

***Platform with Legislative Action Items of the Democratic
Party of Lane County
2010***

**The Democratic Party of Lane County is committed to
building a just, responsible and secure society.**

**Where our children, families and communities are safe and
secure;**

National, economic, and personal security begins at home. It starts with children who are wanted and loved, safe from hunger, disease, abuse, poverty and neglect. Security starts with families who have secure jobs and pensions, good education, adequate housing and affordable healthcare. Families that work hard deserve a secure future. Security starts with communities that are prepared for emergencies and able to effectively address the sources of crime and violence. Real security and peace can never be fully achieved with weapons; if we are to be truly secure we must start with a concern for human life and dignity. Therefore, we must:

- Protect the promise of pensions and the solvency of social security.
 1. Remove cap on Social Security contributions and work to ensure government fulfills responsibility to maintain social security.
 2. Support Legislation that prohibits corporations and pension trustees from raiding pensions under any circumstances.
 3. Close loophole that results in the scaling back or elimination of promised pension benefits.
- Create comprehensive healthcare reform including a robust public option.
 1. Support legislation that allows the importation of F.D.A. approved prescription drugs.
 2. Similar to S.A.I.F. (State Accidental Insurance Fund), make available to all a state run/not-for-profit health insurance plan equal to what state employees receive.
 3. Support legislation that delivers comprehensive, affordable, and accessible

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healthcare coverage for all Oregonians.

- Provide a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our community including our children, seniors, and those with physical and mental disabilities.
 1. Promote legislation that increases oversight of nursing care facilities and provides patients with appropriate and accessible information of advocacy groups, Patient's Rights, and information of local ombudsmen to assist in patient's rights.
 2. Improve provisions, outcomes, and open accountability for funds spent in disaster relief programs.
 3. Maintain and prioritize programs that provide victim's assistance (i.e. Clients in Action).

- Reward and encourage employers who provide living wage jobs and who allow their workers to vote to establish unions.
 1. Acknowledge responsibilities of corporations and support legislation that removes the concept of corporate personhood.
 2. Encourage Federal Government to allow State to promote Oregon Employee Free Choice Act and support the rights of workers to organize for a fair contract.
 3. Promote legislation that prioritizes hiring locally.

- Increase the opportunities for safe and affordable housing expanding programs for low income housing to include the establishment of secure middle-income housing.
 1. Restore the Glass-Steagall Act, which would restore essential regulations of banking and financial institutions.
 2. Increase funding for rental vouchers and raise the qualifying limit to 250% above poverty level.
 3. Promote a Renters Rights Act in conjunction with strengthening Landlord-Tenant legislation.

- Relying on diplomacy as our first level of conflict resolution, asking our children and our family members to go off to war only as a last resort.
 1. Our military shall not be sent into harms way without cause being specified.

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2. Promote relying on conflict resolution as a first resort.
3. Establish a Department of Peace.

Where every community supports the success of all its children;

Our children are our future. Our children deserve proper nutrition and a good education. They deserve to be safe. Safe and healthy children build a foundation for a safe and healthy community. In this wealthy nation and proud state, we must find the resources for excellent schools, healthy families and all the fundamental components of a strong community that nourish each child's potential for greatness. We work to ensure that every child is cared for and wanted. Therefore, we must:

- Ensure that high quality nutrition and medical care are available for all children and pregnant women.
 1. Fund front-end loaded primary prevention including pre-natal, neo-natal and early infancy nutrition and medical care.
 2. Support community-based non-profit organizations like Stand for Children, pediatricians, Oregon Research Institute, UO health services, free health care organizations.
 3. Increase funding for Healthy Start, Birth to Three, and the Relief Nursery.
- Fully fund effective education practices for our children and youth.
 1. Encourage voters to view taxes as a civic responsibility of individuals and businesses.
 2. Revive and fully fund the Quality Education Model.
 3. Encourage the legislature to provide funds to extend the school year.
- Invest in educational opportunities that enable all of Oregon's children and youth to succeed in a changing world, including the expansion of both college and vocational opportunities.
 1. Fund and extend the Oregon ASPIRE program (Access to Student Assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone).
 2. Support mentoring for teachers and professional educators.
 3. Fund vocational education, apprenticeship programs, and the arts.
- Provide safety for children and youth by the reduction of community, school, and domestic violence.
 1. Increase funding for Children's Services.

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2. Train teachers to look for abuse, especially in pre-school and elementary.
 3. Protect runaways – identify and support available services.
- Fully fund successful front-end programs providing prevention and intervention services for at-risk minors and their families.
 1. State legislature, by resolution, should actively support US Senate Bill 714 (which is a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system and re-examines the drug war and its affect on incarcerations) and oppose any amendments designed to censor discussion on controlled substances.
 2. State Legislature, by resolution, should promote to the public that paying taxes is a civic responsibility and that taxes should be fair and progressive.
 3. State legislature, by resolution, should advocate for a stable funding base for health and safety.
 - Encourage and advocate for development of innovative new strategies designed to reduce juvenile crime thereby making our communities safer for children.
 1. Encourage our State Legislature to identify researchers at Oregon Universities and Colleges, the Oregon Research Institute (ORI), the Oregon Social Learning Center, and other recognized Oregon research facilities that have developed specific interventions with at-risk youth that show the most promise for reducing juvenile crime. Ensure adequate research funding for their efforts.
 2. Encourage the Oregon Youth Authority to engage with county Department of Youth Services to develop state of the art re-entry programs for youth exiting OYA using a Drug Court Re-entry program model.
 3. Support and fund programs that identify youth and families who are most likely to respond to help and get them help.

Where public and private institutions are accountable to the people, using efficient and effective practices for the growth and health of our state;

A healthy community is one in which all its members, including private enterprise and public institutions, contribute to the whole. Healthy families and strong communities rely on continued investments in health, education, the environment, and infrastructure. We demand effective solutions to the mounting list of fiscal, social and environmental

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problems facing our communities. We believe that government and business thrive when there is fair play, honesty, integrity and good governance. Trust in the public and private institutions on which we rely is an essential element of a safe, secure and healthy community. Successful institutions plan for the future, are accountable to the people, and strive to be efficient without sacrificing the public good. Therefore, we must:

- Create a tax system where every taxpayer contributes a fair share toward maintaining responsible community investment.
 1. Reduce tax deductions, credits, and exemptions for higher income Oregonians.
 2. Deposit all unbudgeted income tax revenue into a rainy day fund.
 3. Establish a carbon tax to shift from carbon based to renewable based energy systems.
- Protect and develop jobs for Oregonians in the changing global economy through partnerships with employers and educational institutions with a focus on green collar jobs to take us into the future.
 1. Promote multi-use land use standards for economic sustainability and the environment. Protect our communities from Urban Growth Boundary expansion.
 2. Encourage and invest in regional and local mass transit systems.
 3. Retain and support public ownership of higher education institutions.
- Provide a comprehensive health care system that will include a single-payer or public-option management system in order to create economic stability and good health for all Oregonians.
 1. Expand the Oregon Health Plan to cover ALL Oregonians.
 2. Provide effective and affordable health care to our most vulnerable communities.
 3. Place public employees into a single risk pool for insurance purposes.
- Require the legislature to deal with core fiscal issues while building a rainy day fund to ensure the basic needs of public health, education, and public safety.
 1. Dedicate full surplus into a rainy day fund.
 2. Reorder the state budget priorities to limit money spent on prisons.
 3. Reduce crime through community intervention in public safety, health, and education.

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- Encourage institutions to adopt practices shown to improve effectiveness and efficiency.
 1. Support sustainable funding for college tuition and career training through multi-generational financial support and investment.
 2. Require ODOT to assess the environmental impact when designing transportation systems.
 3. Move to electronic medical records.
 4. Require landlords to provide all new tenants (especially students) with voter registration forms when signing leases.

- Press for campaign reform, which is at the heart of re-establishing trust in our elected officials.
 1. Create public financing for campaigns/elections.
 2. Disallow out-of-state money to underwrite Oregon ballot measures.
 3. Eliminate paid signature gatherers.
 4. Enact instant run-off elections.

Where the worth, dignity, rights and opinions of every person are respected;

We are proud - one people united in a common destiny. While we face new and growing challenges our party is committed to protecting the disenfranchised, the vulnerable and the weakest among us. We will succeed together, or we will fail together. Our government should defend the rights of individuals, not seek to limit them. We strengthen our nation and our state when we build communities by coming together and seeking innovative solutions with hope and optimism, finding common goals and values. Strong communities are built when we support, trust and respect each other. Therefore, we must:

- Invest in opportunities that empower citizens, build leadership, seek common ground and improve community relations, through effective dialogue and consensus building on core issues.
 1. Create a Leadership Trust Fund that specifically sets aside tax dollars to be used by organizations which serve marginalized communities to create empowerment and advocacy workshops.

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2. Commit to seek out and encourage candidates from marginalized communities to run for elected office (from Boards and Commissions to the State Legislature and above), support their candidacies and, after elected, acknowledge their service. Diversify our bench!
 3. Publicize in marginalized communities training sessions on key issues prior to and during campaigns, being sure that these trainings take into account the needs of the groups being trained, including accessibility, and childcare.
- Protect the fundamental equal rights of every Oregon resident, especially against attacks on our basic liberties.
 1. Taking into account our common welfare, create laws that protect the individual rights of all Oregon residence, including the right to healthcare, housing, food, privacy, marriage, and freedom from violence.
 2. Our elected officials will establish legal protections for migrant families, and documented and undocumented residents. Our local law enforcement shall not be complicit in the work of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE– formerly the INS) and/or Homeland Security.
 3. Establish strict protocols restricting Taser use only to replace the use of lethal force and not as a tool for compliance.
 - Treat the root causes of our social problems, not just the symptoms, bravely facing ingrained social issues like racism, homophobia, sexism, and classism.
 1. Pass legislation at all levels of government to decriminalize homelessness.
 2. Fully fund family court, drug court, and other intervention programs to reduce child abuse, drug abuse, and domestic violence with an aim of keeping families together and youth from landing on the streets.
 3. Invest in building coalitions with traditionally marginalized communities as a way of exposing, reducing, and confronting racism, sexism, ableism, classism, homophobia, etc. that are embedded in our local culture.
 - Protect the rights of individuals of all religious faiths and nontheists.
 1. Base policy and legislation regarding public religious expression (including religious attire in public schools) on trust rather than fear. Base legal restrictions on the recognition of religious expression while preventing the promotion or establishment of religion.
 2. Preserve and defend the separation of church and state, protecting personal rights from the restrictions of religious edict, including the right to marry, and the right to choose safe and legal methods of family planning.

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3. Regulate and restrict public funding of religious based hospitals and medical providers who limit services based on religious dogma.
- Protect the rights of Oregonians to make health care and quality of life decisions with dignity and privacy, whether at the beginning, middle or the end of life.
 1. Health insurance companies doing business in Oregon must be required to pay for a doctor consultation for end of life decisions and advance directives. Defend Oregon's Death with Dignity Act.
 2. While defending a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion, work to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies by providing contraception, emergency contraception, healthcare for women and children, affordable childcare, and nutrition programs like WIC.
 3. Fully fund the Oregon Health Plan, providing universal healthcare to all Oregon residents, reaching out to traditionally marginalized communities to be sure the healthcare is affordable, accessible and includes coverage for hearing aids and other prosthetics.
 - Recognizing the sacrifice our military veterans made, in body, mind, and spirit to preserve our way of life, we ensure their dignity through adequate funding for their physical and mental health care.
 1. Oregon National Guard soldiers must have access to the same healthcare available to all veterans. Equal access to healthcare must be made available to all who serve.
 2. Traumatic Brain Injury and other invisible injuries of combat must be treated with lifetime support and services. The military must be held up to the standard of best practices in diagnosis, services, and caregiver support for our injured veterans.
 3. We must fully fund programs for housing, social support, and drug/alcohol treatment for homeless veterans.

Where it is understood that environmental stewardship and a strong sustainable economy are mutually dependent.

We acknowledge the interconnections and mutual dependency of all living things and the myriad problems that climate change presents now and in the future. We believe that without significant worldwide commitment to changes in how we use the earth's natural resources, there will be dramatic negative results that will impact our lives and the lives of our children. Meaningful engagement in protecting our natural resources can

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significantly improve the livability of our communities and engender a robust economy as we move into the future. Time is of the essence. Therefore we must:

- Encourage the reduction of carbon and greenhouse gases.
 1. Provide funding for and installation of air monitoring units in Oregon cities.
 2. Use scientifically accepted data to create enforceable policies.
 3. Study the financial impact of the cost of doing nothing.
- Promote the creation of a green economy, including solar, wind, and water energy production, installation, and use.
 1. Promote educational funding to schools (K-12, colleges, vocational schools, et al) to support the training in green technologies.
 2. Promote energy efficient low-income housing.
 3. Establish tax incentives, building codes and permit fee reductions for energy efficiency.
- Invest in the manufacturing and use of clean and efficient transportation of goods and people.
 1. Encourage expanding public transit, especially targeting rural and low income areas.
 2. Install more electric charging stations.
 3. Develop more trains, such as a high speed train for the I-5 corridor, electric trains, and budget for and implement infrastructure replacement and upgrades.
- Invest in energy conservation measures: reduce, reuse, recycle.
 1. Expand and create new Cash-for-Recycle programs.
 2. Minimize packaging, especially non-recyclable packaging.
 3. Remove or replace Styrofoam from packaging.
- Lead the nation in energy efficiency, energy independence, and the sustainable use of our natural resources.
 1. Promote comprehensive standards and stricter localized standards for energy efficiencies and independence.
 2. Create legislation which requires that municipal, county and state buildings be more cost efficient (i.e., windows that open, passive heating and cooling).
 3. Encourage curricula in all schools on sustainable concepts.
- Promote the care and protection of our natural resources, on land and in the ocean, as the economic foundation of agriculture, timber, recreation, tourism, and quality of life.
 1. Support Oregon Attorney General's efforts to prosecute environmental crime. Support environmental justice efforts with more investigators and prosecutors.
 2. Put into place an escalating fine structure, including the penalty of closing down a business, for violations of environmental laws.
 3. Support a Marine Reserve expansion and fund a study to identify the

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locations of additional marine reserves.

4. Create a state-wide toxic right-to-know law (like the one in Eugene).