

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

The Citizens United Supreme Court ruling was a blow against democracy in our country. As things stand, our current campaign finance system allows large and special interest groups to wield a disproportionate amount of influence in our elections, overshadowing the voices of the everyday citizens that make our democracy thrive. This must be fixed and it is a goal that I am committed to.

No election should be bought by a minority, rather donations should serve to help candidates spread their message and their priorities, not leave a candidate beholden to the groups that have the most money. Looking at our current system, it is abundantly clear that there is a large disparity in people having an even say, determined strictly by finances.

That being said, the unfortunate reality is candidates are put in a difficult position where if they do not work within the current system their chances of winning and in turn their chances of actually implementing the changes our state and country needs for campaign finance reform are greatly diminished. My goal as a candidate is to win this election by running a forthright, grassroots campaign that follows the rules currently in place while focusing on community support and donations from the many people that make up my district and our state. Should I win the election, I will work hard to correct the imbalances within our campaign finance system and move the power in elections back to where it belongs, the people.

*Note on Question 5: There are risks and rewards for every system, and I would need more information on how such a commission would be selected, how the lines would be drawn, and by what criteria they would be examined. Without more information, there is a chance communities of color could be broken apart and, therefore, have less of a voice in their state legislature. I want to ensure voices of all communities can be heard clearly.

Signed: Janelle Bynum (electronic)

Date: 4/18/2016

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