

# **DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY**

## **2016 PARTY PLATFORM**

*12/6/2015 - OEA Hall: Eugene, Oregon*

**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 their 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 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, or requiring notification of all whose ballots are received too late.
3. Investigate ways to expand automatic voter registration.
4. Urge the Oregon Legislature to pass a National Popular Vote Bill.

### **B. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

1. Work for more public meeting places in Lane County, both indoors and outdoors.
2. Increase the opportunity for citizens of Lane County to participate in public hearings by requiring daytime & evening hearings on public issues.
3. Ensure the rights of assembly & free speech for all without unreasonable restrictions or conditions.
4. Support redistricting methods that create a set of districts that is reflective of the larger population.
5. Change ORS to allow college students to levy fees against themselves for lobbying.
6. Implement voter registration and basic civics education as part of the release from prison process.

### **C. CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM**

1. Support a constitutional amendment that mandates campaign finance limits in order to mitigate the disparities in political influence caused by wealth inequality, and which prohibits artificial entities from spending on political campaigns unless an entity is funded directly & solely by individuals for political purposes.

2. Protect shareholder rights, through SEC regulations or law, by requiring per-share refunds of corporate political spending without explicit shareholder permission.
3. Investigate implementation of democracy vouchers locally and in Oregon.
4. Require public disclosures of all contributions & expenditures related to political campaigns, including names of those actually donating funds.
5. Enhance the Oregon political contribution tax credit, especially for those with lower incomes.
6. Apply for a convention of the states to propose an amendment dealing with excessive money in politics and inappropriate constitutional rights for corporations.

### **D. ROLE & FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT**

1. Support the American Anti-Corruption Act, which 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. Assure that our municipal & county staff execute the decisions of elected leaders in an open & responsible manner.
5. Stop misuse of “emergency clauses” by Oregon’s legislature, which thwarts democracy by preventing voters from referring measures to the ballot.
6. Protect whistle blowers whose revelations only show government actions that violate the public interest and trust.
7. Investigate increasing pay for state legislators and municipal elected officials in Lane County.

## 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.
4. Use that DPLC's resources to advocate for & implement these policies through community organizing.

### B. CIVIL RIGHTS

1. Ensure public funding and access to reproductive health & family planning services, comprehensive sexual education, STD testing, contraceptives, and cancer screening, as well as protecting a woman's right to choose, promoting adoption, and ensuring prenatal & neonatal care.
2. Promote legislation that ensures the right of people to organize a union and oppose any "right to work" legislation & anti-worker ballot measures.
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 tenants and renters through inclusionary zoning, reasonable notice for no-cause evictions & rent increases, ending discriminatory practices, and deposit recovery protections.
5. Continue to fight for the elimination of

discrimination in employment because of ethnicity, creed, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, social status, immigration status, age, or credit score when applicable.

### 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.
3. Pass legislation to decriminalize homelessness.
4. 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.
5. Establish humane and expeditious refugee policies, with appropriate vetting, especially in situations where U.S. foreign policies contribute to increases in refugees.
6. Support amnesty programs and keeping families together, and oppose mass deportation programs.

### D. LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Support the Fair Shot Coalition and their goal to end racial and economic profiling.
2. Support the Black Lives Matter movement.
3. Support citizen oversight of municipal and specialty police through independent police auditors & civilian review boards.
4. Pass laws requiring that minors must have their guardians, attorneys, or advocates present during police interviews or interrogations.
5. Ensure that those reporting that they are victims of sexual assault are treated seriously and with dignity. Encourage policies that address the perpetrators of these crimes rather than solely focusing on encouraging women to avoid sexual assault.

6. Because society needs well-functioning judicial systems and because justice delayed is justice denied, judicial confirmation processes should be thorough yet expeditious.
7. Any form of incarceration, excluding house arrest, should be in government run institutions.

### III. PROSPEROUS:

#### A. INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Invest in infrastructure to further commerce & provide consistent, safe means of transportation, including disaster & earthquake preparedness and support of Congressman DeFazio's efforts to invest in infrastructure & transportation projects with strong buy American provisions to create union jobs.
2. Support reliable & affordable public transportation such as Oregon passenger rail from Eugene to Vancouver and expansion of EmX rapid transit bus system to include electric & hybrid busses.
3. Support city planning redesigns in Lane County through the Envision Eugene process & 7 Pillars of Livability considering needs of pedestrians & bicycles, affordable housing, respecting urban growth boundaries and need for agriculture & green spaces.
4. Design our transportation grid to funnel automobiles onto higher-speed arterials & thoroughfares – increasing safety for pedestrians & bicyclists, reducing costs to our people, economy, and environment from stop-and-go traffic.
5. Support funding for high speed publicly available internet.

#### B. ENTREPRENEURSHIP

1. Support economic policies that create jobs, foster entrepreneurship, support

small business incubators & programs to access capital, and streamline bureaucracy.

2. Recognize that the agricultural and food & beverage industries have the potential to be a significant driver of economic growth in Lane County, and promote programs that facilitate the growth of these local businesses and locally owned agriculture.
3. Support the Labor Commissioner's work to develop a highly skilled & competitive workforce in Oregon through apprenticeship programs.
4. Foster conditions to create incentives for local timber sales to local mills.

#### C. BEST PRACTICES

1. Support efforts to increase the minimum wage and index it to a living wage.
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. Debunk the myth that reducing inequality & expanding the economy are mutually exclusive.
5. Support efforts to address inequality of pay and other misuse of temp & contractor positions.
6. Reduce the burden of student debt for all.

#### D. REVENUE

1. Create a fair tax system that generates sufficient revenue for federal, state, and local government & helps reverse growing economic inequalities.
2. Promote a progressive tax structure that ensures all Americans pay their proportional share of taxes, with a specific

focus on returning tax rates for upper income tax brackets 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 economy.

#### **IV. RESPONSIBLE:**

##### **A. REGULATION**

1. Establish an Architectural Review Commission for the City of Eugene to prevent the continued degradation of the city's historic & aesthetic character, empowered to coordinate with construction projects in the urban core to select architectural designs that complement the city's historic buildings, promote buildings which enhance the city's prestige, and discourage fads in style & building materials.
2. Reverse impossible pension funding demands on the post office & stop the assault on public workers.
3. Restore the Glass-Steagall Act, institute a Wall St. speculators tax, and regulate derivatives.
4. Enforce our anti-trust laws so that mergers

do not make a corporation "too big to fail."

5. Require Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) be clearly labeled & regulate GMOs through taxation.
6. Establish a State Bank of Oregon 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.
7. We believe that unimpeachable ethical standards are basic to government integrity.
8. Ensure that all political contributions are accurately disclosed in a timely manner.

##### **B. SAFETY NET**

1. Safeguard, strengthen, and expand Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Veterans Administration.
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. Expand SNAP benefits & strongly oppose forces trying to dismantle the program.
5. Redefine unemployment accurately to reflect the number of individuals who are out of work.

##### **C. PUBLIC HEALTH**

1. Establish a universal single-payer health insurance system in Oregon, including vision, dental, hearing, mental, and reproductive healthcare.
2. Ensure consistent, minimum standards for earned and protected sick & family leave for the City of Eugene and throughout the state.

## V. SECURE:

### A. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. The United States of America must use its unique position to promote democracy and human rights abroad, using diplomacy and cooperation as a first resort.
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 our values, promote goodwill towards America, and create a safe, secure, stable, and just international order.
4. Pressure 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.
5. Ensure that America's trade agreements receive adequate debate from Congress and protect civil rights, labor laws, the environment, and our laws.

### B. DEFENSE

1. Establish clearly defined standards for the congressionally authorized use of military force.
2. Uphold Geneva Convention rights for both traditional and non-state actor detainees.
3. Increase the involvement of civil service and military personnel in defense and national security operations, and require that military procurement be domestically sourced when economically feasible.
4. In concert with other nations, the United States should work to eradicate terrorism, including elimination of safe havens.
5. Hold private defense contractors accountable for misconduct.

### 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 and violence against members of our Armed Forces.

### D. DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY

1. Consider 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 such as probation, rehabilitation, family & drug courts, and other programs to reduce recidivism, domestic violence, addiction, and the abuse of children & the elderly or disabled, in order to prevent further demands on public safety.
3. Preserve the Second Amendment right to bear arms, understanding that this right is subject to reasonable regulation, including but not limited to universal background checks, mandatory waiting periods, safe storage requirements, and civil liability, in order to prevent guns from falling into the hands of criminals, children, and the mental health challenged.
4. Support research on gun violence 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.

## **VI. ENDURING:**

### **A. EDUCATION**

1. Fully-fund Oregon's schools at the Quality Education Model level.
2. Promote lower tuition through increased public support of Oregon's Higher Education system.
3. Prioritize the reduction of class sizes in elementary education, strengthen core state curriculum standards to better enable post-secondary success, and expand "Gateway to College" as an intervention program for at-risk youth.
4. Re-establish vocational education and tailor programs to economic opportunities in the 21st century, including training in green technology.

### **B. ENERGY**

1. Encourage increased efforts to abate climate change and its effects, including the agreement between the West Coast states and province of British Columbia, educating the public as to the costs of climate change, and establishing a carbon tax to shift from carbon-based to renewable energy.
2. Promote energy-efficient residential and commercial buildings and continue tax incentives for energy efficiency.
3. Investigate carbon capturing and sequestration as an interim measure to mitigate global warming.
4. Invest in the development and use of clean and efficient transportation systems, including supporting public transit, safe bicycle and pedestrian commuting, and the installation of electric charging and alternative fuel stations around the state.

### **C. ENVIRONMENT**

1. Continue and expand recycling programs such as the bottle bill, minimize commercial packaging, and support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags.
2. Encourage conservation and environmental stewardship by individuals, businesses, and organizations.
3. Educate the public about hazards of various methods of resource extraction, such as hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), and transportation, such as coal trains and liquid natural gas.
4. Support efforts to investigate and prosecute environmental crime, including strict penalties for facilities that turn off pollution monitoring systems.
5. Support air-monitoring in Oregon and oppose efforts to increase allowable discharges of pollution.
6. Support the Integrated Pest Management Program concerning the use of toxic substances on public property.
7. Support the Climate Sustainability and Justice Act.

### **D. LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

1. Avoid 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, protect the remaining old-growth forests for future generations, and increase riparian protections by amending the Oregon Forest Practices Act.
3. Protect Oregon's farmlands from the encroachment of urban sprawl.
4. Encourage or require sustainable yield of diverse forest products, and increase the timber harvest tax to levels similar to those in Washington and California.

5. Encourage continuation of family-owned and worked farms through tax, zoning, and federal farm bill policies.
6. Promote the recreation uses, tourism, and quality of life provided by our environment.
7. Support Oregon's efforts to develop a science-based marine spatial planning process for managing our oceanic and coastal resources.
8. 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.
9. Expand and enhance protections for native keystone species.

