

Merkley Taps Nolan for Ways and Means Co-Chair

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Portland Democrat brings a wealth of experience in business and budget management

Oregon House Speaker-elect Jeff Merkley (D-Portland) announced today that Rep. Mary Nolan (D-Portland) will co-chair the House Ways and Means Committee during the legislative session that begins next January. Her practical experience will serve her well as she leads one of the Legislature's most demanding committees.

Nolan brings extensive experience in business and budgeting to her new role as Ways and Means Committee Co-Chair. She was the founder and president of Avrotec, an Oregon company that designs and manufactures electronic components for the aviation and transportation industries. She was twice elected by her peers in the industry to chair AGATE, a nationwide, public/private partnership of aviation companies "including Raytheon and Cessna" that seeks to develop affordable alternative transportation and revitalize general aviation.

Early in her career she was a financial analyst for the City of Portland, and later the Director of Environmental Services where she managed 300 employees and an annual budget of more than \$100 million. She was elected board chair of the Portland Private Industry Council, an organization of business leaders focused on workforce development policy in the metro area. She also spent time in New York at National Westminster Bank, where she was Vice-President for Credit Policy in the U.S. operations department.

"I am excited for this opportunity to focus our resources on valuable programs that touch the lives of so many Oregonians," Nolan said. "The investments we make in services can grow our economy, improve our schools and promote environmental stewardship."

Nolan was just elected to her fourth term as state representative from Southwest Portland. She previously served on the Natural Resources subcommittee of Ways and Means during the 2001 legislative session. During the last regular session of the legislature, she served on the Land Use Committee and was vice-chair of the Environment Committee.

“Mary Nolan is an exceptional legislator with the experience and good judgment Oregon needs to head this committee,” said Merkley. “Funding the operations of our state is an enormous task, and I know she will roll up her sleeves and do a job we can all be proud of.”

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