

# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

## 2019 PARTY PLATFORM

*12/7/2019 - 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 protecting a healthy planet in order to build 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, because a government of and by the people protects our Freedom and ensures that no one is above the law;*

### ***III. Just -***

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

### ***IV. Prosperous -***

*Where we facilitate success, diminish economic inequality, and utilize commerce to lift the condition of all;*

### ***V. Responsible -***

*Where individuals, businesses, organizations, and the government entities 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 sequestration via science-based strategies, while ensuring a just transition that alleviates potential 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 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. Educate and encourage conservation and environmental stewardship by individuals, businesses, and organizations.
7. Continue and expand reduce/reuse/recycle programs, aiming for local or

regional self-sufficiency. Encourage biodegradable, minimized commercial packaging.

## 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 reproductive health & family planning services, including contraceptives as well as protecting an individual's right to choose.
4. Support programs that increase the health and safety of Oregonians (e.g. Medicaid, SNAP) in cases of reduced or insufficient federal funding.
5. 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. Repeal the Hyde Amendment.
6. Support efforts to require employers to provide health care benefits to temporary and permanent part time workers.
7. Support and promote U.S. participation in any mutual nuclear disarmament programs and efforts to halt nuclear proliferation.

### **C. Energy & Transportation**

1. Promote the rapid transition to 100% clean, renewable energy and oppose construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure. Repeal fossil fuel tax benefits and subsidies.
2. 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 and conservation.
3. 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 throughout Oregon, and viable links between these.
4. Support the Thin Green Line, a formal, united movement from British Columbia through California to restrict fossil fuel exports through the West Coast.
5. Actively oppose the Jordan Cove Project at local, County, State and Federal levels. Support projects which provide sustainable green jobs instead.
6. Educate the public about hazards of various methods of resource exploitation, development, extraction, transport, use, and waste management.

### **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 the Integrated Pest Management Program, concerning the use of toxic substances, on public property; support herbicide aerial spray bans.
3. Recognize light and noise pollution as environmental hazards. Insist that DEQ and LRAPA operate to protect the public, not private industry.
4. Promote Legislation that protects historically marginalized communities from corporate pollution and exploitation, and the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Require adequate corporate compensation to these communities for these damages.

## 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. Improve vote by mail by counting ballots postmarked by election day and promote informational campaigns about access to voting.
3. Protect and expand automatic voter registration, implement same-day voter registration, and implement same-day party switching until then.
4. Fully fund county election offices, ensure standardized reporting, protect election observations, and utilize all easily accessible outreach tools to help alert and assist all voters with questioned ballots.
5. Find ways to improve access to replacement ballots for voters in Lane County.
6. Ensure citizen-generated ballot measures are treated fairly to prevent minor technical issues from inhibiting participation.
7. Support redistricting methods that ensure fair representation and oppose gerrymandering.
8. Implement voter registration and basic civics education as part of the incarceration pre-release process.

### B. Campaigns

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. 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 our outreach to non-Democrats and encourage participation in Democratic causes, outreach, and primary processes.

### C. Governing and Lobbying

1. Limit the ill effects of lobbying and the revolving door between government officials & lobbyists by ensuring black-out periods for becoming a paid lobbyist after leaving office.
2. Change ORS to allow college students to levy fees against 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. Increase the opportunity for residents of Lane County to contribute to public hearings regardless of conflicts such as mobility or scheduling issues.
6. Ensure state, county, and municipal departments are representing and promoting the best interests of the people.
5. Protect whistle blowers from retaliation and unjust criminal prosecution by strengthening and supporting the Whistleblower Protection Act.
6. Promote a fair and appropriate wage for legislators and municipal elected officials at all levels.

### III. 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.

#### **B. Civil Rights**

1. Support legislation and policies that

correct racism, injustice, and labor exploitation.

2. 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.
3. Work for the elimination of discrimination in employment, housing, and public services because of ethnicity, creed, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, social status, immigration status, age, or credit score when applicable.
4. 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.
5. Support workers when organizing unions and collectively bargaining for fair contracts. Oppose "right to work" legislation and anti-worker ballot measures. Improve enforcement against worker misclassification as independent contractors.
6. Uphold Constitutional protections on speech, privacy, and due process.

#### **C. Human Rights**

1. Reform our immigration system and agencies to expedite citizenship for immigrants. Support amnesty programs and keeping families together.

2. Oppose mass deportation programs and instruct local police to not hold immigrants in violation of state and local sanctuary policies.
3. Pass legislation to decriminalize homelessness. Respect sleep as a fundamental human right under Article 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
4. Advocate for a housing-first approach using bonds, tax/development charge waivers, allowing for accessory dwelling units, rezoning processes, and public-private partnerships to increase no-, low-, and moderate-income housing inventories.
5. Taking into account our common welfare, create laws at all levels of government that protect human rights, such as 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.
7. Uphold the right of all persons to live free from the threat of sexual harassment, abuse, and assault.
8. Prioritize special protections for sites claimed by indigenous Tribal groups for historic and ritual uses and ownership.
8. Recognize and support the human rights of persecuted minorities like the Uyghurs, Tibetans, Rohingya, Yazidis, and

Palestinians: and offer expedited, vetted immigration to the US for those who want it.

#### **D. Law Enforcement**

1. Support the Black Lives Matter movement, support the Latinx and Chicanx movement, and respect sovereignty of First Nations.
2. Support Oregon's sanctuary laws. Support a requirement that as-state and local law enforcement decide how to handle a criminal case or interact with ICE, they consider possible immigration consequences.
3. Advocate for a data-driven, transparent system of criminal prosecution that relies on local and national research about what is proven to work in sentencing, such as community and special courts.
4. Support efforts to require enough certified mental health counselors to assure access to counseling for all public school students. Train all school staff in detecting and stopping all forms of bullying.

## IV. PROSPEROUS:

### A. Revenue

1. Insist on tax equity: (e.g. a progressive tax structure, taxing all property on actual value, 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 (eg section 162(m))).
3. Ensure taxation flexibility: restoring 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 reverse economic inequalities by increasing taxes.
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 and encourage union job creation.
2. Encourage and support the development of a highly skilled & competitive workforce in Oregon through apprenticeship programs, 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 workforce hiring 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, etc.).
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.

### C. Standard of Living

1. Work to create affordable and accessible housing, expand rental protections and 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 ADUs) types in all residential



zones.

3. Explore the creation of a revolving no-interest loan program to help low-income community members afford security deposits and/or rental down payments.
4. Establish a minimum quality of life through ensuring minimum wage, employee benefits, consistent scheduling, and minimum standards for earned, medical, and family leave.
5. Eliminate student loan and medical debt.
6. Explore pilot programs to explore the effectiveness of universal basic income.
7. Incentivise 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 city goods and services, to improve community, and to meet our climate goals.

#### **D. 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, and respects the need for green spaces.

3. 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.

## **V. RESPONSIBLE:**

### **A. Finance & Business**

1. Reverse unrealistic pension funding demands on the post office & stop the systemic undermining of public and contracted 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. 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.
5. Consider lowering the cap on income used to calculate Oregon PERS retirement benefits, but ensure benefits currently accrued are not reduced.
6. Reduce excessive salary and perquisites from public universities and government administration.

7. Strictly maintain Oregon's credit rating and ensure there is adequate borrowing capacity for economic downturns.
8. Prevent wasteful public expenditures and ensure government spending and borrowing are done with transparency and in a fiscally sound and socially beneficial manner.
9. Reconsider taxation for non-profits 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.

### **C. Information & Behavior**

1. Require genetically engineered items to be clearly labeled.
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 (except in emergencies). 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. Jury trials in criminal cases should require a unanimous verdict.
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. Collect accurate census data and use the

data to fairly redistrict and to correctly apportion public funds to communities.

## VI. SECURE:

### A. International Relations

1. The United States 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.

### B. Defense

1. Support legislation requiring Congressional approval before first use of nuclear weapons, and enact 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.
5. Seriously restrict military spending and insist upon legislation requiring audits be passed.
6. Change military mission to emphasize disaster relief and infrastructure and housing rehabilitation in the U.S. and needy foreign countries.

### 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 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 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).
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, enact laws designed to prevent criminals, children, and those deemed a danger to themselves or others from accessing guns.
4. Support research on gun violence, including by the CDC, and make results available to the public, and educate the

public regarding safe handling and storage of firearms & ammunition.

5. Promote legislation that would require registration of firearms, license their use, and fund public gun safety by increased taxes on ammunition.
6. Support statewide and local protocols requiring a mental health professional accompany law enforcement on all calls involving a person in a mental health crisis.
7. Prevent militarization of police.

## **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 through science-based actions to reduce fire load and use of low-diversity 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 serve 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 toward good practices in energy sourcing, agriculture, and protections for forests, wild lands, and oceans. Meet the same standards ourselves.