

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

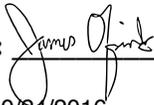
Regardless of the issue you care about most (for me it's wealth inequality, climate change, and racial justice) almost certainly the primary obstacle to positive change is the outsized influence of money in our political system. Our system has become so attuned to the interests of moneyed special interests, that all other voices are drowned out. That is why for the past ten years I have been working on bringing non-partisan public-interest democracy reforms to Oregon.

Through Common Cause and other organizations I have worked on getting big money out of our elections by overturning Citizen's United, establishing public funding for elections, and enhancing our disclosure processes. I went door to door advocating for Voter Owned Elections when we had that system in Portland and have continued to fight for changes that work to make all voices heard in our political process. Communities of color and young people are particularly disadvantaged by the institutionalized role of big money in our process, so there is also an equity component to these efforts.

As the founding Chair of the Redistricting Matters Coalition I helped pass two bills in the Oregon Legislature improving our redistricting process and fought for the establishment of an independent commission to decrease excessive partisanship of the process. At the League of Women Voters I am leading efforts to bring alternative (and more representative) methods of voting to our state. I also led a team through Hack Oregon to create a more robust interface for the public to see and interact with campaign filing disclosures (<http://btc.hackoregon.org>).

Democracy improvement is one area that differentiates my opponent and I. These types of reforms are easy to support in words alone, but I have a proven record of doing the actual work, whereas she has accepted tens of thousands of dollars from special interests that routinely lobby the Oregon Legislature. If we want to see real movement on these issues then we must send independent reformers like me to Salem.

Signed:



Date: 10/24/2016

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