

Revenue Department Lives up to its Name: Added Workers Help Balance State Budget

Workers at the Department of Revenue collect the corporate and personal taxes that fund a majority of the services in the state. **Years of short staffing has meant that Oregon has lost hundreds of millions of dollars because the department doesn't have the staff to collect the taxes.**

The 2009 Legislature made a step in the right direction. Frontline workers at the Department of Revenue testified, wrote a letter to legislative leadership, and lobbied to increase the staff at the department to bring in additional resources to fund services. The Legislature responded by adding 35 new staff positions that are expected to bring \$14.8 million in additional tax dollars into the state.

While the increase in staff does not solve all the workload issues at the agency, it is a step in the right direction of giving the agency the adequate staffing to hold people, corporations and tax evaders accountable. While there is still work to do next session, winning additional positions will help fund the services working Oregonians rely on and SEIU members made it happen through lobbying and telling their story.

