

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

2018 PARTY PLATFORM

12/2/2017 - OEA Hall: 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 Free, Just, Prosperous, Responsible, Secure, & Enduring society:

I. Free -

Where our Democracy is predicated upon one person, one vote, because a government of and by the people protects our Freedom;

II. Just -

Where laws and public institutions are Fair to all, and show respect for each person's worth, dignity, opinions, and Rights;

III. Prosperous -

Where we facilitate success and diminish economic inequality, and Commerce lifts the condition of all;

IV. Responsible -

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

V. 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;

VI. Enduring -

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

I. FREE:

A. Elections

1. Provide all citizens with easy access to voter registration & to voting, and encourage our Congressional delegation to work against attacks on voting rights.
2. Improve vote by mail through providing ballots with postage paid, counting ballots postmarked by election day.
3. Protect and expand automatic voter registration and implement same day voter registration.
4. Urge the Oregon Legislature to pass National Popular Vote Interstate Compact legislation.

B. Citizen Participation

1. Increase the opportunity for residents of Lane County to contribute to public hearings regardless of conflicts such as mobility or scheduling issues.
2. Ensure the rights of assembly & free speech for all without unreasonable restrictions or conditions.
3. Support redistricting methods that ensure fair representation and oppose gerrymandering.
4. Change ORS to allow college students to levy fees against themselves for lobbying.
5. Implement voter registration and basic civics education as part of the release from incarceration process.

C. Campaign Finance Reform

1. Support a constitutional amendment that mandates 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.
4. Require public disclosures of all contributions & expenditures related to political campaigns, including names of those actually donating funds at all levels.

D. Role & Functioning of Government

1. Limits the ill effects of lobbying and the revolving door between government officials & lobbyists.
2. Reverse the privatization of functions that are appropriately public, such as military, schools, prisons, water, and public spaces.
3. Continue to make government more transparent in Oregon, and increase access to state data on such things as government subsidies & tax credits.
4. Encourage that our municipal & county staff execute the decisions of elected leaders in an open & responsible manner.

5. Encourage the appropriate use of “emergency clauses” by Oregon’s legislature.
6. Protect whistle blowers.
7. Promote a fair and appropriate wage for legislators and municipal elected officials at all levels.

II. JUST:

A. Be the Change that we seek

1. Promote fairness for underrepresented communities in our county & within our organization, and work to create opportunities for self-advocacy through face-to-face contacts, forums, and calls to action.
2. Build the base of participation by increasing the number of Precinct Committee Persons & elected officials who represent marginalized communities to reflect their membership within our community & strike a balance in local politics.
3. Build the DPLC’s leadership to be fully representative of our community. Use DPLC resources to advocate for and implement these policies through community organizing.

B. Civil Rights

1. Ensure public funding and access to reproductive health & family planning services, including contraceptives as well as protecting a woman’s right to choose.
2. Promote legislation that ensures the right of people to organize a union and

oppose any “right to work” legislation & anti-worker ballot measures. Increase penalties and enforcement for worker misclassification as independent contractors.

3. Protect the rights of all individuals regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, gender, identity, sexual orientation, social status, and immigration status.
4. Support strengthening protections for renters through inclusionary zoning, reasonable notice for no-cause evictions & rent increases, rent stabilization, relocation assistance, just cause evictions, and deposit recovery protections.
5. Continue to fight for the elimination of discrimination in employment and housing because of ethnicity, creed, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, social status, immigration status, age, or credit score when applicable.
6. Require closed captioning for public meetings and broadcasts; and the government and law enforcement must offer alternate modes of communication in interactions with all persons.

C. Human Rights

1. Pass legislation at all levels of government that is built on human rights principles.
2. Reform our nation’s immigration system to expedite citizenship for immigrants. Support amnesty

programs and keeping families together. Oppose mass deportation programs and instruct local police to not hold immigrants without a Federal warrant.

3. Pass legislation to decriminalize homelessness. Respect sleep as a fundamental human right, under the code of Universal Human Rights "Mankind Deserves Rest - Article 15"
4. Advocate for a housing first approach to homelessness; including the use of state and municipal bond projects, municipal tax waivers, system development charge waivers, allowing for accessory dwelling units, rezoning processes, and public-private partnerships to increase the inventory of no, low, and moderate-income housing units.
5. Taking into account our common welfare, create laws that protect the human rights of all Oregon residents, including the right to health, shelter, and freedom from hunger.
6. Establish humane and expeditious refugee policies, with appropriate vetting, especially in situations where U.S. foreign policies contribute to increases in refugees.

D. Law Enforcement

1. Support the Black Lives Matter movement, support the Latinx and Chicanx movement, and respect sovereignty of First Nations.
2. Support citizen oversight of municipal

and specialty police through independent police auditors & civilian review boards.

3. Require public workers to obtain a warrant to remove children from the home. Outlaw temporary placement in juvenile detention without a criminal charge.
4. 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.
5. Because society needs well-functioning judicial systems and because justice delayed is justice denied, judicial confirmation processes should be thorough yet expeditious. Hurry trials in criminal cases should require a unanimous verdict.
6. Any form of incarceration, excluding house arrest, should be in government run institutions. Outlaw private prisons. Outlaw profiting from prison labor. End the death penalty in Oregon.

III. PROSPEROUS:

A. Infrastructure

1. Support efforts of Congressman DeFazio and other state and local officials to invest in infrastructure to further commerce, provide consistent and safe transportation, improve disaster preparedness, and create union jobs.
2. Support reliable & affordable public transportation such as Oregon

passenger rail from Eugene to Vancouver and expansion of the EmX rapid transit bus system to include electric & hybrid busses.

3. Support planning through a public process that promotes the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists, sufficient affordable housing, respecting reasonable urban growth boundaries and need for agriculture and green spaces.
4. Design transportation grids to funnel automobiles onto higher-speed arterials & thoroughfares while increasing pedestrian and bicycle safety, reducing costs to our people, economy, and environment from stop-and-go traffic.
5. Support creative funding solutions for access to high speed, publicly owned internet, recognizing the needs of rural and urban broadband and expanded, quality, public Wi-Fi in larger cities.
6. Work to create affordable and accessible housing at all income levels, expand rental protections and affordability, and find programs to encourage new home ownership, such as public housing trusts.

B. Entrepreneurship & Jobs

1. Support economic policies that create jobs, foster entrepreneurship, and incentivize small business incubators & programs to access capital that are inclusive and accessible, especially for marginalized communities.

2. Promote programs that facilitate growth, development, and innovation of local food and beverage businesses, technology industries, and locally owned agriculture, especially for marginalized communities, keeping our growth local.
3. Support the Labor Commissioner's work to develop a highly skilled & competitive workforce in Oregon through apprenticeship programs, continuing education, and protecting worker's rights to organize and collectively bargain.
4. Foster conditions to create incentives for local timber sales to local mills, and encourage local companies to create new sustainable wood building products and purchase local timber.

C. Best Practices

1. Support efforts to ensure that the minimum wage and employee benefits are connected to a living wage, and work on efforts to establish and define regional living wage standards.
2. Support measures that encourage corporations to curb excessive executive compensation levels, including publishing the ratio of CEO pay to average worker pay for all publicly-traded corporations.
3. Cap deductibility of all executive compensation at \$1 million by eliminating the "performance based compensation" loophole in section 162(m) of the tax code.

4. Support efforts to address inequality of pay, especially for marginalized communities, and other misuse of temp & contractor positions.
5. Support programs to reduce the burden of student and medical debt for all.

D. Revenue

1. Create an equitable tax system that generates sufficient revenue for education, public health, housing, governmental administration, and other basic needs and helps reverse growing economic inequalities.
2. Promote a progressive tax structure, including setting tax rates for upper income tax brackets, and corporations to levels that more accurately reflect the benefit those individuals receive from society.
3. Tax capital gains above inflation at rates equivalent to those for ordinary income.
4. Change the 3/5ths majority requirement for the Oregon legislature to raise revenue to a simple majority.
5. Eliminate the individual kicker rebate in Oregon & direct the resulting revenue to a rainy day fund.
6. Encourage legislators to refer Measure 5 back to the voters, which would remove property tax limitations & allow voters to decide whether to approve additional revenue for public services.
7. Maintain the current estate tax structure & work to reduce the dollar

amount exempt from such taxes.

8. Create responsible & self-reliant county budgets based on a diverse, sustainable, and expanding economy.

IV. RESPONSIBLE:

A. Regulation

1. Reverse unrealistic pension funding demands on the post office & stop the assault on public employees.
2. Restore the Glass-Steagall Act, institute a Wall St. speculators tax, and regulate derivatives.
3. Enforce our anti-trust laws so that mergers do not make a corporation "too big to fail" or too dominant in their market.
4. Require genetically engineered organisms to be clearly labeled & regulate them through taxation.
5. Support clear and enforceable ethical standards in government and other public interactions.
6. Ensure that all political contributions are accurately disclosed in a timely manner.
7. Reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

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. Protect private & public sector pension plans.
4. Support programs for the health and safety of Oregonians in cases of insufficient federal funding.
5. Redefine unemployment accurately to reflect the number of individuals who are out of work involuntarily.

C. Public Health

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. Promote consistent, minimum standards for earned and protected sick & family leave.
3. Support the right of communities to protect their health and safety from corporate harm.
4. Expand mental health, addiction, and rehabilitation support and services.

D. Public Benefits

1. Support net neutrality and promote internet access as a public utility.
2. 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.
3. Recognize and empower the social improvements that can and should come from the current efforts against

sexual harassment.

4. Consider lowering the cap on income used to calculate Oregon PERS retirement benefits, but ensure benefits currently accrued are not reduced.
5. Work for more public meeting places in Lane County, both indoors and outdoors.

V. 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, 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.
5. Compel allies and countries that receive aid from the United States to recognize civil and human rights, promote the welfare of their residents and environment, and follow 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. Support the rights of women and girls across the world, including the right to be free from sexual assault, and access to all reproductive services.

B. Defense

1. Support legislation requiring Congressional approval before the 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.
3. Prioritize the involvement of civil service and military personnel in defense and national security operations over private military contractors, and require that military procurement be domestically sourced when economically feasible.
4. Private contractors should not be used for military operations, but if they are they should be held accountable for misconduct and violations of the law to at least military standards.

C. Veterans

1. Recognizing the sacrifices our veterans have made in mind, body, and spirit 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 adequate policies aimed at preventing and punishing unwanted sexual contact, harassment, and violence by or against members of our Armed Forces.
4. Require the military to investigate all reports of domestic violence, report findings to the proper databases, and recognize domestic violence as a significant crime.

D. Domestic Tranquility

1. Establish dedicated funding sources for Public Safety (including police, sheriffs, EMTs, corrections, and firefighters), so that these services can be fully funded without fluctuation or competition from other budget items.
2. Fund cost-effective intervention and prevention programs and alternative courts that reduce recidivism, domestic violence, addiction, and abuse of children, the elderly, and disabled, to reduce demand on public safety.
3. Preserve the Second Amendment, subject to reasonable regulation designed to prevent guns from falling into the hands of criminals, children, and those deemed a danger to themselves or others.
4. Support research on gun violence, including by the CDC, and made available to the public, and educate the public regarding safe handling and

- storage of firearms & ammunition.
5. Enact laws providing for a Gun Violence Restraining Order, allowing judges to prohibit individuals from possessing firearms if they have been determined to pose a threat to themselves or others.
 6. Uphold Constitutional protections on speech, privacy, and due process.
 7. Recognize and work to eliminate racial and gender bias in all public services.
 8. Uphold the right of all persons to live free from the threat of sexual harassment, abuse, and assault.
 9. Support statewide and local protocols requiring a mental health professional accompany law enforcement on all calls involving a person in a mental health crisis.
 10. Prevent militarization of police.

VI. ENDURING:

A. Education

1. Fully fund Oregon's K-12 public schools at the Quality Education Model level and support efforts toward tuition-free public colleges and universities for all.
2. Prioritize the reduction of public school class sizes, strengthen core state curriculum standards to better enable post-secondary success, and expand "Gateway to College", an intervention program for at-risk youth.
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.

B. Energy

1. Promote the immediate transition to 100% clean, renewable energy and oppose construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure, due to the urgent need to abate climate change and its effects.
2. 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.
3. Support the Clean Energy Jobs Bill; promote energy and resource efficient design for residential and commercial buildings, mechanisms, processes, and energy-gleaner technologies; and continue tax incentives for energy efficiency.
4. Invest in development and use of clean, efficient transportation and freight systems, including public transit, bicycle and pedestrian commuting, and sufficient electric

charging and alternative fuel stations around the state.

C. Environment

1. Continue and expand reduce/reuse/recycle programs, recycling/reuse protocols that address the limitations imposed by China, minimize commercial packaging, and support statewide ban on single use plastic bags.
2. Educate and encourage conservation and environmental stewardship by individuals, businesses, and organizations.
3. Support the Thin Green Line, a formal, united movement from British Columbia to California to restrict fossil fuel exports through the West Coast.
4. Educate the public about hazards of various methods of resource extraction (e.g. hydraulic fracturing) and transportation (e.g. coal trains, liquid natural gas, pipelines).
5. 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.
6. Support the Integrated Pest Management Program, concerning the use of toxic substances, on public property; support herbicide aerial spray bans.

7. 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.

D. Land Use and Natural Resources

1. Oppose privatization of water rights, and protect and restore our water resources - including strict buffer zone standards for toxic chemical use, fertilizers, logging, 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. Protect Oregon's farmlands from urban sprawl and encourage sustainable, organic, and regenerative family-owned and -worked farms, through tax, zoning, and federal farm bill policies.
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. Promote responsible recreation, tourism, and quality of life provided by our environment, over resource extraction.
6. Support Oregon's efforts to develop a science-based, marine spatial planning process for managing our oceans and coastal resources.

7. Protect and restore marine wildlife, including stocks of salmon and other native fish by improving or removing dams, restoring natural habitat, reducing pollution, and utilizing other science-based methods.
8. Expand and enhance protections for native species, especially keystone species, and support protecting and expanding national monuments, parks, and forests.
9. Prioritize special protections for sites claimed by indigenous Tribal groups for historic and ritual uses and ownership.
10. Promote and incentivize hemp agriculture.