



## 2014 Platform Preamble, Articles, & Planks

### PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Oregon Democratic Party, seek a better future for the present generation and for generations to come. This platform is a guide to the principles and positions by which we intend to fulfill that commitment. We recognize our rights and responsibilities as citizens of our state, our nation, and the entire global community. We hold that every person is guaranteed the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We express our confidence that every one of us can maintain these rights while sustaining the interdependent web of life on this planet.

As Oregon Democrats, we assert that as citizens of our state and our country, we are the government, and promise to uphold the protections granted to us by our state and national constitutions. We stand firmly opposed to any attempt to compromise those rights and liberties in the name of governmental convenience or security. Where those rights and liberties are not fully realized, we pledge to help everyone within our borders to regain them. We invite all Americans to join with us to reestablish our two-century-old democracy as a beacon of virtue admired throughout the world.

## **ARTICLE 1 – JOBS, BUSINESS & LABOR**

Oregon Democrats work in many trades, occupations, and professions across Oregon with a belief that all workers and their families deserve a fair share of the American Dream. We recognize that the wealth of our communities and state is created by the effort, knowledge, investments, and skill of workers and business leaders. We support the entrepreneurial spirit of small business that provides the bulk of local job growth and recognize the stability provided by larger scale community investment.

### **Planks:**

1. We believe all Oregon workers should have the right to a secure retirement.
2. We believe we should have an economy that promotes living-wage local jobs and businesses, embracing sustainability over short-term profits.
3. We believe that corporations can and should function as ethical and responsibly regulated community members that contribute their fair share to Oregon's economic prosperity.
4. We support equal pay for equal work and oppose wage inequalities for women and minorities.
5. We affirm the right of all workers, public and private, to organize for collective bargaining free of intimidation and coercion, and we oppose any legislation that would limit these rights.
6. We support labor unions and recognize their critical role in fighting for living wages, fair work rules and hiring practices, and safe working conditions.
7. We believe it is important to encourage investment in a healthy and well-regulated economy that protects Oregonians from economic instability.
8. We support Oregon's farmers, ranchers, fishers, and land managers in their efforts to sustainably manage Oregon's natural resources and balance competing land use interests.
9. We believe that the growing gap between the wealthy and other Oregonians is detrimental to labor and business.
10. We believe in supporting small businesses by removing unnecessary barriers and improving access to loans.

## **ARTICLE 2 - HEALTH, BASIC NEEDS & HUMAN RIGHTS**

Oregon Democrats affirm the rights of all individuals to be treated with dignity and respect. We believe all people have an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We believe in the freedom and equality of every individual. We believe in a strong social safety net.

### *Planks:*

1. We believe in the right of individuals to be treated with dignity and respect regardless of inherent characteristics, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, residency status, or other identifying qualities.
2. We strongly support the right to reproductive freedom of choice.
3. We support end-of-life freedom of choice.
4. We support the right of everyone to the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, health care, education, and family-wage jobs.
5. We believe in protecting the vulnerable from neglect and abuse, especially children, the medically fragile, people with disabilities, and the elderly.
6. We believe in a comprehensive single-payer system of health care.
7. We support all military and foreign service veterans, including reservists and members of the Oregon National Guard.
8. We believe in abiding by the Geneva Conventions regarding torture, rendition, indefinite detention, detentions without charges, and extra-judicial executions.
9. We oppose the death penalty.
10. We believe that all consenting adult couples should have the equal right to civil marriage.
11. We believe that Social Security solvency should be guaranteed by additional revenues and not by cutting benefits.
12. We support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and believe that hunting and responsible gun ownership are traditions worth preserving for future generations.
13. We believe that measures for reducing firearm-related injuries and deaths can be enacted in terms that pose no threat to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and no threat to responsible personal firearm ownership and use.

## ARTICLE 3 - EDUCATION

We value universal access to sound, effective, fully funded public education from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary studies and career training. We recognize that the quality of our schooling increases our economic well-being, promotes civic responsibility, and enriches our personal lives. Public schools provide a common basis of skills, knowledge, and cultural, social, and work experience that is the foundation for a functioning democracy.

### Planks:

1. We recognize effective educational systems must have sufficient, equitable, stable, and sustainable public funding to ensure a high quality education and full curriculum for all students.
2. We affirm the right of everyone in our diverse populations and special-needs groups to pursue appropriate academic and career education from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary studies.
3. We urge restoration of a full range of courses, programs, and services, including early childhood education, counseling, health, tutoring, libraries, and public alternative-educational opportunities and magnet schools.
4. We support career education at the secondary and post-secondary levels to address projected workforce needs and to support student entry into the job market.
5. We insist that school-based education professionals, students, parents, and community members be included in the development of quality, broad-based K-12 curricula.
6. We endorse the collaborative evaluation of students, instructors, and administrators, employing broad-based assessment methods that recognize and encourage excellence and encouraging improvement.
7. We insist on the full, effective protection of all student data to assure information privacy and prevent financial exploitation.
8. We value the professionalism and dedication of our public educators in instruction, administration, and governance.
9. We insist that charter and virtual schools receiving public funds be governed by the same standards and policies practiced in traditional schools.

10. We support the rights of educational professionals to freely and collectively negotiate working conditions, wages, benefits, and employment stability.
11. We believe that public funding for K-12 education should be provided only to public schools managed by elected boards of education, and not transferred, contracted or sub-contracted to any private corporation for management or instructors.

#### **ARTICLE 4 – REVENUE & TAXATION POLICY**

Oregon Democrats believe that revenue policies should reflect the economic needs and condition of the state and be guided by the principles of openness and efficiency. We believe that taxation policy should remain as straightforward as possible.

##### **Planks:**

1. We recognize the broad benefits we receive from local, state, and national governments and community structures.
2. We embrace our shared responsibilities as individuals, businesses, and organizations, and affirm the social contract that binds us to other communities throughout the state.
3. We recognize that fair taxation policies and transparent, responsible revenue expenditures are critical in promoting the common good.
4. We strongly believe that government should function with fiscal responsibility and not burden future generations with excessive debt.
5. We believe that taxation and revenue-expenditure policies should be used to reduce social divisions, including those caused by extreme wealth disparities.
6. We believe public funds generated in Oregon should, as a priority, be reinvested in Oregon.
7. We believe that special tax incentives for business development should be coupled with provisions such as job standards, and with reporting to ensure they provide a benefit to the state.

8. We believe in a fair and progressive tax structure that helps create a large and stable middle class.

## **ARTICLE 5 - GOOD GOVERNANCE**

Oregon Democrats are committed to open and responsive government. We recognize that the task of sustaining our democracy and responding to the challenges posed by evolving technology and the world economy requires effort and diligence. We are guided by the wisdom and genius of our founding principles and the Constitution.

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1. We are committed to transparency, accountability, oversight, integrity, competence, honesty, and citizen participation in government.
2. We believe that a government of the people must not be unduly influenced by special interests, corporate power, or money.
3. We believe that corporations and other purely legal entities are not granted the same rights as “natural persons” by the Constitution or any amendment.
4. We are committed to protecting and ensuring our Constitutional rights and freedoms, including the rights to assemble peacefully and receive equal treatment under the law.
5. We affirm the critical value of religious freedom and the principle of separation of church and state.
6. We hold the right and responsibility of all eligible persons to vote as an essential foundation of our Democracy.
7. We support full transparency in recording and counting votes.
8. We defend every individual’s right to freedom from mass surveillance, search, or seizure unless authorized by a specific “probable cause” warrant.
9. We believe that short-term public safety considerations should not override civil liberty protections and justice.
10. We value our nation’s diversity and recognize the contributions immigrants make to society.
11. We believe all political parties should be free to choose their own

candidates for public office by popular vote of their members.

12. We believe eminent domain should never be used for the benefit of a private or corporate entity in the absence of a clear public need.
13. We believe that publicly funded election campaigns should be the standard for American Democracy.

## **ARTICLE 6 – TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT**

As Oregon Democrats we understand that a healthy, sustainable, and beautiful Oregon environment is a key component of our high quality of life and helps support our resource-based economies. We recognize the benefits provided by healthy forests, clean rivers and lakes, air quality, and a healthy ocean environment. We support the development of environmentally sustainable energy resources and efficient modes of transportation.

### *Planks:*

1. We believe that climate change is an emergency, that human activities are a significant factor in climate change, and that policies and actions to reduce the impacts of climate change are critical to the survival of our civilization.
2. We support science-based national strategies to implement sustainable energy technologies to reduce the degradation of the atmosphere, global food supplies, and ocean and fresh water resources as imperative for long-term economic stability.
3. We believe that genetically engineered foods require a precautionary approach that includes extreme care in testing, additional scientific regulation, more citizen input, and full disclosure through labeling.
4. We believe that greater efforts are needed at the state and national level to identify and reduce the toxic effects of synthetic chemicals and organisms.
5. We support efficient and safe transportation systems for cargo and people.
6. We oppose the wholesale conversion of public lands to private ownership and support the protection of federally designated parks, wilderness areas, recreation areas, and other resource lands.

7. We support private property rights and responsible developments that do not compromise the environment or conflict with the well-being of the commons.
8. We believe all citizens have the right to clean air and clean and safe public drinking water.

## **ARTICLE 7: FOREIGN POLICY & NATIONAL SECURITY**

Oregon Democrats recognize that our responsibilities extend beyond state and national boundaries and that our national interests require global cooperation.

### *Planks:*

1. We believe the increasing scarcity of fresh water, ocean fish stocks, and energy creates security and sustainability concerns which will require solutions and resolution on a global scale.
2. We pledge to work nationally and globally to stop nuclear proliferation and to accomplish a meaningful reduction of current nuclear stockpiles.
3. We pledge to actively support treaties on chemical and biological warfare and weapons and the international ban on land mines.
4. We affirm our commitment to honor ratified treaties and to support the United Nations.
5. We affirm our commitment to high global standards for labor and environmental protection in trade agreements.
6. We support the use and primacy of diplomacy and negotiation to resolve regional and international conflicts and promote peace.
7. We support the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
8. We assert that no one should be subjected to arbitrary interference with their privacy, family, home, or correspondence, and we oppose the broad violations of these principles by the National Security Agency (NSA).
9. We believe that it should be clear U.S. policy to actively oppose terrorism, genocide, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and religious and political persecution worldwide.