



PRIMARY VICTORY SPEECH

This journey began 18 months ago after another Republican loss in the gubernatorial election. Selma and I joined together to travel to the far corners of our state, meeting Oregonians in their homes, places of work, and in their communities. Oregonians are tired of empty political promises, and puppet leaders, who are at the beck and call of powerful interests in our state, enriching the connected and powerful, and impoverishing the people. Selma and I have listened to the people's hopes, and dreams, and aspirations, and we are committed to helping to make these dreams come true. I will be a servant leader, a fierce advocate for everyday Oregonians. I am not corruptible, and I will bend our government to do the will of the people.

Tonight's victory is the result of incredible teamwork, and the hard work of many fine people. It always risky to name individuals, as many who should be named, cannot be named, due to time constraints, but let me recognize but a few. First, let us thank Steve Johnson and the great Grand Hotel for hosting this event. Allow me to introduce the Pierce family. Selma, my wife, Oma, my mom, Kristina, my daughter, and Michael, my son. We are close knit, supportive, and loving family, and I am so blessed to be a part of it. Next, let me thank my political advisor, the great Senator Jackie Winters, without whom I would not be here tonight. Special thanks to my early supporters, who provided me with substantial early support, so crucial to our effort. My great friend, Chuck Adams, my lead political consultant, has lead this campaign, and special thanks to the tremendous efforts of Nick Rhoten, Mary Louise VanNatta, Dave Reinhardt, and so many others on this very special team. Thanks so much to the hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of generous donors, who made this campaign a success.

My opponent this fall is Governor Kate Brown, a 25 year career politician, whose goal in life was to become governor of Oregon, and she has been willing to push aside anyone in her desire to be governor. She is a failed leader, a puppet, beholden to powerful unions, and powerful business, and her failed leadership has greatly harmed everyday Oregonians. Thousands of homeless, including children, live on our streets, and our mentally ill fill our prisons. Many Oregonians toil at poorly paying jobs, and the cost of living is high. The middle class is shrinking. Our educational system fails many children, especially children of color. We face transportation gridlock, decreasing small business formation, and an inability to create a natural resource based economy in harmony with environmental preservation. Government spending continues to grow uncontrollably, leaving the citizens with little money to pursue their own dreams. Our unaffordable PERS system threatens the viability of our public institutions. This is the legacy of 25 years of incompetent leadership by Governor Kate Brown, and failed leaders of the Democrat party.

Tonight, we begin a new journey, a journey to restore Oregon to its greatness. We must once again journey the Oregon Trail, filled with danger and uncertainty, but lead by a bright rainbow of hope. We must reform our government, making it lean, and productive and efficient, and placing it squarely at the feet of the people. Taxes must be cut for those of low and moderate income, and small businesses must be robustly supported. School reform will place teachers in control and with authority in the classroom, career technical education will be greatly enhanced, the school day and school year will be lengthened, and art, music, and PE will return to the curriculum. Our institutions of higher education must create higher quality education at lower cost.

We need new roads to end our traffic gridlock. We must build new ports, and bridges, and airports. We need to grow manufacturing in our state. We must use our natural resources to create new products that will protect our environment and increase our prosperity. We must create a diverse economy of unlimited opportunity to allow all the talents of Oregonians to be used.

Our homeless, and our mentally ill, will require special attention, love, and care. They must be humanely sheltered, and great private-public collaboratives must be created to transform lives, and return currently homeless and mentally ill Oregonians to productive lives, centered around the dignity of work.

As you leave here tonight, you are the messengers of our new journey. I ask you to spread the word that Oregon's Republican Party, long in hibernation, has awakened from its slumber. We are the proud party of Abraham Lincoln, and we stand for freedom and unity. We are the proud party of Teddy Roosevelt, standing for a square deal for every Oregonian, and willing to take head on big business when it harms the people. We are the party of Mark Hatfield, standing morally strong and unbendable against evil. And we are the party of Tom McCall, never forgetting that we are a people defined by environmental purity and preservation.

We will win this election by going where recent Oregon Republicans have feared to go. I have already spoken at the OEA political, and black political conventions. This campaign has actively reached out to our Latino Community, asking Latinos to join us, and inviting Latinos to be part of Oregon's Republican Party, as our policies will ensure the success of Latinos in Oregon. And this is but the beginning. This campaign will be reaching out to all people, those of color and not of color, rich and poor, union and non union, private and public, rural and urban, Portland and non-Portland, offering a new vision, and a new direction for our state, one centered around the dignity of work, prosperity, and freedom to be who we are, and what we are, in our hearts, and in our souls.

We seek to return Oregon to its rightful place among these states of the United States, a place of success, independence, and innovation. We seek to create a new coalition, which aims to use politics as a tool to unite us for a common good, rather than as a tool to divide us for political gain. We will push aside the corrupt and failing past, and reach the end of the Oregon Trail, our promised land just beyond the rainbow. Now let's win this election!