

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:

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF BIG MONEY 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MAKE EVERYONE’S CONTRIBUTION MATTER by establishing a public financing system in Oregon that amplifies small campaign contributions while reducing the reliance on large contributions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENSURE FULL TRANSPARENCY , 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.”	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PROTECT EVERYONE’S RIGHT TO VOTE , 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PREVENT GERRYMANDERING , 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIX THE FEDERAL LEVEL , 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENT

I have always supported a state constitutional amendment to authorize limits on campaign contributions. Up to now, none of the proposals has been free of major problems. The ones in the Legislature have been unable to get the votes for a referral to the people. Measure 46 failed in an election because of its internal flaws.

The public finance idea you propose is one of several that could work and that I would support. Again, getting a majority of the Legislature or the people to support such an idea is not yet in the cards. I will be watching for an opportunity to get there.

The huge hole in Oregon's reporting laws is that "educational" non-profits do not need to reveal their donors when they make "educational" ads just before an election. That definitely needs fixing. I would support the "paid for by" idea if we can find a way to do it that does not unduly burden free speech. I will need lots of help to find that formulation. The details matter and only the right formulation will have a chance of passage.

I have always supported expanding the right and opportunity to vote. Voter ID cards and the like are abominable and must not happen. If you have specific ideas about how to further what Oregon has already done to expand the opportunity to vote, I am ready to listen and support them.

Attempts have been made in Oregon to move redistricting from the Legislature or Secretary of State to, for example, a group of retired judges. I would seriously consider your proposal. The difficulty for this kind of idea is always in the details and political support.

I fully support your idea about fixing the Federal level. Again, the difficulty is gathering the political support and then having a specific proposal that will work if implemented. Thanks for the questions. You will see, if you look, that my voting record since 2001 when I entered the legislature is consistent with these remarks above and with the thrust of your questions.

Keep pushing on these ideas. Some or all of them will eventually be adopted if our Republic is to survive. That will happen only if those who can see the need persevere over years and election cycles.

Signed: _____

Date: ___ April 6, 2016 ___

Printed Name: _____ **State Representative Phil Barnhart** _____

State/District: _____ **House District 11** _____