

## Oregon Progressive Party

### 2022 Candidate questionnaire for state offices

**Date:**

**Your name:**

**Office for which you are running:**

Here is our platform of issues from our website; please comment on any issues where you disagree with our position and explain why.

1. Real campaign finance reform, particularly in Oregon
2. Oppose "free trade" deals; support local products & services
3. End "corporate personhood" & constitutional rights for corporations
4. "Medicare for All" comprehensive health care
5. Defund the police - ban choke-holds
6. Increase minimum wage to living wage (\$15 or more) now
7. Employment for all (public works projects, WPA style)
8. Increase income taxes on big corporations and the wealthy
9. Strictly regulate toxic air pollution, including diesel emissions
10. Tax emissions that cause climate change
11. Oppose Wall Street bailouts
12. Repair, improve infrastructure (transit, water systems, etc.)
13. Oppose wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria; bring troops home now
14. Slash military spending and foreign bases
15. Enable grass-roots efforts to effectively use the initiative and referendum
16. Equal rights for all; same-sex marriage
17. Establish an Oregon State Bank to provide funds for infrastructure, education, etc., without Wall Street fees
18. Use instant run-off and ranked choice voting to break 2 party domination
19. No shipping fossil fuels for export from Pacific Northwest ports, including Jordan Cove
20. Oppose offshore oil & gas drilling
21. Require labeling of genetically engineered food
22. Create independent redistricting commission to prevent gerrymandering

### Campaigns & Campaign Financing

1. Voters in Multnomah County and Portland have enacted a change to their county and city charters placing limits on campaign contributions/expenditures and requiring that political advertisements list the 5 largest true funders of the campaign. Would you introduce and support such a measure in the state legislature?
2. Beyond such a measure, what should be done statewide to address the problem of big special interest money in our political system?

3. The Federal Election Commission recently wrote policy allowing financing by foreign interests in state ballot measures. Would you support enactment of state law banning such participation?
4. Should the Oregon Legislature adopt an Article V call for a conventional convention to amend the U.S. Constitution to declare that corporations are not persons, that money is not speech, and that campaign contributions and expenditures, at all levels of government, can be limited?
5. How would you change the redistricting process for the Oregon Legislature and U.S. Congress seats from Oregon?
  - a. Should Oregon adopt an independent citizen redistricting commission to draw districts for seats in the Oregon Legislature and U.S. Congress?
6. Which of the following changes to the initiative process could you support? Why/ Why not?
  - a. Should changes be made so that signatures can be gathered in conditions of pandemic and post-pandemic? What changes?

Oregon law requires that signatures be gathered by means of close personal contact. The circulator must “witness” each signature (must see the flow of ink onto paper) and must form a belief that the signer is an Oregon registered voter. People are naturally reluctant to accept being handed a clipboard that has been very recently handled by untold number of other persons. Circulators report that it is now much more difficult to gather signatures in Oregon on any petition..

- b. Should Oregon adopt the “initiative primary”?

With an initiative primary, proposed measures that have received some number of voter signatures would be printed in the Voters’ Pamphlet for the primary election, along with their ballot titles. The primary ballot would list each such proposed measure, and voters could affix their signatures on any of them by filling in the oval next to each one. Proposed measures receiving enough signatures would be placed on the November ballot.

- c. Should Oregon allow voters to sign petitions over the internet, similar to the way voters can currently change their voter registrations over the internet?
  - d. Should chief petitioners be allowed to mail out or otherwise distribute "single signature sheets"?

Today a single person who wants to sign a signature sheet for an initiative or referendum must sign it twice, and the instructions are confusing. Oregon used to have a type of sheet that accepted a single voter signature, but the Oregon Legislature in 2019 repealed it. The Legislature has never allowed such “single signature” sheets to be mailed to voters.

- e. Should state law require county clerks to place on the ballot all measures for which sufficient signatures have been verified?
7. Which of the following changes to the election system should be implemented? Why/ Why not?
- a. Should Oregon require that political ads identify the largest donors paying for them?
  - b. Should Oregon adopt a system of public funding of campaigns, similar to Seattle's voucher system or Portland's contribution-match system?
  - c. Should Oregon require that all elections be conducted using a form of instant runoff voting, such as ranked-choice voting or STAR voting?

### **Taxation/ Government Financing**

8. Many states are looking at creating public banks. Do you support the creation of an Oregon State Bank? Do you support legislation which would allow creation of municipal public banks?
9. How should Oregon's tax structure be changed in order to support the activities of the state?
10. Which of the following changes to Oregon's tax structure could you support? Why/ Why not?
- a. Should the state charge a business license (revenue) tax to apply only to the largest corporations with sales in the state?
  - b. Should Oregon eliminate the mortgage deduction on second homes? If so, should there also be a limit on how much of a primary residence value should be allowed to be deducted?
  - c. Should the Kicker system of tax refunds be eliminated or otherwise reformed? How? For individuals? For businesses?
  - d. How would you address the problem of corporations offshoring corporate profits in order to avoid paying state taxes?
  - e. Oregon grants tax credits to those in the lowest tax brackets. Should those credits be made refundable?
11. What should be done to or with the PERS system?
12. Oregon has a sort-of progressive tax system, although it has among the highest taxes upon persons living at or near the poverty level. Oregon still taxes the first dollar earned. Should that be changed, and how would that be done?
13. The Oregon Legislature in every biennium appropriates directly to the Democratic and Republican party "caucuses" in the Legislature approximately \$6 million. Should that stop?

14. Do you support or oppose changes in state child labor law, due to the shortage of workers in the era of COVID-19?

### **Small Business**

15. What measures do you believe the State of Oregon should adopt to help small businesses recover from Covid?

### **Farming/ Forestry/Agriculture**

16. In spite of the clear cutting rules put in place during the 1990s, clear cutting continues in our forests. What laws/policies would you support in this regard?

17. Two State ballot initiatives have been proposed - Protect Forest Waters from Clearcut Logging and Protect Forest Waters from Aerial Pesticide Spray. Are these ideas you support? Please explain.

Should new Confined Animal Farms (CAFO) operations in Oregon be banned; should existing CAFOs be forced to close down?

### **Rent/ Housing**

18. Describe how the Legislature should address the issue of homelessness and affordability of housing?

19. Oregon is said to have a problem of missing middle housing. How might that problem be addressed?

20. Oregon has a problem of housing the poor. How might that problem be addressed?

21. Which of the following Rental/housing measures from the 2021 Legislature would you support? Why/Why not?

a. HB2677: Remove the state preemption on rent control.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2677>

b. Support HB2367: Right to Rest Act.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2367>

c. End no cause evictions/close eviction loophole HB2372"

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2372>

d. HB2761: publish info on landlord/tenant contracts.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2761>

## **Public Safety**

22. Fifty Oregon Women of Color have signed onto a letter condemning People for Portland and calling on activists to support the movement for racial justice, including calling on the City of Portland to divest its militarized police force and prioritize public safety in ways that support and uplift people of color. What is your vision for the future of public safety in Portland?
23. Do you support repealing Measure 11, Oregon's Mandatory Minimum Law? If elected, what will you do to achieve this?

## **Transportation/ Infrastructure**

24. Oregon's Infrastructure needs some modernization. What should the priority types of projects regarding infrastructure be? How should those projects be paid for?
25. Methane production is a major problem with a large part of it being generated via the transportation system. What changes in the transportation system would you support to address this problem?

## **Climate Change/ Environment**

26. A Green New Deal has been proposed for Oregon. Would you support implementation of its seven policy proposals? Why or why not? What policies do you support for addressing the climate crisis by the state of Oregon?
27. Should the State of Oregon commit to 100% renewable electric generation by 2035?
28. Recently the City of Berkeley CA banned the use of natural gas in new low rise residential construction. Would you support such a ban by the State of Oregon?
29. A major source of climate-altering (and cancer-causing) emissions is diesel trucks, particularly delivery trucks operating in urban areas. Several European cities have banned diesel trucks and require deliveries be made with human- and electric-powered tricycles or quadricycles. Using such vehicles reduces emissions by over 90% (while also delivering packages faster and reducing parking problems and traffic congestion). Should Oregon cities restrict operation of fossil fuel-powered delivery trucks?

## **OHP/ Medicare**

30. What measures should the state legislature take to improve Medicare and/or the Oregon health Plan? Beyond what the State might do, what is your position addressing healthcare?
31. Should Oregon allow the importation of drugs from Canada in order to lower the price of drugs? What other proposals would you suggest to lower the price of drugs and medicines?

## **Miscellaneous**

32. Oregon has dispatched its National Guard to assist military operations in foreign countries. Is this an appropriate use of National Guard and Oregon resources?

33. Another state initiative has been proposed - Oregonians for Safe Gun Storage and Reporting Lost/Stolen Firearms. Is a law requiring safe gun storage a reasonable attempt at addressing gun violence in Oregon? Do you support safe gun storage legislation? What else, if anything, would you support to end gun violence?

34. Will you support either of these two proposed ballot initiatives concerning guns?

a. IP-17 (2022): Reduction of gun violence act:

[http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web\\_irr\\_search.record\\_detail?p\\_reference=20220017..LSCYYY](http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web_irr_search.record_detail?p_reference=20220017..LSCYYY).

b. IP-18 (2022) Reduction in harm from weapons act:

[http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web\\_irr\\_search.record\\_detail?p\\_reference=20220018..LSCYYY](http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elec/web_irr_search.record_detail?p_reference=20220018..LSCYYY).

35. Do you agree with the following statement about reparations:

a. "I think the mistake people sometimes make is that they think reparations is a story about slavery alone, but it's about looking at the legacy of the unfairness that exists."

b. Do you support convening a task force to examine slavery that existed in the United States, discrimination in the public and private sectors against those who were enslaved and their descendants, and the lingering negative effects of the institution of slavery?

The group would be empowered to recommend ways to educate the public on its findings and to recommend remedies. The group would also recommend how to issue a formal apology, how to eliminate discrimination in existing local and state laws and how to establish new programs, policies or projects to address the group's findings. The task force will also determine how any potential compensation should be calculated and who would be eligible, as well as additional forms of rehabilitation or restitution.

36. Do you support Oregon state Sen. Lew Frederick's Senate Bill 619 that reads in part, "The Department of Revenue shall establish a program to pay reparations to Black Oregonians who can demonstrate heritage in slavery and who submit an application to the department no later than December 31, 2022." [SB0619 \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](http://legislature.oregon.gov/SB0619)