

**Legislative/Nominating  
Committee Meeting - February  
27, 2026 Agenda**  
February 27, 2026



**MEMBERS**  
Mayor Mark Dion, Chair  
Councilor Benjamin Grant  
Councilor Kate Sykes

**REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:**

This meeting will be conducted remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland City Council. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit \*9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/85368809914?pwd=ma7Et7zWOs111aoeSPCSMFy8weSDqU.1>

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Approval of Meeting minutes**

- a. Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting - February 10, 2026

**III. Legislative Update**

- a. Review LD List and Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

**IV. Other Business**

- a. 2026 Committee Work Plan

**V. Adjournment**



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# Memorandum

**To:** Portland, City of  
**From:** Bernstein Shur  
**Date:** January 14, 2026  
**Re:** New Legislative Bills Report

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Please find below the new legislative documents (LD) printed this week that we have flagged to be of possible interest to your organization. Please indicate to us which bills you would like included on your tracking report.

Thank you.

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**LD 2159** (HP1448)  
An Act to Require School Buses to Be Equipped with and to Use  
School Bus Crossing Arms

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**LD 2164** (HP1453)  
An Act to Assist Communities with Converting Vacant School Buildings  
into Housing

LD #	Category	Bill Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Notes	Priority	LR #
<a href="#">25</a>	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Treatment Facility Planning and Construction of Infrastructure Projects (Bond)	Sen Brenner	AFA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		4/10/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Carried over 6/25/25		160
<a href="#">32</a>	Energy	An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing	Sen Guerin	EUT	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Oppose	2/27/25 9:00 AM Rm 211 COB	1/6/26 10:00 AM Rm 211 COB	Voted 1/6/26 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: OTP-AM Not rpt out	Written testimony in opposition submitted  Troy Moon reports possible \$1M loss to City  Carried over 6/25/25		75
<a href="#">34</a>	Other	An Act to Increase the Minimum Salary for Teachers	Sen Pierce	EDU	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Monitor	2/26/25 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB	5/12/25 10:00 AM Rm 208 COB		Monitor; Defer to school board  Carried over 6/25/25		233
<a href="#">35</a>	MaineCare	An Act to Strengthen Local Emergency Medical Services by Increasing the MaineCare Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services (Emergency)	Sen Curry	HHS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		4/17/25 1:01 PM Rm 209 COB	9/9/25 2:15 PM Rm 209 COB	ONTP Reported out 9/16/25	Carried over 6/25/25		241
<a href="#">111</a>	Health Insurance	An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance (Emergency)	Rep Dodge	LBR	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	2/12/25 10:00 AM Rm 202 COB	3/5/25 11:30 AM Rm 202 COB		Carried over 6/25/25		176
<a href="#">140</a>	Homestead Tax	An Act to Incrementally Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption	Sen Baldacci	TAX	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		3/19/25 9:30 AM Rm 127 COB	4/1/25 1:00 PM Rm 127 COB		Carried over 6/25/25		354
<a href="#">245</a>	Other	An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State (Emergency)	Sen Ross	CJPS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		2/10/25 10:30 AM Rm 436 SH	5/15/25 1:30 PM Rm 436 SH	<a href="#">1/11/26 Public Law Ch. 520</a>	Held by the Governor 7/8/25		202
<a href="#">264</a>	Homestead Tax	An Act to Remove the 12-month Waiting Period for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption	Rep Hepler	TAX	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		3/5/25 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	3/18/25 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH		1/13/26: Staff recommended NFNA and LNC's position, to monitor  12/15, LNC has not yet taken a position; staff will provide feedback  Carried over 6/25/25		612
<a href="#">438</a>	Homestead Tax	An Act to Allow Municipalities to Limit Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions	Rep Hymes	TAX	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		5/6/25 3:00 PM Rm 127 SH	1/8/26 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	DEAD	12/15, LNC has not yet taken a position; lobbying team will take stock and follow up  Carried over 6/25/25		1411
<a href="#">560</a>	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Improve Coastal Climate Resiliency (Bond)	Sen Bailey	AFA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	4/10/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Testimony submitted  Carried over 6/25/25		1923
<a href="#">574</a>	Other	An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Workers in the State	Sen Tipping	LBR	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Monitor				Carried over 6/25/25		2334
<a href="#">605</a>	Other	An Act to Provide Solutions for Sustainable Management of Municipal Solid Waste	Rep Campbell	ENR	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Monitor		5/15/25 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB	Tabled 5/15/25	Carried over 6/25/25		7

LD #	Category	Bill Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Notes	Priority	LR #
<a href="#">634</a>	Other	Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Reduction of Unfunded and Outdated Municipal and County Mandates	Rep Tuell	SLG	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Monitor	3/19/25 10:00 AM Rm 214 COB	4/2/25 1:00 PM Rm 214 COB		Carried over 6/25/25		816
<a href="#">690</a>	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Funding for Affordable and Low-income Housing Programs (Bond)	Sen Pierce	AFA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	4/9/25 10:00 AM Rm 228 SH			Testimony submitted  Carried over 6/25/25		308
<a href="#">799</a>	Other	An Act to Report Gender Wage Gaps	Rep Roeder	LBR	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		3/12/25 10:30 AM Rm 202 COB	3/19/25 1:00 PM Rm 202 COB		Staff to research before taking a position  Carried over 6/25/25		1179
<a href="#">826</a>	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Establish the School Energy Savings Revolving Loan Fund (Bond)	Sen Pierce	AFA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		4/17/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Chair Lentz is researching.  Carried over 6/25/25		1987
<a href="#">836</a>	Bond	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings (Bond)	President Daughtry	AFA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	4/15/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Bernstein Shur is to monitor.  Carried over 6/25/25		1677
<a href="#">1017</a>	GA	An Act to Include Food Provided or Served at Emergency Shelters in General Assistance Reimbursement	Sen Talbot Ross	HHS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		4/7/25 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	5/15/25 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB		Councilor Grant testified_City submitted legislation  Meeting requested by Sen. Talbot Ross  Carried over 6/25/25	Yes	2300
<a href="#">1177</a>	Public Health	Resolve, to Study the Public Health and Environmental Risks from Synthetic Turf (Title change)	Rep Gramlich	ENR	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Oppose	4/9/25 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	4/30/25 1:00 PM Rm 216 COB		Testimony submitted  Carried over 6/25/25		1210
<a href="#">1259</a>	Public Safety	An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement	Rep Rana	JUD	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	5/19/25 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	6/4/25 2:00 PM Rm 438 SH		Testimony submitted  Carried over 6/25/25		2275
<a href="#">1424</a>	Housing	An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Investment in Workforce Housing and Raise Certain Income Eligibility Limits in the Affordable Homeownership Program (Bond)	President Daughtry	AFA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	4/10/25 1:00 PM Rm 228 SH			Testimony submitted  Carried over 6/25/25		1358
<a href="#">1443</a>	Housing	An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service Providers and Housing Assistance Providers (Emergency)	Sen Bennett	HHS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Monitor	4/14/25 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	5/15/25 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB		Carried over 6/25/25		1363
<a href="#">1665</a>	Property Tax	An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief to Maine Families	Sen Carney	TAX	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	5/1/25 1:00 PM Rm 127 SH	Work session reconsidered 5/22/25		Testimony submitted  Carried over 6/25/25		1107
<a href="#">1694</a>	Tax	An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Certain Disaster Mitigation Projects for Working Waterfront Property	Rep Riley	TAX	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Monitor	5/16/25 9:00 AM Rm 127 SH	1/8/26 10:00 AM Rm 127 SH	DEAD	Carried over 6/25/25		72

LD #	Category	Bill Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Notes	Priority	LR #
<a href="#">1870</a>	Other	An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters	Sen Brenner	ENR	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		5/5/25 10:00 AM Rm 216 COB	1/28/26 10:30 AM Rm 216 COB	Voted 1/28/26 MAJ: OTP-AM MIN: ONTP Not rpt out	Carried over 6/25/25		2359
<a href="#">1892</a>	School Construction	An Act to Establish Procedures for School Construction Projects	Rep Brennan	EDU	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	5/9/25 10:30 AM Rm 208 COB	1/21/26 10:01 AM Rm 208 COB	Tabled 1/21/26	1/13/26: Testimony support-lobbying team to work with COP on testimony  Carried over 6/25/25		903
<a href="#">1959</a>	GA	An Act to Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from Reducing General Assistance Reimbursement Maximums for Payment of Costs of Providing Emergency Shelter	Sen Talbot Ross	HHS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		5/19/25 1:30 PM Rm 209 COB	2/19/26 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Voted 2/19/26 ONTP Not rpt out	Carried over 6/25/25		309
<a href="#">1996</a>	GA	An Act to Clarify Responsibilities of the State in the Laws Governing General Assistance	Sen Ingwersen	HHS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		1/29/26 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	2/19/26 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB	Voted 2/19/26 OTP-AM Not rpt out	LNC voted to add to tracker and lobbying team will research		2801
<a href="#">2040</a>	Other	An Act to Survey Food Insecurity in Maine	Rep Pluecker	ACF	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	1/7/26 2:00 PM Rm 214 COB	1/27/26 2:00 PM Rm 214 COB	Voted 1/27/26 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2/10/26: Maggie has drafted testimony already.  1/13/26: Consistency in info re food insecurity		2744
<a href="#">2042</a>	Public Notice	An Act to Eliminate the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper	Sen Black	SLG	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		1/21/26 11:00 AM Rm 214 COB	2/18/26 9:15 AM Rm 214 COB	Voted 2/18/26 OTP-AM Not rpt out	1/13/26: Staff recommendation is to support and that is now the COP position; lobbying team will develop testimony in support of LD 2042  12/15/25, LNC has not yet taken a position; staff will provide feedback		2804
<a href="#">2051</a>	Other	An Act to Ensure Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Maine	Rep Pluecker	HHS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		1/14/26 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB	2/25/26 1:00 PM Rm 209 COB		1/13/26: SNAP for lawfully present immigrants; Maggie preparing testimony for Mark's signature		2773
<a href="#">2062</a>	Safety	An Act to Enhance the Safety of Public Transit Bus Operators Through the Installation of Vehicle Security Barriers	Sen Pierce	TRA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		1/15/26 10:00 AM Rm 126 SH	1/29/26 10:30 AM Rm 126 SH	Voted 1/29/26 OTP-AM Not rpt out			2647
<a href="#">2079</a>	Other	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Municipal Reporting on Residential Buildings	Rep Gere	HED	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		1/20/26 1:00 PM Rm 206 COB	1/27/26 1:00 PM Rm 206 COB	Voted 1/27/26 MAJ: OTP MIN: ONTP Not rpt out			2639
<a href="#">2106</a>	Other	An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review (Emergency)	Rep Sato	JUD	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		1/29/26 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH	2/25/26 10:00 AM Rm 438 SH	Tabled 2/5/26			2939
<a href="#">2112</a>	Electricity	An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation Programs to Procure Electricity	Rep Runte	EUT	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	1/22/26 1:00 PM Rm 211 COB	2/24/26 1:00 PM Rm 211 COB	Tabled 2/12/26	2/10/26: Troy doing written testimony ahead of WS.		2849

LD #	Category	Bill Title	Sponsor	Cmte	Bill Information	COP Position	Public Hearing	Work Session	Status	Notes	Priority	LR #
<a href="#">2119</a>	Other	An Act to Expand Reimbursement for Treatment in Place, Community Paramedicine and Alternate Destination Transport	Rep DeBrito	HHS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	2/11/26 10:00 AM Rm 209 COB			2/10/26: PFD doing written testimony ahead of 2/11 PH.  This bill was added at the request of staff & not yet reviewed by the LNC.		2793
<a href="#">2121</a>	Safety	An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials, Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain Personal Information to Be Removed from Designated Public Records	Rep Faircloth	JUD	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		1/20/26 1:00 PM Rm 438 SH					2650
<a href="#">2124</a>	Shelter	An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax	Rep Gattine	HED	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support	2/10/26 1:00 PM Rm 206 COB	2/17/26 1:30 PM Rm 206 COB	Tabled 2/17/26	2/10/26: Maggie and Alysa coordinating on testimony that Mayor will deliver.  1/13/26: Investigate impact of LD 2124, re: public records		2746
<a href="#">2135</a>	Housing	An Act to Provide Funding to Keep Maine Veterans Housed	Sen Nangle	VLA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Track/ Monitor	1/21/26 10:00 AM Rm 437 SH	2/18/26 10:30 AM Rm 437 SH	Voted 2/18/26 OTP-AM Not rpt out	2/10/26: This is currently tabled. Mayor asked us to flag if there is action.  1/13/26: Landlord incentives for housing veterans		2883
<a href="#">2137</a>	Other	An Act to Modify Provisions of Law Governing Parking Enforcement on Property Accessible to the Public (Emergency)	Sen Nangle	TRA	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Oppose	1/22/26 10:00 AM Rm 126 SH	2/24/26 1:45 PM Rm 126 SH		2/10/26: COP opposes the 1st amendment, and are ok with the 2nd. Councilor Sykes drafting testimony opposed for 2/10 WS.  1/13/26: Lobbying team to investigate bill		2938
<a href="#">2164</a>	Housing	An Act to Assist Communities with Converting Vacant School Buildings into Housing	Rep Gere	HED	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		2/17/26 10:00 AM Rm 206 COB					2846
<a href="#">2173</a>	Housing	An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Housing Developments and Accessory Dwelling Units (Emergency)	Rep Collamore	HED	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>		2/17/26 10:00 AM Rm 206 COB	2/26/26 2:00 PM Rm 206 COB				2757
<a href="#">2196</a>	Health Insurance	An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care	Rep Gattine	HHS	<a href="#">Bill Text</a>	Support				2/10/26: Anne on COP staff working on testimony		2841



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The Portland City Council established its [YEAR] Common Goals (included below) on [date TBD], formally communicating its policy priorities for the coming year and setting a foundation for the development of Council committee work plans.

The 2026 Council schedule currently includes approximately 10 meetings for each committee. For planning purposes, the development of a single, original policy initiative typically requires two committee meetings. This process generally includes initial conceptual discussion, review of a draft ordinance or other policy document, and a public hearing at which the committee votes on whether to recommend adoption by the full City Council.

In addition to developing and considering original policy initiatives, committee work will also include items referred by the Council, matters brought forward by staff, and panels or presentations, as needed.

### **2026 City Council Common Goals**

[goals TBD]

[Committee Name]  
2026 Work Plan

Policy Initiative	Related Council Goal	Priority Ranking



# Common Council Goals 2026

As the elected voice of Portland's residents and businesses, the City Council sets the City's policy direction. The Council's Common Goals define the policy priorities and provide a clear focus for the Council's work in the year ahead.

Portland's 2026 Common Council Goals are guided by our commitment to equity, safety, and connection, ensuring that our work strengthens communities and creates pathways for all residents to thrive.



# Accelerate Housing Production and Strengthen Affordability Protections

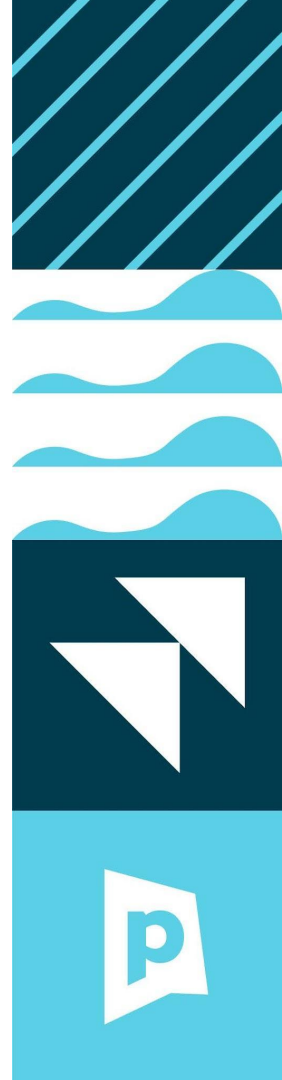
Housing & Economic Development Committee

Address Portland's housing challenges by encouraging the development of more homes and protecting affordability, so current and future residents can live and thrive in our community.

# Reduce Chronic Homelessness

Health & Human Services & Public Safety Committee

Decrease the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness by advancing policy to enhance support systems and address the underlying causes that lead to housing instability in our community.





# Reduce Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities

Sustainability & Transportation Committee

Create safer streets for all users by advancing policy to prevent traffic deaths and injuries while improving accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

# Support Affordability for All Residents Through New Revenue Policies and Targeted Tax Relief

Finance Committee

Ease the tax burden for Portland residents by finding new ways to fund city services and providing direct tax relief to households who need it most.





# Advance the Goals of One Climate Future

Sustainability & Transportation Committee

Address climate change by cutting carbon emissions, expanding clean energy and energy-efficient buildings, supporting sustainable transportation, and preparing Portland for a resilient, low-carbon future.

# Strengthen Economic Vitality and Support Local Businesses

Housing & Economic Development Committee

Foster a thriving local economy by increasing support for businesses and strengthening conditions that help Portland's business community grow.





## Portland Common Council Goals 2026 to Committee Workplans

Through the 2026 goal-setting process, the Portland City Council has identified six Common Council Goals that will guide the Council's collective work this year. These goals represent areas where councilors expressed shared commitment to advancing meaningful change. During the goal-setting workshops, councilors also identified concrete actions the Council could consider to translate these high-level goals into tangible policy work.

The attached chart demonstrates how these priority themes, specific goals, and proposed actions connect to create an integrated approach to Portland's most pressing challenges. As committees develop their detailed 2026 workplans, this framework provides a roadmap for ensuring individual committee work contributes to Council-wide progress. The specific actions identified by councilors serve as starting points for committee deliberations, with the understanding that committees may refine, prioritize, or sequence these actions based on capacity, timing, and emerging opportunities.

The 2026 Common Council Goals represent an ambitious agenda that seeks to make progress on Portland's most critical needs while building toward long-term community resilience. The connection between these goals and proposed committee actions provides a clear pathway from aspiration to implementation, ensuring that the Council's collective vision translates into meaningful policy change for Portland residents

## 2026 Common Council Goals Mapped to Council Committees with Potential Actions for Consideration in Committee Workplans

Theme	Description	Committee	Potential Action
Accelerate Housing Production and Strengthen Affordability Protections	Address Portland's housing challenges by encouraging the development of more homes and protecting affordability, so current and future residents can live and thrive in our community.	Housing & Economic Development Committee	Consider adjustments to inclusionary zoning ordinance to promote housing production.
			Consider policy amendments to streamline building permit application review and approval.
			Review Social Housing Task Force recommendations and consider council action on next steps.
			Consider amendment to Duson Trust Fund ordinance to support housing assistance for residents (e.g., eviction prevention, security deposit assistance).
			Consider amendment to the rent control ordinance to strengthen enforcement.
Reduce Chronic Homelessness	Decrease the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness by advancing policy to enhance support systems and address the underlying causes that lead to housing instability in our community.	Health & Human Services & Public Safety Committee	Consider council action to support reduction in chronic homelessness by 50% (currently 120 people experiencing chronic homelessness) by end of 2026 (e.g., consideration on day shelter, adjustments to charitable food distribution license, regional and state partnerships).
			Review missions of city shelter facilities (i.e., Family Shelter, Warming Center).
			Consider amending the rate of exchange for the needle exchange program with a public health perspective.
Reduce Pedestrian and Bicyclist Fatalities	Create safer streets for all users by advancing policy to prevent traffic deaths and injuries while improving accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.	Sustainability & Transportation Committee	Support Vision Zero plan roll-out with council leadership.
			Express public support for Franklin Street Arterial plan and implementation.
			Consider development of Vision Zero ordinance, focused on complete streets, pedestrian safety, walkability, and community engagement.
			Develop legislative proposal for intersection camera pilot to improve safety to be introduced in the 2027 State Legislature session.
Support Affordability for All Residents Through New Revenue Policies and Targeted Tax Relief	Ease the tax burden for Portland residents by finding new ways to fund city services and providing direct tax relief to households who need it most.	Finance Committee	Consider a policy amendment to expand tax affordability programs such as Portland Senior Tax Equity Program (P-STEP).
			Consider a policy amendment to diversify city revenue streams to offset taxpayer burden (e.g, fiscal impact of cruise ships, Payment in Lieu of Taxes).
Advance the Goals of One Climate Future	Address climate change by cutting carbon emissions, expanding clean energy and energy-efficient buildings, supporting sustainable transportation, and preparing Portland for a resilient, low-carbon future.	Sustainability & Transportation Committee	Consider policy to further advance One Climate Future goals are met (e.g., environmental impacts of cruise ships, viability of solar on municipal buildings).
Strengthen Economic Vitality and Support Local Businesses	Foster a thriving local economy by increasing support for businesses and strengthening conditions that help Portland's business community grow.	Housing & Economic Development Committee	Explore ordinance regulating parking lot advertising and pricing disclosure requirements.
			Close out council action on Live Nation venue proposal.
			Consider policy to enhance public support for the arts.