



2018 Jackson County Democratic Party Platform

These Articles are listed alphabetically, with Criminal Justice and Social Justice & Fundamental Human Rights being alphabetized as Justice, in no preferential order.

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Jackson County Democratic Party, seek a better future for the present generation and for those to come. This platform is a guide to the principles and positions by which we intend to fulfill that commitment. We recognize our rights and responsibilities as citizens of our local communities, our state, our nation, and the global community. Further, we hold that every person is guaranteed the rights to life, liberty, equality, safety and the pursuit of happiness. Finally, we express our confidence that every one of us can maintain these rights while sustaining and strengthening the interdependent web of life on this planet.

ARTICLE I – Affordable Housing

We believe Oregonians should have access to affordable housing which meets their needs in a fair and equitable manner. To this end, we hold that government must prioritize coordinating its organizational, creative and financial resources with individual citizens and advocacy groups, as well as the nonprofit and for-profit housing sectors to maintain existing housing while creating new projects to meet the ongoing, ever-changing housing needs of Oregon's people.

ARTICLE II – Education

We support universal access to effective, equitable and well-funded public education from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary studies, including vocational and career training. We recognize that quality education increases everyone's economic well-being, promotes responsible community involvement and enriches lives. We strongly believe that well-funded public schools build key life skills and knowledge while providing cultural, social, civic and vocational experiences, which serve as the foundation for a functioning democracy.

ARTICLE III – Energy, Transportation and the Environment

We realize that making Oregon’s environment healthy, sustainable, and beautiful is critical to maintaining our high quality of life. We live on a finite planet with finite resources populated by life with finite resiliency to modern human activity, and we live with the effect of an ever-accelerating assault from human-caused interference with the climate. We value the benefits provided by sustainably managed forests and rangelands, clean rivers and lakes, high-quality air and drinking water, as well as a healthy ocean. We, therefore, believe prosperity is dependent on substantive environmental health. We support the development of renewable energy resources and efficient modes of transportation that reduce pollutants, while simultaneously insisting that our biodiversity and public lands be strengthened. We believe that supporting long-term social and economic justice is an essential component of assessing the environmental impact of land development and resource extraction and that a healthy environment is essential to a healthy society.

ARTICLE IV – Foreign Policy and National Security

We understand that our personal responsibility extends well beyond our local, state and national boundaries and that our national security depends primarily on diplomacy and maintaining good relations with the global community. We recognize the inherent dignity and the inalienable equal rights of all human beings. We recognize the impact and size of the national security and military budget and its negative impact on domestic spending and the general welfare of the nation. We propose domestic spending and the general welfare of the public be prioritized in the budget process.

ARTICLE V – Good Governance

We are committed to open and responsive government. We recognize that the task of sustaining our democracy and responding to the challenges posed by evolving technology and the world economy requires common effort, compromise and diligence. We are guided by the wisdom and genius of our founding principles and the Constitution. We believe corporations are not people and money is not speech. We are committed to the basic truth that humans have inherent rights while the rights of corporations are derived from and defined by government of the people. We believe that participation and influence in the political process should not be determined by one’s economic status. We hold the right and responsibility of all eligible persons to vote is an essential foundation of our democracy.

ARTICLE VI – Health

We affirm the right of all individuals to high-quality, comprehensive and affordable healthcare throughout their lifetimes regardless of factors including, but not limited to, their race, immigration status, country of origin, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, economic status, physical or mental ability, health, or religious beliefs, including no religious belief. Services should be provided in an easily-accessible manner addressing the full spectrum of healthcare including physical, mental and rehabilitative services, seamlessly interfacing with people’s social needs and well-being.

ARTICLE VII – Immigration

We celebrate that our nation is made up of diverse cultures and we value the benefits brought to our society by immigrants and refugees. We stand firm against xenophobic, prejudiced and racist immigration rhetoric and policies. We strongly support a policy affirming family unifications and a policy which includes a path to citizenship regardless of an immigrant’s country of origin.

ARTICLE VIII – Criminal Justice

We support equitable, humane treatment for everyone regardless of factors including, but not limited to, their race, immigration status, country of origin, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, economic status, physical or mental ability, health, or religious beliefs, including no religious belief. We believe that all members of the judicial branch of government and law enforcement at all levels must honor their oaths to uphold the constitutional rights of anyone in the state of Oregon. This includes the rights to due process, presumption of innocence and access to competent legal counsel regardless of the ability to pay. We oppose the privatization of the criminal justice system.

ARTICLE IX – Social Justice and Fundamental Human Rights

We insist that all people be protected by our constitutional guarantees to the inalienable rights of life, liberty, equality, safety and the pursuit of happiness regardless of factors including but not limited to race, immigration status, country of origin, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, economic status, physical or mental ability, health, or religious beliefs, including no religious belief. We further hold that a person’s rights to life and the pursuit of happiness include the right to healthcare and the freedom to make personal end-of-life decisions. We believe that a woman’s right to make her own reproductive healthcare decisions must never be infringed upon, including but not limited to upholding the tenets of Roe v. Wade.

ARTICLE X – Labor, Business and Jobs

We believe people derive personal dignity through work. Accordingly, we promote a business economy which contributes to individual and collective growth. To advance economic justice within our local communities and state, we encourage the sustainable growth of small businesses and encourage cooperatives and employee ownership. Further, we strongly believe workers are entitled to a living wage indexed to inflation, the right to organize and the right to work in a safe environment free from intimidation and retaliation. We promote larger-scale community investment and supportive economic policies which foster and protect small businesses from unfair competition, particularly from large multinational corporations. Inherent in our definition of honest capitalism is a commitment to the long-term sustainability of our natural environment.

ARTICLE XI – Revenue and Taxation

We deeply value the principles of fairness, efficiency and economic mobility. In order to advance these principles, we insist on a progressive tax system to promote economic justice, health and stability by ensuring that businesses and wealthy individuals pay their fair share, always within a fiscally responsible framework.

ARTICLE XII – Science and Technology

We believe that science should form the basis for many of the decisions that government makes, particularly regarding health and the environment. We believe that evidence-based research in science and technology are cornerstones to the future of humanity. We welcome innovation in all scientific arenas but are aware that the Precautionary Principle – a social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm whenever science has identified a plausible risk – must be applied in order to avoid problems caused by misapplication of new technological capacities. We understand we are at the frontiers of discovery and change in the medical, informational, artificial intelligence, robotics, and space sciences and recognize that our global integration requires greater attention to societal impacts and the need to share discoveries worldwide. We believe that an open and democratic Internet is critical to both technological progress and to democratically-functioning open and free societies.