

Washington County Democratic Party 2022-2023 Platform

PREAMBLE

As Washington County Democrats we recognize that the inherent dignity and inalienable rights possessed by all members of humanity are the foundation of our shared freedom, of justice, and of peace in the world. We recognize our rights and responsibilities to each other as residents of our local, state, national and global communities. We recognize our environment as a system that is critical for human welfare and we are dedicated to sustaining a healthy planetary environment. We will work tirelessly to carry these values into law and welcome all who share them to join us in our struggle for equity, openness, sustainability, and true democracy. We commit to creating a more equal and sustainable society now and for generations to come. We condemn the long legacy of racial, religious, economic, appearance, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender, and ethnic prejudice, and the subjugation, segregation, genocide, and exploitation of minority communities that is still too prevalent. We strive to counteract the institutions and laws that perpetuate those many forms of hate and discrimination with specific affirmative actions.

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ARTICLE I: CIVIL RIGHTS/SANCTUARY

Washington County Democrats believe all persons have these rights: adequate healthful food, secure housing, quality behavioral and physical health care, clean air and water, freedom from servitude, freedom of movement and belief, quality education, personal security, opportunities to succeed, marriage to whomever they choose, and death with dignity. Oregon is a mosaic of different cultures and we value the economic, social, and cultural benefits to society from various indigenous and immigrant groups. We reject xenophobic scare tactics, religious litmus tests, and ethnically disparaging racial rhetoric. Both documented and undocumented residents have civil rights that we defend.

1. We believe all identifiable groups, including minority communities and communities identified with gender and sexual identities, must be guaranteed full human rights.
2. We believe institutional racism can and must be eliminated through anti-racism work at all levels of society.
3. We believe in universal and affordable access to public services.
4. We believe that no person should be subjected to arbitrary interference with their family, home, or correspondence privacy, whether analog or electronic.
5. We affirm the right of all persons to self-determination without coercion.
6. We believe that all consenting adults should have an equal right to civil marriage
7. We support the use of governmental funds and services to promote human rights and human welfare, protect the environment, and promote civil society based on the rule of law.
8. We support substantive discussion and action regarding reparations for situations of historical oppression and slavery.
9. We oppose the death penalty.
10. We believe refugees of war, violence, religious persecution, and natural disasters should be welcomed by a nation as deeply rooted in immigration as ours.
11. We believe undocumented immigrants who have not been convicted of serious crimes should have a path to legal residency and eventual citizenship.
12. We affirm the right of Birthright Citizenship as defined in the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.
13. We support Oregon's legal sanctuary state status.
14. We believe exploitation of undocumented workers is ethically wrong, drives down wages, and degrades working conditions.
15. We oppose the privatization or for-profit operation of public immigration assistance services.
16. We oppose any travel ban based on religion, ethnicity, or nationality.

17. We believe that reducing gun violence requires a holistic approach that addresses the social, economic, and public health components.
18. We acknowledge that many non-human animals can feel pain and fear and humans have a responsibility to avoid causing that suffering whenever possible.

ARTICLE II: ECONOMIC JUSTICE/THE ECONOMY

Washington County Democrats value a fair economy where everyone has the opportunity for remunerative employment. We hold that all workers deserve a living wage, equal pay for equal work, and the right to unionize. We believe taxation and revenue expenditure policies should reflect the economic needs and conditions of our region and should be governed by the principles of transparency, fairness, equity, and efficiency. Actions to reduce or raise taxes must consider potential impacts on education, social services, the environment, and the infrastructure.

1. We affirm the right of all workers, public and private, to organize, free of intimidation and coercion, for collective bargaining for fair work rules, fair hiring practices, living wages, just cause protection of employment, and safe working conditions.
2. We believe that all persons with disabilities have a right to fulfilling work, inclusion, and an equitable standard of living.
3. We believe all Oregonians have the right to a dignified and secure retirement.
4. We believe corporations must function as ethically run, responsibly regulated, and progressively taxed entities that contribute their fair share to Oregon's economic prosperity.
5. We recognize the importance of Oregon's agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors and support sustainable management of natural resources.
6. We believe in supporting small businesses by removing unnecessary barriers to starting new businesses.
7. We believe financial institutions and large corporations that are "too big to fail" or anti-competitive are detrimental to the sustainability and equitability of our economy, and therefore should be regulated or divided into smaller entities.
8. We believe in a progressive tax structure and transparent and responsible spending policies that promote the common good.
9. We believe that no individual or corporations should be able to conceal the transfer of funds to avoid tax liability.
10. We believe special tax incentives for business development must require demonstration of measurable benefits to the community.
11. We believe taxation and spending policies should be used to promote social and economic equity, to protect the environment, and to mitigate climate change.
12. We believe eminent domain should never be used in the absence of a demonstrated public need.

ARTICLE III: HEALTH CARE

Washington County Democrats believe that healthcare is a basic right and should be available to all those who need it. We believe that modern medical advancements related to disease prevention and treatment of pathologies, including holistic treatments, must be available to all people regardless of ability to pay.

1. We support the adoption of a publicly funded, equitable, high-quality, comprehensive single-payer health care system that includes general, preventative, emergency, and long-term care, plus vision, dental, hearing, disability, and mental health services.
2. We support treating drug addiction as a public health issue with full funding for the comprehensive treatment of substance use disorders.
3. We support all efforts to make quality, free mental health services available to all.
4. We believe in the importance of, and adequate public support for, community health care centers.
5. We support attention to the social determinants of health in the development of all health care systems.
6. We believe all school districts should provide school-based physical, dental, social work, and integrated behavioral health programs, including reproductive health services.
7. We support guaranteed access to reproductive healthcare for all, including medically accurate sex education, transgender healthcare services, pre- and post-natal care, birth control, and abortion, regardless of ability to pay.
8. We support ready availability of physical and behavioral health services for all veterans, including those who served in the National Guard.
9. We believe that equity in health care access and quality of care needs additional effort at all levels of service and support.
10. We believe that people have the right to choose their health care providers.
11. We support all science-based efforts and recommendations from county, state, and federal agencies, including efforts to increase pandemic vaccination rates and to enhance our resistance to and recovery from epidemics.
12. We believe misinformation is a serious threat to public health as it can cause confusion, sow mistrust, harm people's health, and undermine public health efforts.
13. We believe that pesticides, including herbicides, can pose unacceptable health risks and should be strictly regulated by the federal government and the state of Oregon

ARTICLE IV: EDUCATION

Washington County Democrats value and demand equal, sound, effective, and fully funded public education for pre-K, K-12, post-secondary, and career and vocational training be made available to all. We recognize that quality education increases our economic well being, promotes civic engagement, enriches personal lives, and is necessary to adapt to changes. Public schools provide the skills and knowledge that are the foundation of a thriving democracy. Every child deserves a quality education.

1. We believe our public educational systems must have sufficient, equitable, stable, and sustainable public funding to ensure a high-quality education and full curricula for all students
2. We believe public funding for K-12 education should be provided only to public schools.
3. We believe basic education and career training at public schools, colleges, and universities should be tuition-free for all Oregon residents.
4. We believe strong academic and career education policies and programs, including vocational rehabilitation, are necessary to ensure people are prepared for job opportunities in the 21st century economy.
5. We support comprehensive public education curricula that include science, mathematics, social studies, the humanities, the arts, physical education, economics, and career education with lessons and materials that are fact based and age appropriate.
6. We support curricula that which include ethnic studies addressing the diversity of Oregon students, study of the Holocaust and the history of genocides, and application of this learning to current values and actions within the school community in a way that uplifts every student.
7. We strongly support evidence-based human sexuality education that provides students all information recommended by educational experts
8. We believe basic skills such as financial awareness, reading, writing, reasoning, and critical thinking should be emphasized throughout the curricula.
9. We believe that counseling behavior, education, social-emotional issues, careers and improved attendance should be available to all students.
10. We believe good student nutrition promotes learning and therefore students in K-12 schools should receive a free breakfast and lunch each school day; when schools are not in session, students should be given a packet of food to take home.
11. We insist on the full, effective protection of all student data, including mental health records, to assure information privacy and prevent exploitation.
12. We believe that all students and families deserve community-supported programs that enhance educational opportunities.
13. We believe all district and state student assessments must provide useful and timely feedback that identifies student strengths to classroom teachers.

14. We believe quality education requires a diverse teaching staff of all races, ages, genders, and beliefs trained in current best practices and compensated sufficiently to recruit and retain effective professionals.
15. We believe that class size has a major effect on student success and achievement and support class sizes that comport with best educational practices.
16. We support recommendations for a caseload of 250:1 for school counselors and school social workers.
17. We believe that school buildings should be safe for students and staff; they should be cleaned regularly, have sufficient heating and cooling with proper air circulation, and spaces should be large enough to accommodate appropriate use without crowding.
18. We believe that no students should face violence or any form of bullying in school or in transit between home and school.
19. We believe that quality, safe, and affordable transportation should be provided for all K-12 students.
20. We believe that elementary schools should have safe playgrounds with covered areas for inclement weather.
21. We believe that classes that require special equipment should have sufficient equipment in good working order for students to use.
22. We believe that schools should have security measures to restrict admission to school buildings by non-staff and non-students.
23. We support the availability of basic health services and mental health workers in K-12 schools.
24. We support the right of licensed teachers and classified staff to collective bargaining, and we oppose the outsourcing of substitute teachers and other school employees to third-party staffing agencies.
25. We respect the rights of parents, teachers, administrators, and school boards to have a meaningful voice in determining the application of curricula as adopted by the state of Oregon and implemented by the school districts.

ARTICLE V: A JUST LEGAL SYSTEM

Washington County Democrats believe that we need a justice system that equitably serves all. We recognize that weaknesses in the system have been historically exploited to systematically oppress Native Americans, communities of color, economically disadvantaged populations, immigrants, women, incarcerated populations, people with disabilities, and people with varying gender and sexual orientations. Prisons must remain public, not-for-profit, and focus on compassionate rehabilitation, restorative justice, and re-entry services.

1. We defend every individual's right to freedom from mass surveillance, search, seizure, and arrest, unless authorized by a specific probable cause warrant.
2. We believe that a primary goal of the corrections system should be rehabilitation, and we support the use of a restorative justice model.
3. We believe rehabilitation works best when offenders are reintegrated into the community with support, supervision, and services.
4. We believe that public support for experienced and qualified legal representation for low-income, marginalized, and disenfranchised populations is an integral part of criminal justice.
5. We oppose racial profiling, prosecutorial overcharging, excessive fee and bond levels, coercive plea-bargains, biased jury selection, and sentencing practices that disproportionately impact ethnic groups and the disadvantaged.
6. We support the movement to reform cash bail and to make pretrial carceral decisions based on risk rather than financial means.
7. We believe an independent, legally constituted oversight body is necessary to ensure prosecutorial and law enforcement accountability.
8. We believe that review of prosecutorial and police misconduct must be thorough, allow all exculpatory evidence, and provide for criminal penalties, with provisions for legal mitigation, compensation, and/or restoration to victims.
9. We affirm that justice is better served when judges have discretion to apply sentences based on the unique and demonstrable circumstances of each offender, crime, and victim.
10. We believe neither local law enforcement nor the public should be equipped with military armaments.
11. We believe that all law enforcement personnel should receive ongoing training in de-escalation, in cultural, mental health and disability awareness, and in due process.
12. We oppose laws that can be used for profiling, including those that mandate people carry their legal papers.
13. We believe all inmates should receive health care at least equivalent to Basic Medicaid/Medicare.

ARTICLE VI: GOVERNMENTAL INTEGRITY/GOVERNANCE

Washington County Democrats believe in open and responsive government and elections that are fair, transparent, easily accessible, and publicly supported. Every citizen deserves accountable representation at every level of government. We hold the right and responsibility of all eligible persons to vote as an essential foundation of our democracy. We are committed to transparency, accountability, integrity, competence, honesty, and citizen participation in government.

1. We believe in democracy
2. We believe that corporations are not people and money is not speech.
3. We affirm the principle of separation of church and state.
4. We believe the right of assembly and free speech must be available to all in accessible and safe locations without undue restrictions or conditions.
5. We support a transition to publicly funded elections at all levels.
6. We support the direct election of the US President and Vice President through a national popular vote.
7. We support automatic voter registration at all levels, and we believe all persons should have an accessible vote by mail option.
8. We believe in maximizing voter participation in all levels of government and political parties.
9. We oppose gerrymandering and support a fair and politically unbiased redistricting process after each census.
10. We support federal campaign finance reform, including a constitutional amendment to remove the undue influence of money in politics.
11. We believe that elections nationwide should have verifiable paper trails and verifiably secure voting infrastructure
12. We believe all presidential and vice-presidential candidates should be required to release the most recent 10 years of their federal tax returns to the public during their initial/primary campaign.
13. We support impeachment investigations of any elected official who has, prima facie, significantly violated the Constitution or who has obstructed justice regarding matters of state.
14. We support civil conduct at all meetings and the protection of all public officials who encounter threats, bullying, or interference with their appointed duties.
15. We believe that individuals and corporations should be required to publicly account for funds, including donors, used for political activities, including but not limited to direct political campaign contributions, advertising intended to influence a political campaign, lobbying activities related to pending or potential legislation, and negotiations with respect to the application of regulations.
16. We support a strong and independent free press.

ARTICLE VII: SUSTAINABILITY/CLIMATE CHANGE

Washington County Democrats understand that a healthy, sustainable, and resilient Oregon environment is essential to our high quality of life. The air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we live on deserve our protection and conservation for current and future generations. We recognize that long-term land use planning, sustainable infrastructure, and wise protection of our natural resources are critical for sustainability and livability in Oregon and Washington County. We therefore believe that local, state, and federal governments should play a large and aggressive role in protecting the quality of our environment.

1. We believe climate change is a global crisis caused by human activities and that we must take immediate actions to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and to adapt to the climate change that is now occurring.
2. We urge all state and local agencies to quickly develop and implement climate action plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use natural climate solutions to sequester atmospheric carbon.
3. We support the basic principles of a federal Green New Deal that envision a rapid transition to a sustainable energy economy.
4. We believe the public should be educated about the hazards of extracting, transporting, and combusting fossil fuels.
5. We support modifying the Oregon's regulated forest practices to improve sustainability, protect water quality and quantity, and emphasize carbon sequestration.
6. We believe that changes in Oregon land use laws should always consider, as primary considerations, the reduction of greenhouse gases and the goal of no net loss of farmland, forestland, and rangeland.
7. We oppose the development of Oregon waterways and coastal regions for the export of fossil fuels.
8. We support the use of solar and wind turbine energy, as well as other renewable energies, on public and private land, for the production of clean energy.
9. We support investment in public transportation systems that address future needs; reduce fossil fuel use; and are safe, efficient, and accessible to all.
10. We believe that adaptive restoration and maintenance of wildlife habitats must be a high priority in sustainable land use management.
11. We believe that protections for native endangered and threatened species improve ecosystem sustainability and should be enhanced and enforced.
12. We urge that the value and stability of natural habitats be considered to be of high value when decisions are made with regard to extracting gold, lithium, and other mineral manufacturing resources.

13. We believe that water rights should remain under public control and these laws should be strictly enforced, and we support efforts to optimize the efficiency of water usage in Washington County and throughout Oregon.
14. We oppose large-scale conversions of public lands to private ownership, and support the protection of local, state, and federally designated parks, wilderness areas, resource lands, and recreation areas.
15. We believe scientifically based marine reserves are necessary to protect and sustain our ocean resources.
16. We strongly support efforts to improve water quality, soil quality, air quality, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat in the Tualatin River watershed, throughout Oregon, and across the nation.
17. We support affordable locally grown food and the increased adoption of plant-based diets.
18. We support the promotion of sustainable agriculture practices; we support funding for educational and technical support to farmers, fishers, ranchers, and consumers.
19. We support laws that require polluters to remediate the land and water to a non-toxic state.
20. We believe that the environmental wealth of Washington County and Oregon is measured by more than purely economic values.
21. We believe mineral extraction can harm the environment and should be closely regulated.

ARTICLE VIII: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Washington County Democrats recognize that we live in a world with a high dependence on technology and the application of science in everyday life. We believe that science must be a fundamental basis for policy. We believe in advancing science and science education for the benefit of all. We believe that open and fair access to communications technology is an essential pillar of our democracy.

1. We recognize that an open and neutral Internet is necessary to protect free speech and prevent the rise of despotism.
2. We believe every person should have affordable high-speed Internet access regardless of geographical location or income.
3. We recognize that we need solutions for workplace displacement caused by automation and applications of artificial intelligence.
4. We believe that peer-reviewed, openly available scientific research is essential to our society.
5. We oppose natural organism gene patenting.
6. We believe in the Precautionary Principle in the application of biomedical, genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, facial recognition, and surveillance technologies.
7. We believe genetically engineered foods require a precautionary approach that includes the utmost care in testing, science-based regulation, and full disclosure through labeling.
8. We believe that personal data created by a person should be owned by that person and informed consent should be required to use that data for any purpose not intended by that person.
9. We support the regulation of collection, sharing, retention, and selling of information about individuals to third parties.
10. We believe that the United States should be actively involved in peaceful space and solar system exploration and that NASA should be adequately funded for this purpose
11. We believe that machine learning and artificial intelligence can reflect society's biases and that care should be taken to reduce or eliminate those effects.
12. We support continuing technical education to create a technically literate society.
13. We believe that everything possible should be done to end robocalls and protect consumers from Internet and phone scams.

ARTICLE IX: GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

Washington County Democrats recognize that our responsibilities extend beyond county, state, and national boundaries and that our national interests require global cooperation. We support the use and primacy of diplomacy and negotiation to resolve international conflicts and promote peace.

1. We support the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights; we support non-violent approaches to promote change in countries that are perpetuating violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. We support high global standards for labor, environmental protections, and meaningful citizen and labor organization participation in the negotiation of trade agreements.
3. We support work to stop nuclear proliferation, nationally and globally.
4. We support treaties that ban chemical and biological warfare and landmines.
5. We believe the US must honor ratified treaties.
6. We believe that the US must honor the sovereignty of other nations, including indigenous nations within the US.
7. We support the use of non-military foreign aid and technical assistance to address regional and national crises, particularly regarding assistance to developing countries in achieving climate resilience
8. We support the United Nations and will work to make it more democratic.
9. We believe the US must actively oppose genocide, torture, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and religious and political persecution worldwide.
10. We reaffirm our commitment to honor the Geneva Conventions regarding torture, rendition, indefinite detention, detention without charges, and extrajudicial executions.
11. We believe that major displacements of people from their communities constitute international humanitarian crises that demand immediate attention.
12. We support the establishment of clearly defined and rigorously maintained standards for congressionally authorized use of military force.
13. We oppose selling or giving weapons to nations or groups that violate human rights.
14. We support requiring military procurement to be domestically sourced.
15. We support the principle that the defense budget must be in line with realistic military threats to the US, and therefore should be significantly reduced.
16. We oppose space and near-Earth orbit militarization.
17. We believe we should significantly reduce the number of US troops stationed abroad who are not currently serving as diplomatic support or as part of a NATO or UN-backed peacekeeping mission.
18. We oppose nation building and regime change as foreign policies.

19. We believe the US should avoid acting unilaterally in military affairs overseas.
20. We support a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict negotiated directly by the parties to the conflict.
21. We believe all people worldwide have a right to clean public drinking water and sufficient nutritious food, and we support efforts at all levels to accomplish this goal.
22. We believe Puerto Rico must be allowed to choose its own future through democratic means.
23. We believe sufficient quantities of anti-pandemic vaccines should be provided to all peoples in all nations.