

## Fighting Big Money, Empowering People: An Oregon Agenda

*As Oregonians, we share a strong tradition of independent government run of, by and for the people. We expect our government to serve us based on the consent of the governed, with voters, not money, driving decisions. We will not stand by and allow the corrosive influence of big money in politics and the corrupting force of partisan politics to go unchecked, drowning out the voice of the people and undermining confidence in government. We expect leadership that puts voters back at the center of our democracy.*

Oregon lawmakers should commit to these five principles of democracy:

1. Everyone participates;
2. Everyone’s voice is heard;
3. Everyone knows who is trying to influence our views and our representatives;
4. Everyone plays by fair, common-sense rules;
5. Everyone is held accountable, with enforceable penalties to deter bad behavior.

*If elected, will you endorse, prioritize and work aggressively to:*

**YES**

<p><b>LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF BIG MONEY</b> in Oregon politics, first by supporting a state constitutional amendment to authorize limits, then by setting an upper ceiling on how much a candidate can receive from a single contributor.</p>	X
<p><b>MAKE EVERYONE’S CONTRIBUTION MATTER</b> by establishing a public financing system in Oregon that amplifies small campaign contributions while reducing the reliance on large contributions.</p>	X
<p><b>ENSURE FULL TRANSPARENCY</b>, supporting removal of state constitutional barriers to transparency, then strengthening laws that shine a light on secretive political giving, by requiring “paid for by” statements on campaign ads and full disclosure of pass-through donations so that voters can “follow the money.”</p>	X
<p><b>PROTECT EVERYONE’S RIGHT TO VOTE</b>, in a modern, efficient, accurate and convenient state voting system that encourages participation, and discourages voting disparities based on race, age, geography or other demographics. Specifically, this includes expanding on New Motor Voter and opposing policies that make voting or voter registration more difficult.</p>	X
<p><b>PREVENT GERRYMANDERING</b>, that skews the relative voting strength of whole communities for partisan or incumbency advantage by putting Oregon’s redistricting process in the hands of a nonpartisan citizen’s commission and making the process fully transparent.</p>	X
<p><b>FIX THE FEDERAL LEVEL</b>, calling for a federal constitutional amendment to restore the ability of Congress and the states to set reasonable limits on the raising and spending of money to influence elections, including distinguishing between corporations and real persons.</p>	X

## COMMENT

Fixing campaign finance is very important to me, which is one of the reasons why I have worked with and supported every group working toward that end since I was elected to office. Having sponsored and championed the bills that have been brought to me by Common Cause has been a point of pride. To that end, I will continue working to ensure we have an even playing field; one that privileges groups that collect small individual donations rather than huge corporate payments.

I would add that I believe process is one of the most important aspects of lawmaking and I will support concepts that have been thoroughly deliberated. Making sure that they become fully formed and evaluated in committee with competing perspectives that consider all sides will reveal flaws and loopholes as well as provide remedies and improvements. If that process leads to more comprehensive constitutional changes we must consider that as well, up to and including a convention if that is where we must go.



**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 4/26/2016

**Printed Name:** Chris Gorsek

**State/District:** HD 49