

Summer 2008 Government Waste Report

\$34 Million Capitol Make-Over: Politicians' bottoms require \$1,600 chairs and \$2,500 sofas

Capitol makeover

The Oregon State Legislature spent over \$34 million re-modeling and re-decorating their offices. Here is what was purchased for each lawmaker:

- ✓ \$2,518 for leather sofas
- ✓ \$4,400 Walnut desk
- ✓ \$6,700 Credenza, wardrobe
- ✓ \$600 LCD Flat Screen TV
- ✓ \$1,667 Chairs
- ✓ \$800,000 new carpet

The Legislature just finished a multi-million dollar remodeling of the Capitol back in 2003.

Legislative Administrative Office 2008.

\$37,000 for therapy

Ashland City Councilors have been fighting so much that the Council authorized \$37,000 for therapy session to help resolve differences. Among the in-fighting complaints was that one city councilor was making "snide little remarks under his breath." to another councilor. One councilor called another a Nazi.

Medford Mail Tribune 9-27-2007

Welfare cheat steals \$170,000

Anthony Kenner unlawfully took in \$175,000 in welfare funds for over seven years. The Human Services Dept. never made a verification call to his non-existent company (an escort service called "Ablazed and Mystifying Women") or a call to the fabricated babysitter who received state child-care funds. DHS doesn't verify the employers of welfare recipients in part because they feel it might embarrass the client.

The Oregonian 3-9-2008

Commissioner's \$58,000 travel tab

Multnomah County Commissioner Lisa Naito has racked up \$58,000 in

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travel bills, averaging over \$7,000 a year for the past eight years.

Willamette Week 4-10-08

\$228,000 for weed eating goats

The Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District borrowed \$228,000 from DEQ for goats to rid them of a runaway weed problem. The department loaned the money to a non-profit who loaned it to a company who has not paid it back. The agency has laid off workers because it cannot pay back the loan.

Bend Bulletin 5-23-2007

\$10 million subsidy still can't keep property afloat.

Despite over \$10 million in tax subsidies to the much heralded Beaverton Round project, it is going bankrupt for the third time with another defaulted developer.

\$1 billion can't cut school sizes.

The Oregonian reported that very little of the original allocated 2007 new school funding was planned for reducing class size. Instead it was

targeted for salaries and benefits for government school employees.

The Oregonian 6-24-2007

Agency buys \$900,000 land. Sells it for \$300,000.

In 2005, the Tri-Met transit agency bought a huge property lot near one of its Max Lightrail lines. Two years later it sold it to a developer for 30% less, in exchange for the builder to construct high density housing. In another interesting property sale, the Portland Development Commission sold a site for \$600,000 when appraisers pegged it at \$2.2 million.

The Oregonian 5/24/07& 5/9/07

Missing papers? Bad for students, Great for big college contracts

The Oregon University System was faulted by state auditors for having documentation missing on over \$10 million in contract projects.

State Audit 2-7-2007



TAO press conference announcing \$34 million capitol makeover.

Our charts showed the \$4,400 desks, \$1,667 chairs, \$2,500 leather sofas. KATU-TV, 7-30-08

Fighting costly health care mandates

TAO president Don McIntire, "There is nothing in our constitution, especially not the city charter, that says everyone is entitled to health insurance. The government doesn't guarantee your house, your food, your clothing." KATU-TV June, 2008

We help stopped the Portland Street Tax

"This street tax is about a right to vote. You can't pass a \$460 million tax without asking voters how they feel about it." Jason Williams KOIN TV 6, 1-30-08