You will want to prepare your notes before you go, and time yourself. The time will go very quickly.**

Once your name is called, make your way to the front of the room and sit at the table with the microphone.

## What should I say?

- 1) First things first, **say your name and your hometown for the record**. Then, thank the Committee for hearing your testimony.
- 2) **Share a very brief story – why are you here today?**
  - a. Are you a case manager or a shelter worker? Do you work with people experiencing homelessness? Do you work with people who need affordable housing? Share a few sentences with the Committee about why you are there to testify.
  - b. Have you experienced housing instability, homelessness, or were you at risk of foreclosure? Say a few sentences about what happened to you.
- 3) Tell the Committee **why you believe housing matters**. You can pick one of the following:
  - i. “I believe everyone needs a safe place to call home.”
  - ii. “Housing gives people the opportunity to build better lives.”
  - iii. “Kids need an opportunity to succeed in school and life, and that starts with a safe place to call home.”
  - iv. “We can live in a state where everyone has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.”
- 4) Share **a sentence or two about the problem you see in your community**. Are there more people in need of rent assistance or emergency shelter than you can help? Do we need more affordable places to call home? Do we need to help people struggling with foreclosure? **Remember – keep it brief. One sentence!**  
[If you need help, look here: <https://www.oregonhousingalliance.org/resources/> ]
- 5) Spend the rest of your time talking about solutions. The Oregon Housing Alliance has a few proposals that you could talk about. If you have an example of a program that works, share why and how it works, and why it’s so important.  
**Pick one:**
  - a. We can prevent and end homelessness with emergency rent assistance. Please make sure you fund the Emergency Housing Account this year.
  - b. We can build more affordable homes for people that need them. Please commit money to build more affordable homes through the LIFT program.
  - c. We can prevent people from losing their homes through foreclosure counseling. Please fund the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance program and especially the counseling.

*You can also make your own! What do you think the Legislature should spend money on?*
- 6) Finally, **tell the Committee we can do more to ensure all Oregonians have a safe, stable place to call home, and then say thank you to the Committee for their time.**