

Is Oregon Headed The Direction Of California? By Jim Bice

The numbers are in. Oregon has the second highest unemployment rate in the country! Let's look at what our "caring" representatives are doing for us in Salem to address this issue.

The long awaited budget proposal for this legislative session, called the Co-Chairs' Budget (CCB), which weighs funding allocations by Co-Chair priorities. Notwithstanding the severe decline in revenues, the CCB gives preference to certain human services programs and K-12 education. In contrast, Community Colleges and Oregon Universities received 15% cuts from their Essential Budget Level (EBL) budget figures.

When looking at the CCB summary sheet, it is hard to know what these budget allocations really mean. The reductions in the EBL, contained in the Co-Chairs' Budget, are reductions from a proposal, rather than additions or reductions to the current, Legislatively Approved Budget for 2007-09. This is called Baseline Budgeting.

Under Baseline Budgeting, a proposal is submitted. It may be higher (almost always) or lower than the previous session's budget amount. When this proposal is considered, any amount approved that is below the requested amount is considered a cut, even if it is more than the previous session's total.

For instance: Headstart provides many benefits to pre-kindergarten children. How was Headstart's funding affected by the Co-Chairs' Budget? The line item for Headstart in the details of the Co-Chairs Budget indicates a cut of 10%. In

reality, Headstart is getting one million dollars more in the proposed Co-Chairs Budget than Headstart received in the current 2007-09 budget. But, they're getting 10% less than they requested!

Another example involves the Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education programs for children. The CCB allocation shows an 11% reduction from the 2009-11 EBL, yet when compared to the current 2007-09 budget, Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education gets a slight increase in funding.

This strategy of referring only to theoretical cuts from a proposed EBL for the 2009-11 Budget, is unnecessarily confusing.

Additionally, much of the unspent money left over from the previous budget, instead of being "carried over" to help fund the new budget, is being set aside or transferred into other funds that don't show as part of the actual budget. Oregon has approximately \$10 billion that the state is holding in these "other funds" that isn't included in the budget process. This is YOUR money that should be used in the budget process to eliminate the need to increase taxes and further exacerbate the economic status of the average Oregonian.

In business, the standard method of budgeting is to compare and contrast the previous budget with the current budget, carry unspent balances forward, then consider additions or reductions in drafting a new budget. Such a transparent budgeting process would be of great benefit to the Legislature and

save the state millions of dollars every year.

The current system is reminiscent of the weather-beaten farmer whose neighbor asked him how his harvest had gone. The farmer had hoped to earn \$80,000; in fact, he earned \$50,000; so, he stuck his hands in his pockets, dropped his head, kicked the dirt and said, "Ah shucks, I figure I must-a-lost \$30,000 this year."

There are a couple of items of interest in the Co-Chairs Budget:

First, the following programs and services are going to be fully funded or at least given preferential treatment:

1. Relief Nurseries;
2. CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children in foster care, etc.);
3. Measure 49 Claims Processing funds;
4. Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation "continuum of care";
5. Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation 'residential care';
6. Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation "non-Medicaid out-patient care";
7. Gambling Addiction Rehabilitation—cut 15%, but not devastated;
8. Mental Health—local delivery of services;
9. Assisted Living—no reduction in reimbursement rates;
10. Oregon Project Independence—will not be eliminated, although currently OPI has been allocated NO General Funds but additional funding is being sought.

As mentioned above, the Co-Chairs Budget assumes \$800 mil-

lion of undefined new revenues (tax increases). It has been mentioned that a major contributor toward the \$800 million shortfall is likely to come from a proposed income tax surcharge for Oregonians earning more than \$250,000 per year (this is mostly small businesses that employ about 80% of Oregonians). Additional information on proposed tax increases will be forth-coming in the weeks ahead.

Previous discussions of the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) and the Essential Budget Level (EBL) are now moot. From now on, the Co-Chair's Budget will be the focus of all budget discussions. There will be Adds and Drops ("puts and takes"), from the CCB in the weeks to come, and the final draft of the CCB will mark the end of the 2009 Legislative Session. We can only hope that day will come quickly before we're totally bankrupt!

In the meantime, while many Oregonians are losing their jobs, the Democrat controlled legislature and Democrat governor want to give pay raises to state employees, hire 1450 more new state employees, tax small businesses into extinction, tax hospitals and care providers and raise the gas tax by

6 cents per gallon. In addition, the governor wants to increase the amount of ethanol in our gasoline which will result in larger taxpayer subsidies to ethanol producers and reduce the mileage we get from our vehicles. He wants to implement a "cap and trade" carbon tax on Oregon industries which could more than double the cost of electricity. And, he wants to reduce logging on U.S. Forest Service property resulting in lost jobs and lost tax revenues to counties.

In other words, let's raise taxes while we eliminate or reduce the opportunities to create jobs and generate revenue. While we're at it, let's do everything possible to prevent new businesses from locating in this state while we strive to our utmost to drive existing businesses out.

All of these proposals will cost Oregonians more jobs and at the same time increase the cost of living for everyone living here.

Is this how you would manage your household budget and expect to survive? Will Oregon go the way of California where the demands of state employee unions and rampant taxation and spending by the State Assembly has driven them into bankruptcy?

NEW MICHELIN CAR TIRES \$9.99 each*

*190/65HR390 Michelin TRX M&S.

Bet they won't fit your car? No dealers. Limited to stock on hand. Carry-out price. Mount, balance & valve stem extra.

GREAT BUY ON CAR TIRES ALL SEASON STEEL RADIALS

STARTING AT **\$28.88** 155/80R13



SP06

Tread design may vary.

SIZE	SALE PRICE	SIZE	SALE PRICE
155/80R13	\$28.88	175/70R13	\$42.88
165/80R13	38.88	185/70R13	48.88
185/75R14	54.88	185/70R14	53.88
195/75R14	55.88	195/70R14	55.88
205/75R14	58.88	205/70R14	57.88
205/75R15	62.88	215/70R15	62.88
215/75R15	63.88	235/75R15	68.88

FREE MOUNTING • ROTATIONS • FLAT REPAIRS • AIR CHECKS

PASSENGER CAR TIRES

CHAMPIRO 60
As Low As **\$61.00**
(185/60R14)
• High tread rigidity
• Low rolling resistance
• Double center ribs

SAVERO HT PLUS
As Low As **\$116.00**
(P235/75R15)
• Modern "S" shape tread pattern design
• Four circumferential grooves with open shoulder slots
• Special tread compound and wide shoulder slots

- **FREE** Tire Rotation
 - **FREE** Flat Repair
 - **FREE** Mounting
 - **FREE** Tire Re-Balance
 - **FREE** Tire Inspection
 - **FREE** Air Check
 - Tire Replacement*
- * Limited Warranty. Ask for details

Backed By The Best Warranty In The West!

LIGHT TRUCK TIRES

ADVENTURO A/T
As Low As **\$132.00**
(LT235/75R15)
• Robust design with multiple sipes shoulder to shoulder
• Wide tread pattern and deep solid blocks and lugs
• Open shoulders with wide slits

ADVENTURO M/T
As Low As **\$136.00**
(LT235/75R15)
• Aggressive pattern design
• High void ratio and pyramidal shaped tread elements
• Special casing profile and solid shoulder pattern
• Reinforced casing construction

Lube, Oil, & Filter \$28.95 reg. 34.95

- Up to 5 quarts 10W30 motor oil
- Install oil filter
- Most cars & light trucks
- 35-point vehicle inspection



Coupon expires 6-30-09

FARWEST TIRE FACTORY
DON'T SETTLE FOR LES!

267-2173

1595 N. BAYSHORE DR., COOS BAY

Orland's South Coast BEAUTY SUPPLY BOUTIQUE

The Bay Areas One Stop Beauty Shop

Open to the Public & Professionals
Largest Selection of Wigs on the Coast
(Private Fitting Room!)

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR IN BUSINESS!
Join Us for Great Savings!
10% OFF Everything In Stock • 30% OFF Jewelry
30% OFF Selected Wigs & Hairpieces
50% OFF All Handbags & Wallets
60% OFF Selected Boutique Items

SUNDRIES, WETGOODS & TOOLS FOR EVERY BUDGET. WE ALSO CARRY AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF IMPOSTER & DESIGNER FASHION ACCESSORIES

Our Friendly & Knowledgeable Staff Is Here To Help

2253 Newmark Street, North Bend
541-756-5717
MON-SAT 10 - 6

NOAH'S ARK FISH-N-PETS
FOR ALL YOUR PET NEEDS
1760 Virginia Ave.
North Bend, Oregon 541-756-PETS

- *Healthy Animals
- *Knowledgeable Staff
- *Clean, Neat, Spacious
- *Specializing In Fresh & Salt Water Fish And Reptiles
- *Licensed By USDA For Exotic Animals

GOLDFISH & KOI 1/2 OFF With This Ad*
*Excludes Feeders

Bunnies
\$14.99
Each

FRESHWATER FISH
BUY TWO - GET ONE FREE
Tuesdays ONLY! When You Mention This Ad!