# Washington County Democrats Platform

2024-2025

Draft

## PREAMBLE

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. As Washington County Democrats we will work tirelessly to carry these values into law. We 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, 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

Article 1: Civil Rights and our Civic Environment
Article 2: Environment, Climate Change, and Housing
Article 3: Education and Human Development
Article 4: Healthcare and Human Welfare

# Article 1: Civil Rights and our Civic Environment

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 reject and condemn all ideologies that perpetuate discrimination, inequality, and hate. We oppose racism, misogyny, ableism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, antisemitism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, fascism, and other ideologies that undermine social well-being, freedom, and safety.
2. 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.
3. We support Oregon's legal sanctuary state status.
4. We believe institutional racism can and must be eliminated through anti-racism work at all levels of society.
5. We affirm the right of all workers, public and private, to organize, free of intimidation and coercion, for collective bargaining for fair work rules and hiring practices, living wages, just cause protection of employment, and safe working conditions.
6. We believe in a progressive tax structure and transparent and responsible spending policies that promote the common good.
7. We believe that our public defenders deserve a liveable wage and a reasonable caseload.
8. We support the movement to reform cash bail and make pretrial incarceration decisions based on risk rather than financial means.
9. We believe that corporations are not people and money is not speech.
10. We support the civil conduct of all meetings and protection of all public officials who encounter threats, bullying, or interference with their appointed duties.
11. We support Oregon's Automatic Voter Registration and Vote by Mail system.
12. We oppose the use of facial recognition software in policing, government services, and public spaces.

# Article 2: Environment, Climate Change, and Housing

Washington County Democrats believe that society thrives when all people are able to live safely, comfortably, and with dignity. We believe in the deeply interconnected nature of the Housing and Climate crises, and seek solutions that address both. 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 support public sector involvement in promoting housing first policies and expansion of services for solving the houseless crisis
2. We support the phasing out of fossil fuel powered vehicles and devices at the earliest opportunity, and oppose the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure.
3. We recognize the importance of Oregon's agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors and support sustainable management of natural resources, especially with respect to carbon sequestration, climate adaptation, and wildlife habitat.
4. We support the management of forests and the wildland-urban interface to reduce the occurrence and impact of wildfires.
5. We support mixed use development in higher density communities.
6. 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.
7. We support expanding investment in our Light Rail systems, including WES and MAX; and expanding bus services to all corners of our county.
8. We believe that when considering financial support for our transportation, including roads and transit, regional and community equity should be high priority.
9. We support locally grown food and the increased adoption of plant-based diets.
10. We believe that changes to Oregon land use laws and their implementation should primarily be based on the conservation of farm, forest, and natural lands.

# Article 3: Education and Human Development

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 person deserves a quality education.

1. We believe basic education and career training at public schools, colleges, and universities should be tuition-free for all Oregon residents.
2. We support a comprehensive public education curriculum that includes science, mathematics, social studies, the humanities, the arts, physical education, economics, and career education; lessons and materials should be fact based and age appropriate.
3. We believe funding for K-12 education should be provided only to public schools.
4. We believe that teachers should be paid a livable wage.
5. 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.
6. We recognize that we need solutions for workplace displacement caused by transitioning to new technologies, including off of fossil fuels or displacement due to artificial intelligence.
7. We support full funding for public and school libraries, including full access to scientific and technical journals.
8. We oppose the banning of books, including those addressing Gender Diversity and Black and Native American history ,among other topics.

# Article 4: Healthcare and Human Welfare

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 oppose the death penalty.
2. We support measures that increase gun safety and reduce gun violence.
3. We support Healthcare for All.
4. We support the broad dispersal of Wrap Around Services for people in need around the State and County.
5. We support the expansion of Abortion Services, Reproductive Health Services, Gender Affirming Care, and legal protections for those either providing such services or seeking out that care.
6. We believe that all people should have a livable wage, paid sick leave, paid family leave, and access to affordable housing and health services.
7. We support public health mandates, and all businesses and local governments should be made to comply with such mandates arising from a certified public health crisis.
8. 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.