

**MAILING ADDRESS**

PO Box 431  
Bend, OR 97709

February 2, 2026

**Re: Support for SB 1523**

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

**PHONE**

541-323-8550  
Relay Users Dial 7-1-1

The City of Bend supports SB 1523 to improve housing retention and reduce homelessness by removing electronic barriers. SB 1523 codifies three requirements to ease barriers to housing stability. These are low-cost, existing tools that landlords can simply continue to offer to ensure equal access to housing.

**WEB**

bendoregon.gov/housing

**MAYOR**

Melanie Kebler

**Keep the option to pay by check or other commercially reasonable method:** Tenants should not be required to pay rent through an electronic portal. Electronic portals are confusing, hard to access on a mobile device, and may fail at critical moments. They may also charge fees and a simple mistake in a portal could jeopardize housing stability.

**MAYOR PRO TEM**

Megan Perkins

**Keep the option of a paper application:** Digital applications can be exceedingly difficult to complete on a mobile device or without consistent internet access. Preserving the option of a paper application is an easy way to ensure everyone has an opportunity to apply for housing.

**CITY COUNCILORS**

Ariel Méndez  
Gina Franzosa  
Megan Norris  
Mike Riley  
Steve Platt

**Keep the option of a non-digital key to access essential facilities:** Digital app-based entry systems require that someone have an up-to-date smartphone, which is not the case for one in four seniors. Tenants must be able to use a physical mechanism such as a keypad, keyfob, or key to access any essential facilities such as laundry, parking, trash and recycling.

Implementing these requirements will particularly benefit seniors, renters with disabilities, and low-income renters, offering concrete support to those who face a greater risk of homelessness. These budget-neutral solutions simply preserve common systems already used by landlords and property managers.

Sincerely,

Amy Fraley

Senior Program Manager

City of Bend

**Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services**

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-7-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

**Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad**

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico [accessibility@bendoregon.gov](mailto:accessibility@bendoregon.gov) o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.