

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

COMMENT

We do not need to limit money in politics. We should instead limit the power of politicians to pass legislation that favors special interests. The Oregon constitution guarantees that "[n]o law shall be passed restraining the free expression of opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely on any subject whatever" -- which should and does include politics! Censorship of political expression is the MOST dangerous form of censorship, and must be vigorously opposed. Does suppressing political speech near elections inform the electorate, or keep them ignorant? Does limiting the freedom of people to criticize elected officials make those officials more accountable, or less?

I strongly oppose matching funds or any complete funding system. Per Thomas Jefferson, Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, "... to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors, is sinful and tyrannical; that even the forcing him to support this or that teacher of his own religious persuasion, is depriving him of the comfortable liberty of giving his contributions to the particular pastor whose morals he would make his pattern ..."

I strongly oppose the abandonment of privacy protections for political participation. We have secret ballots to protect honesty in elections. There is also room for anonymous political participation, to protect people from the social consequences of favoring unpopular groups or causes. The Federalist Papers and Antifederalist Papers were published anonymously specifically to focus the debate on the ideas rather than on the personalities. To hold up "disclosure" as the ideal is to play into the hands of fallacious identity politics, wherein speakers will be ignored based on who they are, rather than what they have to say.

For a more detailed explanation of my position, please visit my website <http://kylemarkley.org> and especially read my issue statement on campaign finance reform at http://kylemarkley.org/issues/campaign_finance_reform.html

Signed: *Kyle Markley*

Date: October 13, 2016

Printed Name: Kyle Markley

State/District: Oregon House District 30