

# Oregon Constitutional Provisions and the Timeline to Reach Annual Sessions

Prepared for the SB 310 Steering Committee  
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## Oregon Constitution

**Article IV. Section 10. Annual regular sessions of the Legislative Assembly; organizational session; extension of regular sessions.** (1) The Legislative Assembly shall hold annual sessions at the Capitol of the State. Each session must begin on the day designated by law as the first day of the session. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section:

- (a) A session beginning in an odd-numbered year may not exceed 160 calendar days in duration; and
- (b) A session beginning in an even-numbered year may not exceed 35 calendar days in duration.

(2) The Legislative Assembly may hold an organizational session that is not subject to the limits of subsection (1) of this section for the purposes of introducing measures and performing the duties and effecting the organization described in sections 11 and 12 of this Article. The Legislative Assembly may not undertake final consideration of a measure or reconsideration of a measure following a gubernatorial veto when convened in an organizational session.

(3) A regular session, as described in subsection (1) of this section, may be extended for a period of five calendar days by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of each house. A session may be extended more than once. An extension must begin on the first calendar day after the end of the immediately preceding session or extension except that if the first calendar day is a Sunday, the extension may begin on the next Monday. [Constitution of 1859; Amendment proposed by S.J.R. 41, 2010, and adopted by the people Nov. 2, 2010]

**Section 10a. Emergency sessions of the Legislative Assembly.** In the event of an emergency the Legislative Assembly shall be convened by the presiding officers of both Houses at the Capitol of the State at times other than required by section 10 of this Article upon the written request of the majority of the members of each House to commence within five days after receipt of the minimum requisite number of requests. [Created through H.J.R. 28, 1975, and adopted by the people Nov. 2, 1976]

## Timeline of Events from Biennial to Annual Sessions

**2005 Regular Session** - Passed SB 1084 creating the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature

**2005 - 2006** - Public Commission met 10 times between September 2005 and November 2006. In addition, five subcommittees met on numerous occasions. Report was published in November of 2006.

**2007 Regular Session** - Passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 to establish "deadlines for completion of legislative measures and date of adjournment sine die of the 2007 Regular Session. ..." The resolution also prescribes that, "in January 2008, the 74th Legislative Assembly will call itself into special session. After the experiments with session timing and structure, voters may be asked to approve the addition of specific requirements into the Oregon Constitution." (from the 2007 Summary of Legislation, by the Legislative Administration Committee Services)

**2008 Special Session** - Proclamation by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House calling special session declaring an emergency (see Oregon Constitution, Article IV, section 10a above) and having received the requisite number of votes.

**2009 Regular Session** - no action identified

**2010 Special Session** - Proclamation by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House calling special session declaring an emergency (see Oregon Constitution, Article IV, section 10a above) and having received the requisite number of votes. Passed Senate Joint Resolution 41 proposing a constitutional amendment to require annual sessions of the Legislative assembly, to be placed on ballot at the November 2010 General Election.

**November 2010 General Election** - amendment adopted by the people November 2, 2010 by a margin of 919,040 to 435,776

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