

Betsy Johnson's record on key issues

Analysis furnished by [COIN Oregon](#) (Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network)

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1. Guns

- a. There is a reason she has an A rating from the NRA and is called "Machine Gun Betsy".
- b. She is a long time member of the NRA and has worked to carry out its agenda of guns regardless of safety.
- c. Betsy Johnson voted consistently *against* nearly all gun safety measures.
- d. She was the ONLY Democrat to vote *against* the law to allow schools, airports, and the Capitol to prohibit guns. **SB554**
- e. Betsy voted *against* the law to require safe gun storage when guns are not in use. **HB 2510**
- f. Betsy voted *against* background checks for private gun sales.
- g. She voted *against* keeping guns out of the hands of intimate partners convicted of abuse or stalking. Even Republicans in Congress now support this law known as closing the boyfriend loophole.
- h. Betsy has protected guns over people and gun safety.
- i. TheBetsy voted *against* red flag laws, including laws to keep guns out of the hands of people determined by a court to be at risk of suicide.
- j. Betsy opposed a bill to fund pilot mental health screening programs for high school students, yet blames gun violence on mental health issues.
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB782>

- k. Betsy also opposed a bill to fund crisis intervention or peer respite services that would provide voluntary overnight stays for people suffering mental illness or trauma.
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB680>
- l. Betsy has so far ignored a request from Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Tina Kotek, to participate in a forum on gun violence prevention despite the increasing deaths and injuries from gun violence.
- m. Any claim by Johnson now that she is in favor of gun safety is simply not credible and shows she will say anything to get elected. Betsy is bad for Oregon.

Resources on Betsy's gun record:

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/46663/betsy-johnson/37/guns>

<https://oregoniansforethics.com/>

<https://www.corporateboughtbetsyoregon.com/#Betsy-Johnson-Gun-Control>

<https://pamplinmedia.com/fgnt/36-news/388195-278405-senate-passes-bill-to-strip-guns-from-stalkers-abusers>

<https://www.bojack2.com/2022/05/betsy-johnson-has-machine-gun.html>

<https://www.wweek.com/news/state/2022/05/31/pro-gun-rights-as-a-state-senator-betsy-johnson-now-open-to-gun-control-in-bid-for-governor/>

<https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2022/06/oregons-independent-gubernatorial-hopeful-betsy-johnson-is-among-the-states-most-elite-firearms-enthusiasts-machine-gun-owners.html>

https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2018/02/boyfriend_loophole_cowards_let.html

2. Voting Rights

- a. Betsy Johnson is no friend to democracy. She has voted *against* making voting more accessible for registered voters.
- b. Betsy even voted no to Oregon's first in the nation and highly successful automatic voter registration system. With our automatic voter registration system, people are registered to vote automatically when they first go to a government agency like the DMV, for example. Automatic voter registration helped increase voter participation to over 90% in Oregon! Yet Betsy opposes this.

- c. Betsy also voted *against* allowing ballots to be postmarked rather than actually received by the election date. There's no reason to oppose this other than to make it harder for people to vote. HB2687
- d. Betsy Johnson voted *against* postage prepaid ballots, another way to make voting easier particularly for people who may have difficulty getting to the post office.

3. Workers' rights/ families/health care

- a. Betsy Johnson is no friend to workers or families.
- b. As a millionaire who has never had to worry about whether or not she'll have a roof over her head, Betsy has time and time again shown a callous disregard for the needs of Oregonians.
- c. Betsy voted *against* an increase in the minimum wage that was modest and went into effect over a period of years. The minimum wage she voted against varied depending on location. It is not even \$15.00 and in some places is as low as \$12.50 per hour. Betsy did not want workers to earn even these low wages which is not enough to pay rent let alone support a family.
- d. Betsy voted *against* paid sick leave for employees, compounding racial disparities
 - i. Not having paid sick days is a significant barrier to health care access.
 - ii. Paid sick leave prevents communicable disease and helps families obtain timely, preventative care for children and elderly family members.
 - iii. It has been shown that paid sick leave controls health care costs because people are much less likely to use the emergency room for their health care which drives up costs.
 - iv. A lack of paid sick leave creates a public health risk; people come to work when they are sick and maybe contagious because they can't afford to miss a day of work or fear they will lose their jobs if they miss work.
 - v. Workers who are sick are more likely to be injured at work because they can't focus as well and have less physical capability.
 - vi. Studies have shown that workers without paid sick days are less likely to get medical care which can prolong illness and turn minor health problems into major ones.

vii. Workers without paid sick days are less likely to be able to get preventative services as they cannot take time off from work.

viii. Workers without paid sick leave most often end up in emergency rooms for their health care which means more cost for federal health care programs like Medicaid, Medicare and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

ix. Workers without paid sick days are also more likely to send their children to school when they are sick. Children whose parents don't have paid sick days are less likely to get preventative health care and more likely to get health care from an emergency room visit because their parents can't take time off to visit the doctor during work hours.

x. In voting against paid sick leave, Betsy Johnson was willing to put the health of Oregon families and communities at risk, make health care less accessible for working families, and increase health care costs for taxpayers.

- e. Betsy voted against allowing workers the right to join a labor union.
- f. voted *against* a law Betsy voted *against* a law prohibiting employers from penalizing employees for discussing wages.
- g. Betsy voted *against* health care as a right for all Oregonians.
- h. Betsy opposed a bill to fund pilot mental health screening programs for high school students.
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SJR12>
- i. Betsy opposed a bill to fund crisis intervention or peer respite services that would provide voluntary overnight stays for people suffering mental illness or trauma.
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB680>
- j. Betsy blocked background checks for day care operators and their employees.
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB49>
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB50>
- k. Betsy opposed a law allowing undocumented workers to obtain drivers' licenses.
- l. Allowed a bill to require overtime pay for farm workers to die in her committee. This bill finally passed and became law soon after she left the legislature in 2022.
- m. Betsy opposed the mask mandates for the public including in schools and also opposed vaccine mandates for health care and state workers.

<https://twitter.com/senbetsyjohnson/status/1490788744793935878> -
<https://www.wweek.com/news/2022/03/09/we-asked-candidates-for-governor-who-should-be-required-to-get-a-covid-shot/>

4. Climate and pollution

- a. Betsy Johnson accepted donor money from the Koch Bros.; her other donors included corporations and individuals also representing the timber industries, oil and gas companies, and real estate development. Her largest donors include \$150,000 from a subsidiary of oil and gas distribution company Global Partners, which has holdings including a terminal in Clatskanie.
- b. It is no surprise, then, that as a state legislator, Betsy Johnson not only failed to show leadership, she worked to kill any bill to address the climate crisis. She has sided with the large polluters rather than the people of her district – those communities on the coast, in rural areas, and in small cities who would greatly benefit from improved energy efficiency and a transition to an economy based on renewable energy. Not to mention the benefit from averting severe damage to our health, our natural resources, and economy from the climate crisis.
- c. Betsy voted no to bills to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and move towards clean fuels and renewable energy.
- d. Betsy voted no to bills that would develop Oregon's renewable energy industries.
- e. Betsy Johnson voted no to establishing incentives for electric vehicles like more charging stations and help for low income purchasers.
- f. Betsy Johnson voted no even to developing Oregon's biodiesel industry which would mean reducing fossil fuel use and carbon emissions.
- g. Betsy has consistently supported coal, voting no against the clean fuels programs and phasing out coal and voting no against the law that prohibits new coal plants and coal imports into Oregon.
- h. Betsy opposed even updating energy efficiency requirements for appliances.
- i. Betsy opposed protections for low income utility rate Betsy was happy to support a bill that would have doubled logging in Oregon's state forests. The bill she supported would have destroyed our state forests and their important role in sequestering and storing carbon from the atmosphere.
- j. payers.
- k. BBetsy supported bills to undermine wetlands protection.

- l. Betsy opposed Oregon's new program to hold producers of plastic packaging responsible for the costs of recycling plastic waste. The idea is that producers will use less packaging and help promote recycling.
- m. Betsy opposed a bill to ban the use of styrofoam packaging.
- n. In the midst of severe, continuous drought conditions, refused to support data collection on ground water resources so that future planning/policy could be fact-based.

Resources on Betsy's climate and pollution record:

<https://www.corporateboughtbetsyoregon.com/#Climate-Obstruction>

<https://oregoniansforethics.com>

[Johnson OLCV 2021Score.docx](#)

[Johnson OLCV 2019 Score.docx](#)

5. GOP and Timber Unity and other extremist ties

- a. Betsy Johnson has associated herself enthusiastically with Timber Unity which was founded to protect the political interests and profits of timber company owners like Andrew Miller and which has many ties to Proud Boys. Timber Unity supports an extreme right wing agenda. Timber Unity PAC has consistently supported GOP candidates and was named the Oregon GOP's No. 1 affinity group in 2020. and the 3 Percenters. Timber Unity PAC is now run by Angelita Sanchez who along with Proud Boys and 3 Percenters, participated in the Jan. 6 insurrection. Betsy received an award from Timber Unity for opposing legislation to reduce carbon emissions, increase energy efficiency, and transition Oregon to an economy based on renewable energy.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kh9gAK8w_vo
- b. Though she ran initially as a Democrat, Betsy Johnson worked as a state senator to support the GOP agenda. The GOP stopped running candidates against her after 2010 because she is basically one of them. In fact, in 2018 Johnson registered to run for state senate as a GOP write-in candidate.
- c. Reproductive freedom is at risk, now more than it has been for 50 years. The Republicans want a ban on abortion in every state and may seek a federal ban. Betsy Johnson claims she's "unequivocal" on abortion rights. Yet, Betsy has chosen Bridget Barton as a key campaign aide to help her get the GOP vote. Barton opposes the right to abortion; she doesn't think

women have the agency or the right to make private decisions about their own pregnancies. Barton wants the state or federal government to deny women reproductive freedom and force pregnancies on them. Is this Betsy's plan for Oregon? To take away or weaken our laws protecting a woman's right to abortion access and reproductive freedom? Why else would she give Barton such a key position?

<https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2022/05/complaint-alleges-dark-money-nonprofit-supporting-republican-gubernatorial-candidate-bridget-barton-violated-federal-tax-law.html>

<https://www.koin.com/news/elections/betsy-johnson-unequivocal-on-abortion-rights/>

<https://dpo.org/news/press-releases/bridget-barton-betsy-johnson/>

- d. Betsy has chosen extremist Republican, Bridget Barton, for a key campaign position. Barton opposes abortion rights and has refused to acknowledge the results of the 2020 presidential election, instead supporting the Big Lie that led to the Jan. 6 insurrection and attempted coup. A dark money nonprofit that supported Barton when she ran for governor is being investigated for tax law violations.
- e. Nike co-founder Phil Knight, has donated at least \$1.75 million to Betsy Johnson's campaign. He has given another \$1 million to a GOP PAC to elect GOP. He clearly sees Betsy Johnson as a GOP.
- f. Corporate interests have provided 70% of her campaign contributions.
<https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2019/06/these-are-the-democrats-who-didnt-support-oregons-climate-bill-who-gave-them-money.html>
- g. Her record and her contributions show she will not be "loyal to the people of Oregon" as she promises, but to the corporations which she has protected and benefitted from.

6. Treatment of constituents/Lack of leadership and not a moderate

- a. Johnson was a very divisive state legislator. She had a reputation for refusing to meet with or respond at all to letters or emails from Democratic constituents in particular. For those of us who caught up with her in the hallway or elevator at the Capitol, or on the phone, she typically said "save your breath".
- b. From 4/27/2019 to 8/9/2021: Cheryl sent 7 emails to Sen. B Johnson and received no response to any of them.
- c. In the past several years she never held town halls and issued no newsletters or constituent emails, refusing to provide any written summaries or explanations of her actions taken on legislation.

- d. Johnson's home district includes some of the most vulnerable to devastation by tsunami yet she refused to push emergency preparedness equipment that would allow coordinated communication between responders. How will she stand up for Oregonians when she hasn't protected her own district?
- e. Betsy is NOT a moderate. As a legislator, she has largely pushed the GOP agenda. She ignored and refused to communicate with constituents who supported legislation she opposed. (See a., b., c above) It is laughable for her to suggest now that she can "bridge divides".
- f. It cannot be stressed enough that Betsy Johnson had years of opportunity to lead the state of Oregon as a representative, as a senator, and especially as the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee. She spearheaded no groundbreaking legislation, implying current conditions are perfectly acceptable, or worse, letting her supporters think we could/should go back to the old ways of doing things. She repeatedly blocked important legislation, calling them good ideas, poorly executed. But never did she fix the "execution" to create good ideas, properly executed. She talked as though these bills were just not good enough. So, now, as she runs for governor, we need to recognize SHE is just not good enough.

7. Homelessness

- a. Johnson criticizes big cities, especially Portland, for their inability to address the growing population of unhoused individuals, calling them "tent cities". Clatsop County, in her district, has the highest per capita homelessness population in the entire state of Oregon. If she bothered to drive through Astoria or Seaside, she would see tents on community sidewalks. She has done nothing for her own district to combat homelessness.
- b. She has not spearheaded any legislation when she had the power to do so to address homelessness issues. In fact, she allowed funding for peer respite services for individuals suffering mentally illness or acute trauma, a key component of homelessness, to die in her committee. One of these centers would have been in her own home district.
- c. Blocked extension for a program authorizing Department of Justice to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with housing needs, another key cause of homelessness among women and children.
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB271>

8. Racial/Social Equity

- a. Opposed police reforms that would decrease the racial disparities in policing procedures during traffic stops, ban police from lying during interviews with minors, and restrict police aggression during civil protests
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB2002>
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB418>
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB621>
- b. Sided with landlords to allow no-cause evictions to continue.
- c. Betsy actually co-sponsored a bill to allow and encourage schools to use Native American names as mascots.
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2013R1/Measures/Overview/SB215>
- d. Opposed allowing transgender athletes to participate in girls sporting events.
- e. Voted against reduced energy rates for low-income customers.
- f. Voted against driver licenses for undocumented workers.
- g. Refused to act on legislation to compensate those wrongly convicted and legislation to pay agricultural workers overtime wages. These are just two examples of the many bills Johnson allowed to die in committee. These two were quick to pass after Johnson removed herself from office.
- h. Studies in other states show clear racial disparities in disciplinary actions in K-12 school systems yet Johnson refused to support the collection of data regarding school suspensions and expulsions in Oregon schools.
- i. Multiple studies across the country have demonstrated how minority children end up underrepresented in programs for gifted and talented students. Procedures for eliminating this discrimination have been successful in other states. Yet, once again, Johnson refused to support a bill that had bipartisan backing to direct school districts to use racially inclusive and effective methods for identifying talented and gifted children and communicating with parents about the process for identifying these children.
- j. Supported the continued discriminatory testing practices of the Dept of Ed that result in disparities in high school graduation rates

VIDEO RESOURCES:

CorporateBoughtBetsy videos:

<https://www.corporateboughtbetsyoregon.com/videos>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUEiaxNHB3yrNYOWOKB24eQ>

Oregonians for Ethics video: <https://oregoniansforethics.com>

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Betsy - Bad for Our Oregon

<https://www.facebook.com/BetsyBad>

Twitter: @boobetsy22

<https://www.instagram.com/betsybadfororegon/>

Corporate Bought Betsy

<https://www.facebook.com/corporateboughtbetsy>

Twitter @CorpBoughtBetsy

<https://twitter.com/CorpBoughtBetsy>

Oregonians for Ethics

<https://www.facebook.com/OregoniansForEthics>

Twitter: @orforethics

<https://twitter.com/orforethics>

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/NorthCountyNews/permalink/3375720249315528/>

https://psuvanguard.com/betsy-johnson-is-independent-in-name-only/?fbclid=IwAR3COIV2SDmwhEIMMTQChgBNiCxFbxPOIvuHeGsE2FpGQntdpR_LXCg-TII

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/betsy-johnson-extremist-oregon-governor-race-1234579086/?fbclid=IwAR0RwIYPDmDDjGY3F15DAe64PAyyr0xVWT2pFjY8pUDoj4rRI9PLOp4hM8>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02sfivj6JT9HMBU2M88kUCTsusWYDDrRcB15zUEJiPsoUHrbKuXN5JLW8AoBHboQhl&id=100066573595024

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02LTFdKcQ4HAtzAG2nMD2HQmSSSThCXe6u7q75Bei85fuVBzXMJi2a8Cfc5ZSwApyEI&id=100081583310969

https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2022/08/longtime-legislative-staffer-for-betsy-johnson-repeat-edly-voiced-hateful-views-online-toward-black-muslim-and-lgbtq-people.html?fbclid=IwAR26vdxmK83ejQZjoPETAc7cJP5aS-UBL1ynA6_ZACElswS3NkuTDSO_HE

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02ygE9z9kfDcFLQwYq9sq1HuzhaPtZEhQbpANL8Yt9L6v6A2x65gNC5nAtSmb8aTLcl&id=100081583310969

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid07wfMSJqbd5x2QuW1W4sFS58kjaY7nj36hAJvH1vL6a6ZhJJsYZobsEMp7cdcHxnCl&id=100081583310969

<https://www.corporateboughtbetsyoregon.com/videos/v/betsy-johnson-climate-votes?fbclid=IwAR1zwtvPQLF9-6oBJ-ZOWFIghod6KFwh-hAo-Ruf2Pdt7IUw5mEVzPNgNKM>