

FAQ on the Fundamentals of Legislative Operations

Below are answers to the most common questions about legislative operations and information.

Q: How do I Find my Legislators?

Simply follow this [link](#) and input your address, and the system will provide your state senator and representative, and your member of Congress. The link also includes a map that will allow you to determine if your city has more than one legislator.

Q: What is OLIS and How do I Use it?

The [Oregon Legislative Information System](#) (OLIS) serves as the Legislature's notice board database and historical record. On this web page, you will find all meetings occurring in the Oregon Capitol, the status of all bills, committee schedules, testimony, video records, and amendments. Because this resource contains a great deal of information, it's best for users to acquaint themselves with the features well ahead of the legislative session.

Q: What's the Path an Idea Takes to Become a Law?

The Legislature created this handy [guide](#) to describe the steps a concept takes on its journey to becoming a law. This is merely the procedural steps a bill goes through – how to effectively advocate for a bill will be covered elsewhere in this toolkit.

Q: How do I Submit Written and Verbal Testimony?

In an effort to boost participation in the legislative process, the Legislature has provided videos and instructions that explain the submission process for [written testimony](#) and the [registration](#) process for those wishing to speak on a bill.

Q: What are the Oregon Government Ethics Commission's Rules on Lobbying?

If you spend less than \$100 or fewer than 24 hours in a calendar year on lobbying, you don't need to register as a lobbyist. However if you're spending a significant amount of time advocating on legislation, you should consult the Oregon Government Ethics Commission's "[Guide to Lobbying](#)" to determine when and if you should register.

Q: I Don't Want to Inadvertently Break any Special Rules or Customs While I'm Lobbying. Is there a Resource to Help Me Know How the Oregon Capitol Operates?

The truth is most people who work in the Capitol on a daily basis want you there and think participation improves the process. However, it is a good idea to read the "[Oregon Lobbyists Briefcase Companion](#)" to get an idea for the unique aspects of working in the Capitol.