

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

2022 PARTY PLATFORM

7/9/2022 - First United Methodist Church: Eugene, Oregon

We Democrats believe that American governments should uphold and further the ideals laid down by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

We support what government does well. When there are shortcomings, we advocate solutions after gathering facts, employing reason, and considering probable consequences.

In particular, the Democratic Party of Lane County is committed to building a Healthy, Free, Just, Prosperous, Responsible, Secure, & Enduring society:

I. Healthy –

Where we advocate for aggressive actions to proactively address and expeditiously solve the climate crisis and protect our environment and our health;

II. Free –

Where our democracy is predicated upon one person, one vote, and equitable and widespread access to voting from rural to urban communities alike, because a government of and by the people protects our Freedom;

III. Just –

Where laws and public institutions are fair to all, and show respect for each person's worth, dignity, opinions, and rights, and ensure that no one is above the law;

IV. Prosperous –

Where we facilitate success, diminish economic inequality, and utilize commerce to lift the well-being of all;

V. Responsible –

Where individuals, businesses, organizations, and the state are accountable for their actions, and they abide by a social contract for our mutual benefit;

VI. Secure –

Where our Power is sufficient to protect people and property, yet appropriately restrained in its use, and our policies promote peace and prosperity at home and abroad;

VII. Enduring –

Where our Legacy is lasting and our policies benefit our posterity and our planet.

I. Healthy

A. A Healthy World

1. Support a Green New Deal to quickly reduce GHG emissions and increase natural carbon sequestration, while ensuring a just transition that alleviates potential economic hardships caused by climate solutions.
2. Support rapid, bold legislation to confront climate crisis impacts on health, emergency response, finance, economic stability, migration and displacement, property, wilderness, and quality of life.
3. Support the Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change, and U.S. involvement in the Paris Climate Accord, including Oregon's efforts to meet its goals.
4. Encourage education of the public regarding the costs and hazards of climate change, its externalities, and the need to shift from carbon-based to renewable energy.
5. Support natural carbon sequestration, reduction in ocean acidification and heat island effects. Encourage reforestation/afforestation of natural systems of flora and fauna throughout Oregon's land and marine environments.
6. Support increased conservation and environmental stewardship by individuals, businesses, and organizations.
7. Expand reduce/reuse/recycle programs, aiming for local or regional self-sufficiency. Legislate requirements for biodegradable, minimized commercial packaging, encouraging local sourcing of this packaging.
8. Support healthy, congenial communities by advocating for retention of — and equitable access to — green-space, solar access, and trees, in urban codes.

B. Public Health & Social Safety Net

1. Establish a universal, equitable, affordable, and accessible single-payer health insurance system in Oregon and the U.S., including vision, dental, hearing, mental, and reproductive healthcare.
2. Expand mental health, addiction, and rehabilitation support and services.
3. Ensure public funding and access to family planning and reproductive health services, including contraceptives, and abortion — protecting an individual's right to choose.
4. Support programs that increase the health and safety of Oregonians (e.g. Medicaid, SNAP), during times of reduced or insufficient federal funding.
5. Support access to all reproductive services. Repeal the Hyde Amendment. Support the right to be free from sexual assault, and bolster education on contraception and healthy relationships.
6. Support employers in providing health care benefits to temporary and permanent part-time workers. Explore part-time/gig-workers' Bill of Rights.

C. Energy & Transportation

1. Promote the rapid transition to 100% renewable energy. Oppose construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure. Require 100% of fossil fuel tax benefits and subsidies be dedicated to renewable energy R&D/projects.
2. Support the "Clean Energy Jobs legislation" promote energy- and resource-efficient design for residential and commercial buildings, mechanisms, processes, and energy-gleaner technologies; and continue tax incentives for energy efficiency and conservation.
3. Invest in development and use of clean, efficient transportation & freight systems; including public transit, bicycle & pedestrian commuting, and sufficient electric charging & alternative fuel stations throughout Oregon, with viable links between these.

4. Support efforts to limit and phase out fossil fuel exports through the West Coast. Support projects which provide sustainable green jobs.
5. Educate the public about the hazards of various methods of resource exploration, development, extraction, transport, use, and waste management. Protect aquifers by banning fracking.
6. Promote the facilitation of collaborative programs with all interested Native American Tribes to build Native- owned and -operated solar and wind farms in Tribally-designated areas.

D. Pollution

1. Support air-monitoring, efforts to reduce allowable discharges of pollution, and efforts to investigate and prosecute environmental crime, including strict penalties for facilities that turn off or circumvent pollution-monitoring systems.
2. Support robust measures to reduce and phase out use of toxic substances on public property. Support bans on aerial spray methods of applying herbicides.
3. Promote legislation that protects historically marginalized communities from corporate pollution, exploitation, and the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Require adequate corporate compensation to these communities for the resultant damages.
4. Support the protection and preservation of bees and other pollinators as a key to Oregon's economic and food security, and for a healthy world.
5. Recognize light and noise pollution as environmental hazards – disrupting photosynthesis, animal migrations, echolocation, & feeding; human sleep and health; and night sky observations – and work for environmentally-positive mitigation and ordinances.

II. FREE:

A. Elections

1. Provide all citizens with easy access to voter registration & to voting, and encourage our elected officials to work against attacks on voting rights.
2. Protect and expand automatic voter registration, implement same day voter registration, and implement same day party switching until then.
3. Ensure fully funded county election offices, and standardized reporting, protect election observations, and utilize all accessible outreach tools to help alert and assist all voters with questioned ballots.
4. Ensure prompt access to replacement ballots for voters in Lane County.
5. Ensure citizen-generated ballot measures are treated fairly to prevent minor technical issues from inhibiting participation, and create simple process instructions.
6. Support redistricting methods that ensure fair representation and oppose gerrymandering.
7. Support voter registration and basic civics education as part of the pre-release from incarceration process.
8. Ensure ballot boxes are easily accessible in all rural areas.
9. Ensure county clerks and clerks' offices uphold their constitutional duties of office and conduct fair elections.
10. Support high school voter registration and basic civics education.
11. Encourage enactment of National Popular Vote Initiative into law by enough States to activate NPV Compact -- while working for a Constitutional Amendment abolishing the Electoral College, replaced by national direct popular vote.

B Campaigns

1. Support campaign finance limits and overturn the Citizens United Supreme Court decision.
2. Protect shareholder rights, through SEC regulations or law, by requiring per-share refunds of corporate political spending without explicit shareholder permission.
3. Support and expand the Oregon Political Contribution Tax Credit and other systems of public campaign funding especially for those with low incomes. Allow previous year credit for contribution at filing.
4. Require people and entities that contribute substantial amounts in an election cycle to publicly disclose all contributions to political funds.
5. Expand outreach to non-Democrats and encourage participation in Democratic causes, outreach, and primary participation.

C. Governing and Lobbying

1. Ensure black-out periods for becoming a paid lobbyist after leaving office for elected officials or high level appointees.
2. Change ORS to allow college students to levy student fees on themselves for lobbying.
3. Ensure the rights of assembly & free speech for all without unreasonable restrictions or conditions.
4. Continue to make government more transparent in Oregon, and increase access to state data on such things as government subsidies, tax credits and expenditures.
5. Improve the opportunities for residents of Lane County to contribute to public hearings by removing barriers such as mobility or scheduling issues.
6. Ensure state, county, and municipal departments are representing and promoting the best interests of the people.

7. Protect whistle blowers from retaliation and unjust criminal prosecution by strengthening and supporting the Whistleblower Protection Act.
8. Promote a fair and appropriate wage for legislators and municipal elected officials at all levels.
9. Call for access to voting for residents of Washington, D.C. by making D.C. a State.

III. JUST:

A. Civil Rights

1. Work to eliminate discrimination in employment, housing, and public services because of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, criminal history, or source of income.
2. Make our immigration system more humane by keeping families together and creating a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, those with temporary status, farmworkers, and essential workers.
3. Uphold the right of all persons to live free from the threat of sexual harassment, abuse, and assault.
4. Protect reproductive rights by supporting the Reproductive Health Equity Act in Oregon and enacting protections for doctors who provide abortion services from prosecution in other states.
5. Protect marriage equality and oppose anti-LGBTQIA2S+ initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels.
6. Respect the sovereignty of Tribal governments and prioritize special protections or sites claimed by indigenous groups.

B. Workers' Rights

1. Support workers when organizing unions and collectively bargaining for fair contracts, and advocate for passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

2. Increase the minimum wage and index to inflation to protect purchasing power for working families.
3. Support implementation of fair scheduling, pay equity, and paid family medical leave legislation.
4. Oppose all “right-to-work” legislation and anti-worker ballot measures, improve enforcement against worker misclassification as independent contractors, and protect workers from abuse regardless of immigration status.
5. Increase state and local government support for affordable, quality child care for working families and extend the federal Child Tax Credit.

C. Shelter Rights

1. Advocate for an evidence-based, housing-first approach using bonds, system development charge waivers, accessory dwelling units, rezoning processes, permanent supportive housing, and public-private partnerships to increase no-, low-, and moderate-income housing inventories.
2. Strengthen protections for renters through inclusionary zoning, just-cause evictions, rent stabilization, relocation assistance, and deposit recovery protections.
3. Respect sleep as a fundamental human right, increase and preserve funding for alternative shelter solutions (i.e. sanctioned camps, safe spots, Conestoga huts, pallet shelters, etc.), and decriminalize homelessness.
4. Increase temporary shelter and rapid re-housing that is inclusive of all identities and groups, including women, families, BIOPC, and LGBTQIA2S+.
5. Create a day labor program to provide unsheltered people the opportunity to earn cash income to meet basic needs.

D. Police Reform

1. Limit police interventions (i.e. end “broken windows” and “for-profit” policing) to eliminate over-policing marginalized communities and prevent interactions that could lead to police violence.
2. Train all police officers in de-escalation tactics and require police departments to enact policies that attempt to de-escalate before applying physical force.
3. Monitor how police use force and proactively hold officers accountable for excessive force; unfounded fear cannot be an acceptable justification for deadly force, and abuses of qualified immunity must be addressed.
4. Ensure accountability through community oversight; implement independent citizen review of allegations of police misconduct using police auditors and civilian review boards.
5. Require police departments to collect and report demographic data on individuals contacted by officers to ascertain the prevalence of biased-based policing.
6. Restructure police recruitment process to facilitate increased diversity and professionalism of new or lateral officers; police should reflect the communities they serve.
7. Membership in anti-government, racist, anti LGBTQ, misogynistic or other such hate groups should disqualify police from service and result in termination of employment. Close examination of new or current police participation in such groups should be a priority.
8. Law and policy standards for use of force should limit its use to when necessary to bring an incident under control, and deadly force only when necessary in defense of human life, with an officer's tactical conduct and decisions leading up to using force and deadly force to be considered in judgements of its necessity.

E. Criminal Justice Reform

1. Support and expand mobile crisis response programs like CAHOOTS to respond to individuals experiencing crisis when the safety of the public is not threatened.
2. Support and expand evidence-based alternatives to mass incarceration, such as treatment courts, community courts, and intensive community supervision.
3. Require all defendants who cannot afford an attorney to be provided with defense counsel when facing criminal prosecution.
4. Increase funding for transitional housing programs and supportive services, including continuity of health care, for individuals re-entering the community after incarceration.
5. Support legislation to permanently abolish the death penalty in Oregon.
6. Improve fairness and professionalism of the Supreme Court by applying a binding judicial code of ethics to all justices, at minimum requiring recusal for conflicts of interest.

IV. PROSPEROUS:

A. Revenue

1. Insist on tax equity: (e.g. a progressive tax structure, taxing all property on actual value, windfall taxes, taxing capital gains at least as much as earned income).
2. Eliminate tax loopholes: especially executive, corporate, and estate tax evasion (e.g. executive deductibility as in section 162(m)).
3. Ensure taxation flexibility. Restore the simple majority requirement to increase revenue and divert individual kicker rebate funds to establish a rainy day fund (use of which is determined through public participation).

4. Create sufficient revenue to meet our needs (e.g. education, healthcare, & housing) and reduce economic inequity through fair taxation.
5. Explore additional taxation mechanisms (value added tax, gross receipts, construction excise tax, and others).

B. Labor

1. Protect workers' right to organize and collectively bargain. Encourage union job creation.
2. Encourage and support the development of a highly skilled & competitive workforce in Oregon through apprenticeship programs and continuing education, particularly for veterans.
3. Support efforts to address inequality of pay, wage theft, and misuse of temp & contractor positions, especially for marginalized communities.
4. Require community benefit agreements for all local government projects.
5. Strengthen the community through local ownership, worker owned businesses, and cooperatives and incentivize such businesses' innovation, development, and sustainability.
6. Incentivize businesses and institutions to purchase local, sustainable products and hire locally; particularly anchor institutions (e.g. government, hospitals, and timber).
7. Enact policies that create local jobs, foster entrepreneurship, and ensure access to capital especially for folks from historically marginalized communities.
8. Protect private and public sector pension plans. Protect the Social Security System.

C. Standard of Living

1. Work to create affordable and accessible housing, expand tenant protections and rental affordability, and find programs to encourage new home ownership (e.g. public housing trusts).
2. Support clear, consistent zoning reforms that encourage the development of missing middle, and low income housing (including tiny villages/ADUs) types in all residential zones, while respecting the need for green space.
3. Explore creation of a revolving no-interest loan program to help low-income community members afford security deposits and/or down payments. Protect tenants from excess fees.
4. Ensure quality of life through living wages, employee benefits, consistent scheduling, and standards for earned, medical, and family leave.
5. Eliminate student loan and medical debt.
6. Explore pilot programs to test the effectiveness of universal basic income.
7. Incentivize mixed use, affordable housing and remove zoning barriers to support business, sustainability, and community building.
8. Provide free public transit to all to improve access to schools, goods, & services, to improve community, and to meet our climate goals.
9. Promote access to nutrition and medical care in urban “deserts” and isolated rural communities (e.g. “grocery-mobiles” and “clinic-mobiles”) similar to public library bookmobiles.

A. Infrastructure

1. Encourage investment in safe, reliable transportation infrastructure that prioritizes environmental sustainability (e.g. pedestrians, bicyclists), and minimizes traffic through public transit and funneling automobiles onto higher-speed arterials.

2. Support city planning that improves disaster preparedness, transportation infrastructure, provides sufficient affordable housing, ensures reasonable urban growth, facilitates economic development and provides adequate green spaces.
3. Support access to high speed, publicly owned internet, recognizing the needs of rural and urban broadband and expanded, quality, public Wi-Fi.

V. RESPONSIBLE:

A. Finance and Business

1. Reverse unrealistic pension funding demands on the post office & stop the assault on public and contracted employees. Restore postal banking.
2. Restore the Glass-Steagall Act, institute a Wall St. speculators tax, and regulate derivatives.
3. Establish regulations that ensure transparency and prevent predatory behavior in cryptocurrency purchasing and investment.
4. Enforce our anti-trust laws so that mergers do not make a corporation “too big to fail” or too dominant in their market.
5. Establish public bank(s) similar to the Bank of North Dakota so that our public funds can be used to help Oregon rather than enriching multi-national financial institutions.
6. Lower the cap on income used to calculate Oregon PERS retirement benefits, but ensure benefits currently accrued are not reduced.
7. Reconsider taxation for nonprofits and religious organizations with excessive administrative costs.

B. Safety Net

1. Preserve, safeguard, strengthen, and expand Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Veterans Administration, and SNAP.

2. Oppose the privatization of Social Security, remove Social Security from the general fund, and remove the cap on income subject to Social Security contributions.
3. Redefine unemployment accurately to reflect the number of individuals who are out of work involuntarily.
4. Decrease the reliance on private middle-men between public health insurance programs and providers, and improve benefits in public health insurance to decrease the pressure to privatize.
5. Advocate against the privatization of Medicare through the ACO Reach program.
6. Increase the support of care coordination activities by practitioners by direct payments and with community/public entities financed with global budgets, and not with risk-bearing middlemen.

C. Information and Behavior

1. Enact policies to decrease reliance on corporate crop seeds that limit the saving of seeds for future planting, and hold corporations liable for contaminating non-genetically modified plantings.
2. Enforce current Oregon Statutes & OARs that prohibit sexual harassment.
3. Treat reporters of sexual assault seriously and with dignity. Process rape kits within 90 days. Educate society as to definitions of sexual harassment and prevention of sexual harassment.

D. Public Institutions and Oversight

1. Support citizen oversight of police through independent police auditors & civilian review boards.

2. To promote good government and the public trust, all jurisdictions should have access to independent audit functions to objectively verify public expenditures and government performance.
3. Support clear and enforceable ethical standards in government and other public institutions in the conduct of public business
4. Require public workers to obtain a warrant to remove children from the home. Outlaw temporary placement in juvenile detention without a criminal charge.
5. Because society needs well-functioning judicial systems and because justice delayed is justice denied, judicial confirmation processes should be thorough yet expeditious.
6. Any form of incarceration, excluding house arrest, should be in government run institutions. Outlaw profiting from prison labor. End the death penalty in Oregon.
7. Support efforts to reduce excessive salary and perquisites for public employees.
8. Strictly maintain Oregon's credit rating and ensure there is adequate borrowing capacity for economic downturns.
9. Prevent wasteful public expenditures and ensure government spending and borrowing are done with transparency and in a fiscally sound and socially beneficial manner.

VI. SECURE:

A. International Relations

1. The United States of America must support a robust State Department to promote peace, democracy, and human rights abroad, prioritizing diplomacy and cooperation over military action.

2. Promote human rights, economic opportunity, education, labor fairness, healthy environment, reproductive health and cultural & service exchanges around the globe.
3. Build and lead coalitions to promote Democratic values, ensuring goodwill towards the US, and helping create a safe, secure, stable, and just world.
4. In concert with other nations, the United States should work to eradicate terrorism, including elimination of safe havens for terrorism.
5. Condition aid from the United States on allies and countries recognizing civil and human rights, promoting the welfare of their residents and environment, and following international laws and norms.
6. Ensure that U.S. trade agreements receive adequate debate from Congress and protect civil rights, labor laws, the environment, and our laws.
7. Work with other countries to regulate cryptocurrency to prevent non-state actors, sponsors of terrorism, and white supremacists or other hate groups from securely and anonymously financing their operations.

B. Defense

1. Support legislation requiring Congressional approval before first use of nuclear weapons, and a new war powers act for any military action moving forward.
2. Uphold Geneva Convention rights for both traditional and non-state actor detainees.
2. Prioritize involvement of civil service and military personnel in national security operations over private military contractors, and require that military contractors be held accountable for misconduct to at least military standards

4. Seriously restrict military spending, insist on domestic sourcing and production of military equipment, and insist upon legislation requiring audits.
5. Change military mission to emphasize disaster relief and infrastructure and housing rehabilitation in the U.S. and needy foreign countries.
6. Recognize the electrical grid, secure internet, surface water resources and infrastructure, forests, farmland, and aquifers as national security assets, and protect and promote those resources aggressively.

C. Veterans

1. Recognize the sacrifices our veterans have made to protect our way of life, ensure their access to expert medical and mental healthcare at all levels, including support for PTSD trauma treatment.
2. Support programs that assist veterans in securing jobs, housing, and any support or care they require.
3. Ensure that we have policies aimed at preventing and punishing unwanted sexual contact, harassment, and violence by or against members of our Armed Forces, including access to public law enforcement.
4. Require the military investigate all reports of intimate partner and family violence, and hate crimes, report findings to the proper databases, and recognize these crimes as threats to morale, cohesion, and readiness.
5. Support access to full abortion and reproductive care on military installations. Enshrine access in law so that future administrations cannot deprive service members and their families of the right to choose.
6. Enshrine the ability of service members to serve in their self-identified gender identity and promote access to gender affirming treatment in military healthcare systems.

D. Domestic Tranquility

1. Establish dedicated funding sources for Public Safety including police, sheriffs, EMTs, corrections, crisis mental health care responders, and firefighters.
2. Fund cost-effective intervention, prevention programs, and alternative courts to reduce recidivism, intimate partner violence, addiction, and abuse of children, the elderly, and disabled to reduce demand on public safety.
3. Support research on gun violence; promote legislation requiring registration of firearms, licensing for use, and education on safe storage; and fund public gun safety by increased taxes on ammunition.
4. Ban “ghost guns”.
5. Support statewide and local protocols requiring a mental health professional accompany law enforcement on all calls involving a person in a mental health crisis, and prevent militarization or privatization of police.
6. Recognize that white supremacy, unaccountable militias, and far right nationalists threaten our national security, and hold January 6 insurrectionists accountable to the full extent of the law.

VII. ENDURING:

A. Education

1. Fully fund Oregon’s K-12 public schools at the Quality Education Model level, support efforts toward tuition-free public colleges and universities and support continuing education for teachers at all levels.

2. Reduce public school class sizes and use of standardized tests, strengthen core State curriculum standards to better enable post-secondary success, and expand “Gateway to College”, and intervention programs for at-risk youth.
4. Work to reverse Measure 5, to remove property tax limitation and create additional revenue for public services.
3. Fund civics, humanities, and critical thinking classes and career and technical education programs, including training in Green Technology, computer science, and STEAM. (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics)
4. Strengthen public education by protecting public funding from use for private school vouchers and establish developmentally and culturally appropriate educational standards at all grade levels; prevent corporatization of education.
5. Promote civics and personal finance education.
6. Support the right of women – and all people across the world – to education.

B. Land & Resource Use

1. Work to protect and restore our water resources- including strict buffer zone standards for toxic chemical use, fertilizers, logging, feedlots, fracking fields, mine tailings and development.
2. Preserve the health of our forests and wildlife habitat, protect the remaining old-growth forests for future generations, increase riparian protections, and strive for zero clearcutting.
3. Support addressing climate-induced wildfire damages to private property, health and safety through science-based actions to reduced fire load, and use of low density plantations. Work to eliminate clearcutting, and support climate resilient forestry.

4. Increase the timber harvest tax to levels similar to those in Washington and California and encourage, or require, sustainable yield of diverse forest products and domestic processing of raw logs.
5. Strengthen Oregon Forest Practices Act by increasing riparian buffers and banning aerial spraying.
6. Encourage a robust, nation-wide program of reforestation/afforestation, from rural woodlots to public lands, planting a diverse mix of trees and flora to maximize biome health and resilience.
7. Encourage mixed species replanting.
8. Discourage land use planning at the local, county, and state levels that serves to reduce the amount of affordable housing.
9. Promote & prioritize responsible recreation, tourism, and quality of life provided by our environment, over resource extraction.
10. Promote Oregon's efforts to develop a science-based marine spatial planning process for managing our oceans and coastal resources and protecting them from all forms of pollution.
11. Reduce Oregon Fish and Wildlife nuisance killing. Work to eliminate the use of cyanide and drowning traps.

C. Enduring Infrastructure

1. Increase funding for earthquake, and emergency preparedness.
2. Work to enact net neutrality and promote internet access, including rural broadband, as a public utility.
3. Reverse the privatization of functions that are appropriately public, such as military, schools, prisons, water, utilities, and public spaces.

4. Make international trade agreements contingent upon potential partners' efforts towards good practice in energy sourcing, agriculture, and protections for forests, wild lands, and oceans. Meet the same standards ourselves.

D. Protecting the Planet

1. Support more stringent penalties for polluters, with the aim of making pollution unacceptably expensive for industries, and not just a cost of doing business.
2. Support waste reduction and the expansion of recycling and reuse programs, including food waste, E-waste, and plastics.
3. Allow congressionally authorized agencies the ability to address climate change by enacting policies and regulations reducing carbon dioxide and other climate changing emissions.