

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

COMMENT

LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF BIG MONEY

In 2015 and 2016, I was one of the many sponsors of HJM 2, HJM 4 and HJM 201 that proposed different mechanisms for limiting campaign contributions. I agree in principle with a single contributor ceiling. Whether a state constitutional amendment is the best way I am less sure about.

MAKE EVERYONE'S CONTRIBUTION MATTER

Public financing is a worthy goal. We need a good system that is safe from fraud and abuse. Small contributions and less money in campaigns in general should promote more public debate and less direct mail which I think would be a good thing

ENSURE FULL TRANSPARENCY

ORESTAR is already a good tool for transparency in our state. Building on that system seems sensible

PROTECT EVERYONE'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Yes I agree that more access is better. The next project should be something approximating same day voter registration. Our current rules catch many would be voters off guard.

PREVENT GERRYMANDERING

This concept has merit. Figuring out how to organize an acceptable nonpartisan citizen's commission will need some careful thought

FIX THE FEDERAL LEVEL

Yes, fixing the harm done by Citizens United is needed. Again, whether a constitutional amendment is the best mechanism—I am not so sure. I am open to a thoughtful discussion however.



Signed:

Date: 4/28/2016

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