

Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee 2005 Platform

Children, Families & Communities

Government has a responsibility to maintain livable, viable, safe communities. Government has an obligation to be supportive of all individuals and families, including those who cannot provide for themselves. This assistance must be designed to foster individual dignity and independence. We support changes to the Social Security System that strengthens its financial viability and we oppose any changes that weaken the security provided, including privatization. We support policies providing basic human rights of shelter, food and medical care. We affirm the constitutional guarantee of equal privileges and immunities for all citizens, including their rights to form families.

Education

In order to secure the best future for our state and the quality of life for its residents, we support maximizing lifelong educational opportunities for all students and the commitment of resources necessary for universally accessible, unsurpassed excellence in public education at all levels.

Energy

Oregon must lead the nation in energy efficiency, renewable energy technology and energy independence. Oregon imports 80% of its energy including fossil fuels. We must reduce fossil fuel dependency by increasing energy efficiency of homes, businesses and vehicles, producing more renewable energy and encouraging alternative modes of transportation. More public investment in efficiency, conservation, renewable and emerging technologies would create jobs, benefit the environment, promote national security, keep dollars in Oregon and increase tax revenue.

Environment & Natural Resources

We support natural resource management programs that provide for a sustainable and healthy economy and environment. We support protecting, strengthening and enforcing Oregon's and the nation's policies ensuring clean air and water, safe waste disposal, community recycling, land use planning, biological diversity, global warming reduction, energy efficiency and viable and sustainable agricultural and forestry sectors.

Foreign Policy

We advocate a Foreign policy that respects the sovereignty of the people of all nations and cooperates with the United Nations in the effort to promote peace and international

security, safeguard the environment, promote economic justice and protect human rights, which are central to the formulation and implementation of foreign policy.

Government & Election Reform

All eligible voters must have the opportunity to vote and have their vote counted as cast. Our society must ensure that elective office is available to all candidates regardless of their personal wealth or that of their associates. We support reform of campaign finance and electoral processes to work toward these goals. We believe that double majority elections and term limits are contrary to participatory democracy. We are committed to increasing voter participation in elections.

Health Care

We believe all people should have access to quality, affordable and comprehensive health care, including mental health care. We also believe it to be the responsibility of government to insure a comprehensive public health system. And, finally, we support accountability of all health care dollars.

Human rights, Civil Liberties and Justice

We support protection against discrimination, universal access to civil and criminal justice, and the freedom to worship as protected by the separation of church and state. We support the fundamental rights guaranteed by our State constitution, the Federal Bill of Rights and the UNUDHR. We support extending these rights to all people regardless of citizenship, and honoring Native American Treaty Rights.

Corporations as legal entities shall not be granted US Constitutional rights.

Labor

A healthy and sustainable economy is essential to Oregon. We support the rights of workers everywhere to organize, to bargain collectively, to strike if necessary without the threat of permanent replacement and to hold jobs that provide essential benefits and family wages. We oppose “Right To Work For Less” initiatives and legislation. We support diversity in Oregon’s economy, access to child care, affordable housing, and incentives to small business and programs that promote a skilled and educated work force.

Public Safety

Personal and community safety is a fundamental right. We reaffirm a constitutional right to privacy. We support a criminal justice system that protects the rights of both the victims and the accused. We support effective rehabilitation programs and victim

restitution. We believe that economic opportunity, education, community responsibility and involvement and meaningful consequences are key elements to preventing crime.

Revenue Policy

We believe a system of revenues and services which increases the incomes of the poorest members of our society is the greatest engine for economic strength to benefit all. We support a progressive and fair mix of revenue that provides adequate funding to meet Oregon's commitment to quality education and to other essential services. Working people, who participate productively in the economy, should not bear the tax burden for those with unearned income. Similarly, individuals should not bear the tax burden disproportionately to the taxation of corporations.

Transportation

We advocate safe comprehensive, affordable, energy efficient and environmentally sound methods and transportation plans that support rail, light rail, marine, air, roads and alternative transportation infrastructure in Oregon and the United States. Maintenance on current transportation infrastructure should be funded to ensure the public safety.