

Policy Issues of Interest

Personal Political Values

As your elected representative in Salem, I will:

Support all legislation that makes Oregon a better place to do business by reducing regulations, fees, and other impediments to business creation, as well as create incentive structures for communities that are objectively probusiness.

Always support lowering taxes and capping tax rates for retired seniors. I will never vote to increase taxes. Instead, I will seek to identify savings in the budget. Oregon needs to learn to live within its means. Should a tax be proposed out of fiscal necessity, I pledge to only support referring it to the ballot so that all Oregonian taxpayers can decide.

Support Oregon's natural resource industries – major drivers and employers in Oregon, especially in Senate District 6;

Support greater public access for hunting, fishing, and recreation on public lands;

Support Oregon working families' ability to buy a home and build equity in their community;

Restore faith in our elections by securing our elections. We can accomplish this by requiring voters to prove their identities, conduct robust post-election audits to ensure accurate counts, and prohibit ballot harvesting;

Always support family freedom and parental choice when it comes to the child's welfare and education, and I vow to oppose and work against Democratic initiatives that seek to facilitate gender-affirming care in minors, and transgender women playing in female sports.

As a father of two, I will vote to support life and bringing children into the world. I will also support incentives and initiatives that help mothers during and after pregnancy.

As a gun owner who relies upon a firearm for personal safety while managing livestock, I will always support and defend your right to own firearms.

I someone who has served the homeless and the poor, I will always keep and maintain a compassionate and understanding heart when it comes to helping them, but I believe that everyone must be held accountable for actions that negatively affect our society, such as public drug use.

Support our police officers and public safety personnel.

Support our farmers and ranchers by reducing regulations that cause farmers and ranchers to incur additional costs, support initiatives that secure our food supply, and support efforts to expand and preserve family farms and ranches for generations to come.

Legislative Goals

HB 3115 Exemption

This policy seeks to enable cities and counties from having to adhere to the mandated regulations imposed under HB 3115, which effectively made *Martin v. Boise* the law of the land in Oregon. Cities that invest in homeless services and prevention should also have the right to mitigate against the harmful effects of homelessness to their local businesses and residents. As someone who has worked in the homeless nonprofit space, I believe nothing is more injurious to the efforts of homeless service providers than to create a system where it is okay to exist on the streets, as you want, doing the things you want (i.e. drugs), without so much as a city's ability to move you. Oftentimes, the effect of moving someone's camp is just enough of a push to eventually influence them to seek services, sobriety, housing, and employment. Here's an example: Cities with populations of 100,000+ that spend 0.5% of their budget on homelessness and homeless prevention can use law enforcement and code enforcement to move people and clean up encampments; cities with populations of 25,000 or less that spend .25% of their budget, etc. The development of this scale would be done with comprehensive input from mayors and city managers to ensure fair and achievable scales. Cities would not be required to spend money on homeless services, but cities that are should not be expected to invest large sums of money into services without being able to balance the needs of all residents, nor create reasonable accountability among people who take advantage of homeless services.

Expand SB 1013 to Address Affordable Housing

SB 1013 was passed to make it legal to rent space for a recreational vehicle, to a permanent tenant, on properties zoned rural residential. This opened roughly 3,600 available spaces in Lane County alone. Conversely, some cities and counties are spending \$350,000 to \$450,000 per unit for affordable housing in the form of taxpayer subsidy, and rents are still higher than \$1,000, whereas RV space is commonly much cheaper (e.g. \$500 - \$600). This law strikes a nice balance between affordable housing that is semi-permanent, and it is truly affordable. Moreover, it should reduce our need to spend tens-of-millions of dollars annually in taxpayer subsidies to private developers to build new affordable housing units. Expanding this existing

legislation to F2 and EFU zoning makes sense. Moreover, many farms on EFU-zoned land would greatly benefit from this form of farmworker housing.

Shift Some Affordable (Rental) Housing Funding to Sustainable, Revolving, Loan Funding that Repays the Taxpayer

Shift some of the available funding in the current budget for affordable housing to cheap, simple-interest loans to help working Oregonians become homeowners. Too much money is being spent to build too few affordable rental housing units. And, let's face it, being a renter does nothing to build equity and generational wealth for your family. Too many working families are unable to purchase a home due to downpayment requirements, coupled with today's high interest rates. Increasing available funding for 0% down, 2.6%-3.6% simple interest loans would dramatically increase the number of working families achieving homeownership. This fund, once seeded, using a portion of existing affordable housing money in the budget, would also regenerate itself overtime, thus removing the need to go back to the taxpayers for more subsidy year after year.

Matching Baby Tax Credit Funds

The Trump Administration is has rolled out a substantial tax credit for newborn babies and children under the age of 8 with his "One Big Beautiful Tax Bill." As Oregon wrestles with population decline/stagnation, a state tax credit match should be considered to incentivize family creation. We should take a good look at our budget, identify overspending and waste, and roll out this legislation in such a way that keeps the budget balanced. This tax credit could also target new mothers to incentivize more women to bring life into the world.

Creation of a Pro-business Oregon Index

Every year, the State of Oregon spends hundreds of millions of dollars in state subsidies to cities and counties for the purpose of economic development. Meanwhile, large, and small businesses alike are leaving the state at alarming rates. Many of these cities and counties that seek economic development funding are considered obstructive to business creation. The creation of a scoring index for each city and county's ability to create a business-friendly environment should increase that city's prioritization for the economic development subsidies that are available. Scores can be based on things like permit approval timelines, reducing service development fees, locally funded business attraction/liaison positions, high scores on surveys from area businesses, etc.

Create Sobriety Cells in County Jails

While it may seem heavy-handed to jail drug users, it is perhaps our only way to getting our arms around Oregon's increasing drug use and, more consequentially, fentanyl use. Without a consequence for using drugs, nor a physical environment to get clean and sober, people will do drugs with impunity and regularity. I think we should have a public conversation about automatic incarceration when someone is repeatedly found to be doing drugs in public. Namely, when a repeat drug user is found to be doing drugs in public, they are brought to a special section in the county jail, separate from the general population, that is a place that is safe, secure, and free of drugs. When we discuss jail, we think of something bad. But done right, the addict – *and I mean addict* – can finally be placed in an environment that will grant them the *opportunity* to see life through a sober, healthy lens. For example, a mandatory 30-day stay for a second-time offender; a 60-day stay for a third time offender (these are just examples – the actual time should be determined by best practices and medical practitioners). Further, upon release, their offense would be expunged. There would be no impact to their permanent record and, thus, their future hireability. A program like this would provide a necessary consequence for drug users (but one that does not have a life-long impact on their permanent record), and it would give them the opportunity to remember what life feels like clear-headed and sober.

End Oregon's Catch & Release Policy

Senate Bill 48 established lenient judicial guidelines to release people arrested for felonies and effectively did away with a judge's ability to set bail. This policy has resulted in too many people being released on their own recognizance, putting the Oregon public at risk. Moreover, this is one bill that continues to erode the concept of accountability, which seems to be increasingly ignored in our society today. If you are arrested for a felony or Class A Misdemeanor, you should be held until trial or be required to put your skin-in-the-game by way of posting bail. If you commit a crime, there should be a consequence to deter further crimes being committed.

Housing Stability for Seniors

This would require a close evaluation to the fiscal impacts to local governments, but I believe this issue merits a thorough evaluation, with the goal of implementation. As seniors age and retire, their income typically stays relatively stagnant while property taxes and other living expenses increase. These are people who have worked their whole lives, contributed, and produced. They deserve to not have to worry about rising property taxes and have the peace of

mind to live out their days in the home they worked so hard to obtain. I would like to explore capping their property tax rate at the Social Security age of retirement. Meaning, once they begin their draw on social security, they get a lifelong exemption from any increases to their local property tax rate.

Ensure Oregon Small Oregon Farms Remain Free of CAFO Laws

In 2023, the Oregon Department of Agriculture took unilateral action – without legislative vote or involvement – to interpret a standing CAFO law, which stands for confined animal feeding operations, and began serving cease and desist orders to dozens of very small family farms. These orders directed small family farms to stop operations until they developed a wastewater management plan. One example is Cast Iron Farm, which has 2 cows, 6 goats, 9 sheep, and 2 ducks. In Cast Iron’s case, it took over five months of back-and-forth with the department to finally arrive at a wastewater management plan that consisted of trapping their dairy cow’s wastewater in the milking parlor and dispose of it appropriately. The kicker: this all came down to five, five-gallon buckets worth of wastewater. Small family farms were outraged, and understandably so. This was an unbridled example of government overreach. Currently, the ODA has reversed its decision, but it is withholding the right to re-institute it. I want to make sure this does not happen. Most family farms operate with minimal profit, if any at all. Such bureaucratic overreach completely flies in the face of their freedom to provide locally sourced food for their family and their community.

Better Auditing and Transparent Reporting of State Departments

The state budget is complicated. It is dense, opaque, and not very easy to understand. Does it get publicly provided every year? Yes, but what is provided is not simple and easy to understand for busy, working people. The average citizen does not have the time to sift through the budget information, and nor do most of us have the public accounting skills of a certified public accountant to clearly understand it. As such, I believe we should create better system that audits every department on an annual basis, then make the information available in an easy-to-understand summary.

Support Parental Choice and Family Decisions

As a father of two boys, I was outraged by House Bill 2002, which gave the state the right to usurp the will of parents and help facilitate gender-affirming care in minors. Yes, that’s correct, the state can help a minor change their sex without the parent’s consent. This is diabolical in my

mind, and this kind of agenda must stop. But it hasn't, recently a bill was proposed (HB 4088), which will allow out-of-state minors (as young as 15 years old) to be able to travel into Oregon to receive abortions and gender-affirming care. If elected, you have my word, I will oppose bills like this and fight to protect kids and family choice on all matters pertaining to children, their bodies, and their wellbeing.

End Sanctuary State Status

During the Biden Administration, approximately 11,000,000 illegal immigrants crossed the border illegally. While we have had both legal and illegal immigration in the past, we have never seen anything like this before. To me, it is tragic. Had I been born in another country, I would try my hardest to get to America and become a citizen here, so I could raise my children here. This is the best country in the world. But the tragedy lies in the fact that we have not set up a reasonable and reliable process to take immigrants in numbers our government systems can sustain. Meanwhile, the Biden Administration created a false sense of hope and a dangerous situation for the United States, with many crossing who brought criminal tendencies with them. I oppose sanctuary status because we want our local law enforcement to be able to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to target and target dangerous individuals who are in our communities illegally. Moreover, I believe some of the dysfunction and danger present in Minneapolis is due to the fact that local law enforcement has been sidelined. Immigration law is federal law. Laws are not to be picked and chosen when it's convenient. They are there to be obeyed and upheld. If we do not like the law, then anyone is free to lobby Congress to change federal laws. But to pretend they do not exist, or to openly act against our laws, erodes away at the integrity of all our laws.

Secure State and Local Elections

We know that our electoral process is not as secure as it could be and is vulnerable to voter fraud and bad faith practices, such as ballot harvesting. While mail-in voting was intended to make voting more accessible and convenient, it has resulted in inaccurate and sloppy practices at best and opened the door to voter fraud at worst. Perhaps most consequentially, mail-in voting has caused too many people to lose faith in this process and distrust it. And for that reason alone, we need to steer elections to a process that restores that faith and ensures lasting trust. The winners of our elections, regardless of our parties, should be the undoubted winner. To do this, we need to secure our elections by requiring a government issued ID to vote. Moreover, we need to conduct post-election audits and prohibit the practice of "ballot harvesting." If elected, I will support these reforms to restore faith in our elections.

Federal Collaboration Issues of Interest

Better Utilize one of Oregon's Greatest Funding Resources: Our Timber

At one time, timber harvesting was one of the biggest and best funders of our schools and roads, and the largest source of jobs in the state. However, things like the Habitat Conservation Plan, and the obstacles to harvesting Oregon and California Rail Lands (O&C) means that fewer dollars are available for roads and schools, resulting in the Legislature raising your taxes, and returning less Kicker money to you. Why are we leaving this money on the table (or, I should say, on our hills)? We need to utilize the natural resources we have to fund the things we need and stop relying on taxes to fund these government services. If elected, I will form a delegation to meet with Doug Burgum, the Secretary of the Interior, to clear obstacles to increased harvesting of O&C lands.

Restore Oregon's Commercial Salmon Fishing Industry

Commercial fishing in Oregon is big business and is the lifeblood of many small coastal communities. But even though commercial fishing continues to bring in high dollar catches every year, Oregon fishermen are leaving the space at an alarming rate. High fuel prices, bait prices, dockyard fees, and insurance rates (if you can get it), are being met with declining fisheries. Namely, Salmon. The Salmon fishery used to be a lucrative opportunity for fishermen, but not anymore, due to the extremely limited fishery. We like to point to damming of streams and toxins in the rivers as a huge factor in Salmon's decline, but little is mentioned of Oregon (and the West Coast's) exploding seal population. In the early 1900's, there were an estimated 25,000 seals along the Oregon Coast. Today, that number has grown to more than 600,000. Oftentimes, these seals can be found at the mouth of major rivers, such as the Columbia, where they grab the salmon during their runs. When the seal population is high, the salmon population is understandably lower. We need to work with the federal government and provide supporting legislation that seeks to better manage the seal population, just as we manage other fisheries and wildlife. I propose that we have a seal season, where the public can purchase tags, with the proceeds funding a bond and insurance pool for the fishermen who are being kicked out of ports and harbors for a lack of insurance; due not to their willingness to buy it, but because their wooden vessels are too old and deemed uninsurable by insurance companies without survey – if at all. This would enable fishermen to purchase sufficient insurance to meet port requirements, fund vessel removal and fuel spill containment, and ensure a thriving salmon fishery once again.

Corner Crossings

Many public lands in Oregon are not accessible to the public, and they should be. When viewing a map of Oregon, you will find a checkerboard of public land across the state (predominately BLM land), all connected by corners. However, crossing from one block of public land to another is prohibited, cutting Oregon hunters and recreational enthusiasts off from millions of acres their tax dollars contribute towards. In the past, this was done because conventional maps made accurate crossings difficult to pinpoint, resulting in trespassing onto private lands, which resulted in private landowners having to spend substantial sums to secure their private lands. But today, with the advent and abundance of GPS mapping technology, we can know exactly where we are within mere feet of accuracy. I would like to work with the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies, timber companies, and large private land holders to identify a safe and responsible way for the public to access their lands via respectful and accurate corner crossings. One example that comes to mind is that every corner crossing is allowed within a fifteen-foot public easement extending on either side of a property's surveyed fulcrum point.

Restore Responsible Antibiotic Use on Farmland

Recently, the FDA banned the over-the-counter sale of all livestock antibiotics, resulting in farmers and ranchers having to call a veterinarian every time an animal gets injured or sick and requires antibiotic treatment. On my own farm, this has caused a substantial increase in the amount of money we are spending on veterinarian care, and it has also caused an increase in the death rate of our livestock. Before, if we had a calf with scours, we knew what to do: give it electrolytes, vitamin B, and two hits of LA-200. But now, even though we know what to do, we have to pay for a full veterinarian visit, and we typically pay emergency visit rates. What once cost us \$60 to treat a calf with scours now costs us about \$400. This is a perfect example of one cut in a "death by a thousand cuts" that farmers and ranchers quietly deal with every day.

Non-legislative Goals

People's Voice PAC

Even though the Oregon Legislature is predominately Democrat, I would argue that most Democratic Legislators are out of touch with most Oregon voters, particularly the motor voters in the middle. I believe that part of this is because Oregon legislators and their legislation is, for the most part, out of sight and out of mind of voters in the district. Nevertheless, Oregon Democrats seem to pass legislation that most Oregon voters would not vote for had these laws been proposed as measures on the ballot. I would like to be involved in the formation of, and fundraising for, a political action committee that would raise money to gather signatures to put a measure on the ballot every two years that undoes a particularly egregious or offensive bill the Democrats passed during the legislative session. Hopefully, this would not only result in the repeal of said law but, overtime, it would likely send extreme Democrats in the legislature a clear message that some off these extreme laws are not supported by a majority of Oregonians – hopefully leading to a moderating effect that could result in fewer extreme laws, fewer taxes, and elevate the profile of Oregon Republicans as defenders of the public interest.

I would be willing to form this committee, and do the coalition building around it, or I would be happy to lend my time and support to current leadership, should they wish to take this up.

Other Areas of Interest

Repeal or reduce the Corporate Activity Tax to create a more business-friendly Oregon that can attract and retain businesses. While this is probably difficult to do given the current political makeup of the legislature, perhaps explore shifting the tax from a percentage of gross income to net income, or increase the threshold.

Work to reduce the negative impacts to school district funding by removing or amending the Western States Habitat Conservation Plan.

No new taxes, period. Oregon needs to live within its means, which is ample. New tax revenue should come from the creation of more businesses and jobs paying pre-existing tax rates.

Support fire mitigation by leasing out public lands for livestock grazing. “Log it, graze it, or watch it burn!” Also explore controlled burns to reduce and remove thick underbrush.