

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OREGON
EDITION

VOTERS' GUIDE

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GENERAL ELECTION *VOTERS' GUIDE*



OREGON VOTERS' GUIDE 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OREGON

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Nonpartisan Voters' Guide is published and provided free of charge by the League of Women Voters of Oregon. This is a FREE NONPARTISAN ELECTION REPORT for Oregon's November 3rd, 2020 General Election. Qualified candidates for US Congress and statewide Oregon offices were invited to answer questions prepared by the League of Women Voters of Oregon. Candidate replies are printed as received, free of edits. Candidates are listed in the order provided by Oregon Elections. Visit lwvor.org for more information.

The Talking Book and Braille Library at the Oregon State Library helped to pay for audio and large print **Voters' Guides**. They send audio or Braille versions of this guide to registered users at the request of the Oregon Secretary of State. Contact them at [1.800.452.0292](tel:18004520292) for more information. For a complete and updated League events list, visit Vote411.org.

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FIND MORE ONLINE

Large print, audio (read aloud), screen-reader accessible and Spanish Voters' Guides are posted at our website lwvor.org/voteoregon. For your specific ballot choices, go to Vote411.org and enter your address.

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION AND ADDRESS

Register or update your voter registration at oregonvotes.org. Your address must be correct. Ballots can NOT be forwarded.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 13:** last day to register to vote, or to update your mailing address so your ballot can arrive on time.
- **October 15-25:** ballots arrive by mail. If you do not receive your ballot by October 26, contact your county elections office at the phone number below.
- **October 28:** mail ballot by this date so it arrives at your elections office by November 3rd. No postage is required to mail your ballot. Otherwise drop off your ballot at an official drop off site.
- **November 3:** election day, last day to DROP OFF your ballot at an official drop-off site by 8:00 PM.

SECTION 2: COUNTY ELECTIONS PHONE LIST

See below or oregonvotes.gov for contact information of county election officials.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| • Baker | 541-523-8207 | • Lane | 541-682-4234 |
| • Benton | 541-766-6756 | • Lincoln | 541-265-4131 |
| • Clackamas | 503-655-8510 | • Linn | 541-967-3831 |
| • Clatsop | 503-325-8511 | • Malheur | 541-473-5151 |
| • Columbia | 503-397-3796 | • Marion | 503-588-5041 |
| • Coos | 541-396-7610 | | 1-800-655-5388 |
| • Crook | 541-447-6553 | • Morrow | 541-676-5604 |
| • Curry | 541-247-3297 | • Multnomah | 503-988-3720 |
| • Deschutes | 541-388-6547 | • Polk | 503-623-9217 |
| • Douglas | 541-440-4252 | • Sherman | 541-565-3606 |
| • Gilliam | 541-384-2311 | • Tillamook | 503-842-3402 |
| • Grant | 541-575-1675 | • Umatilla | 541-278-6254 |
| • Harney | 541-573-6641 | • Union | 541-963-1006 |
| • Hood River | 541-386-1442 | • Wallowa | 541-426-4543;
Ext 158 |
| • Jackson | 541-774-6148 | • Wasco | 541-506-2530 |
| • Jefferson | 541-475-4451 | • Washington | 503-846-5800 |
| • Josephine | 541-474-5243 | • Wheeler | 541-763-2400 |
| • Klamath | 541-883-5134 | • Yamhill | 503-434-7518 |
| • Lake | 541-947-6006 | | |

SECTION 3: STATE BALLOT MEASURES

How We Research Ballot Measures

League of Women Voters members research and write these ballot measure reports. Researchers try to verify all factual information. Using published information and asking questions of economists and others, we work diligently to ensure our reports are balanced, accurate, and fair. We strive to provide the information you need to make an informed vote.

BALLOT MEASURE 107: Campaign Finance Limits Amendment

OFFICIAL TITLE: Amends Constitution: Allows laws limiting political campaign contributions and expenditures, requiring disclosure of political campaign contributions and expenditures, and requiring political campaign advertisements to identify who paid for them.

REFERENDUM: This measure is a constitutional amendment passed by the Oregon House and Senate and referred to voters.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: [The Oregon Financial Estimate Committee](#) says this measure will have no impact on state revenue and involve only expenditures related to printing it in the official voters' pamphlet.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A "YES" VOTE: Laws that limit and/or require the disclosure of both contributions and expenditures of campaigns made to influence an election would be allowed. Also would allow laws that require campaign or election advertisements to identify who paid for them. It would apply to laws passed on or after January 1, 2016.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A "NO" VOTE: We would keep the current state constitutional wording on this subject. Courts say this doesn't limit expenditures but does allow limits on contributions.

BACKGROUND: In 1997 the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that the state constitution prohibits limiting contributions to or expenditures of political campaigns or campaigns intended to influence the outcome of an election because this would restrain the “free expression of opinion.”

This ruling foiled a 2004 attempt to change the state constitution and pass campaign contribution limits as well as two more recent election limit proposals—for Multnomah County in 2016 and for Portland in 2018. These also were challenged and have not gone into effect. However, in April 2020, as part of the Multnomah County litigation, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that the Oregon constitution does allow limits on campaign donations so long as they do not target expression. Limits on expenditures are still prohibited.

Since 2019, an Oregon law requires that ads supporting or opposing a clearly identified candidate include the name of the person or entity that paid for them.

PROPOSAL: Measure 107 would amend the Oregon Constitution to permit the state legislature, the governing body of a city, county, municipality or district, or the people, using the initiative process to enact laws or ordinances relating to the use of moneys in political or other campaigns within their jurisdiction. It would:

- Limit contributions made to political campaigns (such as candidates, ballot-measures, etc.) in a way that won't prevent candidates and political committees from raising adequate resources for effective advocacy:
- Require the disclosure of contributions or expenditures made by political campaigns or by others trying to influence the outcome of any election;
- Require that political campaign ads, or ads made to influence the outcome of any election, identify the persons or entities paying for them;
- Limit expenditures made in connection with political campaigns or to influence the outcome of any election to the extent permitted under the Constitution of the United States

- Applies to any such laws that have been passed on or after January 1, 2016.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

- Oregon is one of only five states with no contribution limits of any kind. As a result, large corporations, wealthy donors, and special interest groups have an undue influence over the candidates who are elected.
- Reducing the influence of money in politics will allow candidates to compete more equitably for public office.
- Transparency: The public has a fundamental right to know the true sources of money spent on our elections.
- This reform will promote citizen participation in the political process by reducing the influence of special interests and the wealthy.

OPPONENTS SAY:

- "Special interests" represent the interests and voices of many ordinary citizens.
- Limiting campaign contributions and expenditures does not level the playing field.
- Campaign donations don't "influence" the behavior of elected officials.
- The measure would weaken the freedom of speech of Oregonians, and political speech deserves the most protection, not the least.

MEASURE 108: Increase/Create Tobacco/Nicotine Tax, Fund Health Programs

OFFICIAL TITLE: Increase cigarette and cigar taxes. Establishes tax on e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping devices. Funds health programs.

REFERENDUM: This measure is a statutory amendment referred to the initiative process by the Legislative Assembly with a House vote of 39 to 21 and a Senate vote of 18 to 7; 2 non-voting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The Secretary of State and State Treasurer estimate that the measure will increase net state revenues by \$111.1 million in 2019-21 and \$331.4 million in 2021-23. Local governments, the state's General Fund, and mental health programs at the Oregon Health Authority could see a decline in revenue if the measure passes. The current cigarette tax and the proposed tax are dedicated to different purposes.

Administrative expenses are expected to decrease to approximately \$1.0 million in 2019-21 and \$1.3 million in 2021-23. Beyond the cost of administration, the impact of the revenue increases and decreases on state and local government expenditures is indeterminate and will depend on decisions made by the governing bodies of those governments.

Funds used for Medicaid programs can generate matching Federal funds.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A "YES" VOTE: As of 1/1/21, the cigarette tax will increase from \$1.33 to \$3.33 per pack, the cigar tax from \$.50 to \$1 each, and a snuff container, to a minimum \$2.14. All other non-taxed nicotine-containing goods, such as e-cigarettes and vaping products, will be taxed at 65% of wholesale.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A "NO" VOTE: Tax rates for tobacco and nicotine products will remain at current rates.

BACKGROUND: Oregon is one of approximately twenty-two states that do not tax nicotine delivery systems. Twenty-eight states have taxes on e-cigarettes and vaping products that range from 96% of wholesale in Minnesota to five cents per milliliter in several other states. There are debates about ease and cost of record keeping for price versus nicotine content. Nicotine is taxed in California (56.27%), Washington (9 to 27 cents per milliliter), and Nevada (30%). Idaho has proposed a tax of 30%. Measure 108 would place Oregon's tax at 65% of wholesale.

The 2014 U.S. Census State Survey data shows over twice the 'sin' tax collected from tobacco/nicotine as from alcohol or gaming. The CDC reports the highest rates of tobacco use among:

- minorities
- those with a GED or no high school diploma
- those earning under \$35,000 per year (in Oregon the income level is under \$15,000)
- the uninsured.

A 2016 report by the Oregon Health Authority shows 17% of adult Oregonians smoke cigarettes and (in 2017) 17% of 11th graders were currently using e-cigarettes.

Current tobacco taxes help fund the Oregon Health Plan.

PROPOSAL: This measure would change the tax formula for tobacco products currently taxed and impose new taxes on any product containing nicotine that is intended to be burned or heated for personal consumption. After payment of administrative distribution ninety percent of the new taxes would be directed toward the Oregon Health Authority to increase the number of people who can receive medical assistance, including mental health services. The remaining ten percent of the funds would go to the Oregon Health Authority for distribution to tribal, cultural, and community-specific health providers and programs. The intended result is to discourage tobacco/nicotine use and raise revenue.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

- Oregonians should be encouraged to quit using tobacco/nicotine because of the danger to their health.

- The measure expands the current taxation to include new nicotine inhalant delivery systems which may discourage the use of e-cigarettes and vaping products.
- Surrounding states have nicotine taxes in place; Oregon should align with them to discourage cross-border tax avoidance purchasing.

OPPONENTS SAY:

- A tax on e-cigarettes and vaping products may drive people back to smoking cigarettes, a more medically dangerous type of consumption.
 - Tobacco taxes are paid disproportionately by low income individuals.
 - Sin taxes are a relatively small income generator.
-

BALLOT MEASURE 109: Oregon Psilocybin Services Act

OFFICIAL TITLE: Allows manufacture, delivery, administration of psilocybin at supervised, licensed facilities; imposes 2-year development period.

INITIATIVE: This measure is a statutory amendment placed on the ballot by initiative petition with an estimated 132,465 valid signatures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: State revenue and expenditures will be impacted by passage of this measure. Local government expenditures will be impacted. The measure requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to develop, over a two-year period, beginning January 1, 2021, a regulation, licensure, and enforcement program, including fees and fines. According to the Oregon Secretary of State, during the two-year development period, the cost to the General Fund would be an estimated \$7 million.

Once the program is established, ongoing costs are estimated at \$3.1 million annually. Fees and tax assessed under the law are expected to cover these costs. The cost to local

governments for conducting required land use compatibility assessments for licensee applicants and adoption of any pertinent ordinances is indeterminate.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A “YES” VOTE: If this measure passes, it would allow the manufacture, delivery, and administration of psilocybin at supervised, licensed facilities, and would impose a 2-year period for developing the policies, procedures, and infrastructure needed for the program to succeed.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A “NO” VOTE: If this measure fails, it would retain current law, which prohibits the manufacture, delivery, and possession of psilocybin and imposes misdemeanor or felony criminal penalties.

BACKGROUND: Psilocybin mushrooms include a mixed variety of mushrooms with psychoactive properties. They are considered sacred medicine among indigenous tribes, with a long history of use in religious and spiritual ceremonies in both Europe and Mesoamerica. They must be carefully identified and are generally illegal in the U.S. because of potential adverse effects, including hallucinations, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, or renal failure.

The Federal government classifies psilocybin mushrooms as a Schedule 1 Controlled Substance with no accepted medical use and high potential for abuse. However, studies conducted nationally and internationally have indicated beneficial outcomes from psilocybin treatment in mental health conditions, including but not limited to addiction, depression, anxiety disorders, and end-of-life psychological distress. In 2019 the cities of Denver, Colorado, and Oakland, California, voted to decriminalize these substances, making them a low priority for law enforcement but not setting up structured systems for assuring any beneficial use.

PROPOSAL: This measure legalizes, regulates, and taxes the manufacture, sale, and administration of psilocybin for mental health purposes. The proposed act, which draws on the 1998 Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OR475B), contains 134 sections that establish an advisory board answerable to the Oregon Health Authority; sets prerequisites and standards for issuing licenses and establishing service centers (such as no criminal record and specified distance from school facilities); and defines treatment protocols. The Oregon Health Authority is given a number of new responsibilities, including the licensing role, testing psilocybin substances for contamination, and disseminating research relating to the safety and efficacy of these substances. In contrast

to Oregon's marijuana program, the psilocybin act would not allow any retail sales or personal crops of psilocybin mushrooms. Section 128 would allow counties and local municipalities to prohibit the siting of psilocybin facilities based on a local vote, although the measure does not provide any financial resources to these entities.

The most prominent and distinguishing feature of Measure 109 is that the administration and consumption of psilocybin will be permitted: (i) only at a licensed "psilocybin service center;" and (ii) only under the supervision of a licensed "psilocybin service facilitator."

The measure establishes a fifteen percent point of sales tax based on the retail sales of psilocybin as a source of funding for administering the program by the Oregon Health Authority, tax collection and enforcement by the Oregon Department of Revenue, and administration of a psilocybin tracking system by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission

SUPPORTERS SAY:

- Oregonians with certain mental health issues, including opioid addictions, may find relief if psilocybin substances are more readily available.
- The program has been designed to protect patients and assure beneficial outcomes by making the substances available under tightly controlled conditions.
- The consumption of psilocybin will take place only in a controlled environment and only under the supervision of licensed and trained personnel.

OPPONENTS SAY:

- Oregon would be in conflict with Federal drug policy, putting the Oregon program at legal risk.
- The U.S. is still learning about the impact of legalizing marijuana and it might be premature to embark on another biochemical experiment.
- The proposal does not go far enough; the use of a natural medicine should be decriminalized.

BALLOT MEASURE 110: Drug Addiction Treatment and Decriminalization

OFFICIAL TITLE: Provides statewide addiction/recovery services; marijuana taxes partially finance; reclassifies possession/penalties for specified drugs

INITIATIVE: The measure is a statutory amendment placed on the ballot by initiative petition with an estimated 154,010 valid signatures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This measure redistributes marijuana revenue above \$11.25 million per quarter from existing recipients to the Drug Addiction Treatment and Decriminalization Fund, reducing revenue to the State School Fund, the State Police, mental health programs, and local governments. The total reduction is \$8.6 million in 2019-21 and \$36.4 million in 2021-23. This will also reduce revenue transferred from the Department of Corrections for local government community corrections.

PROBABLE RESULT OF "YES" VOTE: If this measure passes, it will make personal, non-commercial possession of a controlled substance no more than a Class E violation (maximum fine of \$100) and will establish a drug addiction treatment and recovery program funded in part by the state's marijuana tax revenue.

PROBABLE RESULT OF "NO" VOTE: Retains laws classifying personal possession of drugs listed in Controlled Substances Act Schedules I through IV as a misdemeanor. Non-commercial possession of a controlled substance will continue to carry a penalty of a Class A misdemeanor (maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$6,250 fine).

BACKGROUND: Currently, personal, non-commercial (small amount) possession of drugs listed in Schedule I, II, III, or IV of the federal Controlled Substances Act is a Class A or C misdemeanor.

PROPOSAL: Measure 110 would decriminalize possession of illegal substances in Oregon, but the manufacture or sale would remain illegal. The measure would redirect marijuana taxes to fund drug treatment.

This measure would eliminate criminal penalties and classify possession of small amounts of controlled substances as a Class E violation. These violations would be subject to a \$100 fine or completion of a health assessment by an “addiction recovery center.”

This measure would create a “Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund” financed by legislative appropriations and Oregon Marijuana Account allocations. It would also establish an advisory council to oversee and approve grants to existing agencies or coordinated care organizations by October 1, 2021.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

- Creating culturally appropriate treatment programs to solve Oregon’s drug problems is more effective than incarceration.
- Money currently spent on arrest, prosecution and incarceration can be more effectively spent on treatment.

OPPONENTS SAY:

- This measure would divert the dedicated marijuana-tax income from the regulation of the growth, sale, and distribution of legal cannabis.
- Revenue from the marijuana tax would be inadequate to fund both regulation and treatment.

SECTION 4: CANDIDATES, US PRESIDENT

The National (US) League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) manages the voters’ guide information for candidates for US President and shares this information with State League of Women Voters chapters. The LWVEF’s guidelines are:

- All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria during the general election season: 1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President; 2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website by the date of publication.
- Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter.
- If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate did not respond by deadline." is printed.

Additional information on presidential candidates is available at www.VOTE411.org.

Questions Copyright © 2020 by the League of Women Voters Education Fund

We asked candidates for US President the same five questions:

1. What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?
2. What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?
3. How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?
4. What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?
5. What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

CANDIDATES, US PRESIDENT

The term for US President is four years. The annual salary is \$400,000.

Donald J Trump and Michael R Pence, Republican

<http://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

Candidate did not respond by deadline.

Joseph R Biden and Kamala D Harris, Democrat

<http://www.joebiden.com/>

1. On public health and economic recovery.

It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

2. On priorities for the first 100 days.

Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

3. On addressing racial injustice.

America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health

inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

4. On immigration policies.

My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

5. On long-term access to quality health care.

This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy (Spike) Cohen, Libertarian

Candidate did not respond by deadline.

Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker, Pacific Green Party

Candidate did not respond by deadline.

Dario Hunter and Dawn Neptune Adams, Progressive

Candidate did not respond by deadline

SECTION 5: CANDIDATES, US SENATE

The term for US Senator is six years. The annual salary is \$174,000.

We asked candidates for US Senate the same three questions:

1. As a result of your experience with COVID-19, what changes would you like to see in the national health care system?
2. What changes, if any, to immigration law would you want to pursue? Why?
3. What should be the federal priorities for managing the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.?

Here are their replies, as received with no edits or corrections:



JoRae Perkins, Republican

perkinsforussenate.vote

1. On changes to the national health care system.

I will work for clear, concise, honest information from the medical field. I will work towards making sure none of the spokespersons have any ties to outside influencers or especially those with monetary connections. We need accurate information, not hype based on unproven modeling, which led to fear and shutdowns. End the practice of additional funds to hospitals for patients on ventilators. Censorship of legitimate information on a possible cure, such as HCQ, to promote a vaccine must end.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

Simplify the immigration process. End the quota per country & end the practice of lottery immigration. Improve the methods used regarding people in the US on work or student visas, to ensure their visa is renewed in a timely manner or ensure they will be leaving the US by the expiration date. Change Visa Renewals to take place at the Federal

Immigration office or Visa Application Center nearest the applicant & a remote conference with applicants' Embassy. Streamlined & Improved Oversight.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

The federal priorities must be the information set forth is accurate and does not create fear and panic. Encourage governors to keep government offices open, allow businesses and schools to remain open. If there is proof of a virus spreading in a specific area, take appropriate action. For example, Greater Albany School Dist., closed for a few days to disinfect to stop the spread of the Noro Virus and it worked. That is how COVID 19 should have been handled; economic impacts would be minimized.



Jeff Merkley, Democrat and Working Families Party

jeffmerkley.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

Sen. Merkley believes that Covid has laid bare the problems with a health care system built to serve Big Pharma, insurance companies & big for-profit hospital systems. Sen. Merkley supports Medicare for All & introduced the Choose Medicare Act to allow anyone who wants to opt into the program. He's proposed a bill to prohibit drug companies from charging Americans more than they charge overseas for the same medications & prohibiting price gouging for the coronavirus vaccine when it's ready.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

Sen. Merkley was the first Senator to shine a light on the Trump administration's horrific child separation policy, reporting out on children in cages. Sen. Merkley believes we need to create a pathway to citizenship for immigrants, pass the Dream Act & stop the excessive criminalization & mistreatment of immigrant families. Sen. Merkley also introduced the Immigrants' Mental Health Act, which would expand mental health access for immigrants facing trauma.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Sen. Merkley is pushing for stronger investments in testing, contact tracing as well as PPE so that our frontline workers can do their jobs safely. Sen. Merkley believes we must prioritize helping small businesses & workers first and foremost, not the wealthy

corporations. Sen. Merkley supports extending unemployment assistance, has led the effort to stop utility shutoffs, supports a moratorium on evictions & has been fighting for additional loans and grants to keep our small businesses afloat.



Ibrahim A Taher, Progressive and Pacific Green Party
ibrahimtaher.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

Prohibit governmental institutions from receiving money from private sector. Prohibit governmental institutions from acquiring patents. Universal healthcare system. Full protection for whistleblowers. Protect healthcare providers's the right to free speech.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

No detention centers.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Invest in small businesses. localize the economy.



Gary Dye, Libertarian
garydye2020.wordpress.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

Government declaring healthcare a "right" causes doctors, hospitals, insurance companies, and Big Pharma to collude in raising prices to enrich themselves, while healthcare becomes even more unaffordable and unavailable. We must introduce competition in the marketplace, first by allowing interstate insurance plans, transparent pricing, interstate licensing, and healthcare vouchers and rollover savings accounts. Reform malpractice tort law, and cap trial lawyer profiteering.

Ban forced vaccines

2. On any changes to immigration law.

Until we have a libertarian government, we must maintain our borders. Citizenship must be made sovereign to the individual citizen, and not owned by the government. A citizen should be able to sell his citizenship to a foreigner. This would create an open market in which industry, charities, or even government could subsidize purchase of citizenships for foreigners according to their objectives. Disadvantaged (homeless) US citizens could sell their citizenship, and provide a fresh start.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Rampant government spending has created national debt and money-printing levels that risk a collapse in the bond market, destruction of our currency, hyperinflation, and a Great, Great Depression. Civil unrest -- to the point of revolution -- will ensue, putting today's "protests" to shame. We must drastically reduce the size and scope of government immediately, best accomplished by ending foreign military operations, foreign aid, subsidies, and over-zealous entitlements. Economy will collapse!

SECTION 6: CANDIDATES, US CONGRESS

The term for US Representative is two years. The annual salary is \$174,000.

We asked candidates for US Representative the same three questions:

1. As a result of your experience with COVID-19, what changes would you like to see in the national health care system?
2. What changes, if any, to immigration law would you want to pursue? Why?
3. What should be the federal priorities for managing the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.?

Here are their replies, as received with no edits or corrections:

US HOUSE DISTRICT 1**Suzanne Bonamici, Democrat and Working Families Party**

bonamiciforcongress.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

COVID-19 has highlighted why we need universal health care. No one should lose health coverage because they lost their job and no one should have to choose between putting food on the table and medicine. I will work for affordable health care for all and to lower the costs of prescription drugs, and I'll make health care policy decisions based on research and science. And I will protect the right of women to make their own

reproductive health care decisions.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

We need compassionate and comprehensive immigration policy. Immigrants make our country better, and I do not support the hateful targeting and harmful rhetoric directed toward the immigrant community by the current administration. I support protecting Dreamers and their families, a path to citizenship, and an immediate end to the Administration's policies that lead to migrants and asylum seekers living in inhumane conditions.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Families and small businesses around Oregon and across the country are experiencing the impacts of COVID-19, which disproportionately affects people of color. I'm advocating for housing and nutrition support, PPE, expanded unemployment, direct payments, and more resources to help small businesses. I'm fighting for improved state and federal response and a science-based national strategy that includes more testing, tracing, treatment, and safe reopening of schools and businesses.



Christopher C Christensen, Republican

cchrist2020.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

I will support the Administrations continuing efforts to lower prescription drug costs and provide greater mobility and choice in health care options for all Americans. No one should lose health coverage because they lost their job.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

I support strong borders and oppose sanctuary policies. I would re-examine the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Federal priorities should focus on parental choice in education, tax cuts and diversified economic stimulus including debt forgiveness. Efforts would focus first on affordable housing, expanded employment assistance and training, direct payments of benefits to seniors, and small business support to help our community get through the crisis.

US HOUSE DISTRICT 2

Robert Werch, Libertarian

robertwerchlibertarian@gmail.com

Candidate did not respond by deadline

**Cliff Bentz, Republican**

cliffbentzforcongress.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

1. Increased funding for and use of telehealth systems;
2. Assuring that essential equipment, materials and medications are not subject to supply chain disruption;
3. improved access to more affordable health care by encouraging competition, greater variety in insurance products, increased numbers of mid-level providers and physicians; increased protections against malpractice claims; and identification of means of spending less by

finding efficiencies in delivery of services.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

1. improved and streamlined H2A visa processes so that agricultural production is not further damaged;
2. Improved means of allowing highly educated and productive people to immigrate to the United States;
3. Continued border protection to ensure that the United State's policy on immigration is not mooted by thousands illegally entering the country.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

1. Help small business;
2. recognize that some working parents (especially moms) ability to work is being dramatically hurt by the closure of schools and by the lack of child care. They need to be helped and somehow the costs that they have incurred must be addressed.
3. Landlords are having to bear the cost of tenants not paying rent. They need to be made whole.
4. fix the tax law so that the PPP loans forgiven are not taxable by state or federal governments.
5. Address the deficit.

**Alex Spenser, Democrat**

spenser2020.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

So many lost their Healthcare when they lost their jobs. We need Healthcare as a matter of good government infrastructure that cares for everyone as a basic right. Just as good government ensures our roads and bridges are safe, it is time we care for our community in the most basic of ways - by providing a Universal Healthcare System that keeps everyone well, and ensures we are all cared for in a pandemic like the one facing us now.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

We are a nation of immigrants, and that fact has created a strong and resilient United States of America. It is time we embrace a common-sense migration initiative that:
*Allows those in our country now an expedited passport to citizenship
*Reunites families of all the victims who have fallen prey to family separation
*Allows migration into the United States affording folks the dignity and respect of recognition for education and experience

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

To heal the economic impact, we need: •To ensure the people of Oregon and the United States keep their homes and are able to withstand the looming tsunami of evictions and foreclosures
*To find a way to make our citizens whole again through financial relief packages leading to a universal basic income, ensuring the economic impact of future catastrophic events is less severe
*Low interest fixed-rate loans for small businesses of 100 employees or less with a cap of a million dollars profit

US HOUSE DISTRICT 3**Earl Blumenauer, Democrat and Working Families Party**

earlblumenauer.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

As we recover, we should start restoring the reckless reductions and disinvestment in our public health system, including robust support for community health centers. I strongly support Medicare and Medicaid to be able to negotiate for lower drug prices, not only for senior citizens, but for all Americans. We must continue to fight for affordable, accessible, universal health care and a system that works for all and we must address the racial health disparities highlighted by the pandemic.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

We should prioritize the protection of families and our borders in a humane & thoughtful way. I support abolishing DHS and starting over with a new system that respects human lives & has morals and principles. Last fall, I introduced a resolution to force members of Congress to be on the record supporting or opposing Trump's harmful immigration policies. I will continue to be a vociferous opponent to these shameful policies, to work to protect Dreamers & expand Special Immigrant Visa programs.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Short term: Extend unemployment benefits and federal grants to provide assistance to people and small businesses. Long term: Invest in rebuilding and renewing our infrastructure, combat climate change and create new jobs through a "Green New Deal," provide expanded education, training & apprenticeships, & invest in community development programs like public housing & affordable housing construction to address income inequality caused by decades of discrimination against communities of color.

**Joanna Harbour, Republican**

joanna4oregon.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

I do not want it nationalized. It needs to be local as each community is different. What works in Oregon may not work in Maryland. We need to make sure that we have an adequate stockpile of supplies to fight this type and unknown type of virus that may come. It is difficult to prepare for the unknown but we can use past pandemics to decide what type of items are needed and how much of each item. We were inadequately prepared nationally and in many states. All levels need to do better.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

We need to first secure our borders. We must know who is coming into our country and why. Once the borders are secure, then we need to redo our immigration system. It should be merit based. Our first priority should be to the citizens and legal immigrants who are already here. Anyone who is immigrating here must be able to provide for themselves and any dependents they bring with them, must learn to speak English, learn our laws, and accept the Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

The number one priority is to get the economy going. The country needs to reopen. The federal government should provide support to those who have been financially impacted and support to businesses to be able to maintain their payroll, mortgage and other bills. However, the goal should be to reopen and get the economy growing as we cannot afford to constantly provide assistance. Also, anyone on unemployment who refuses to return to work should be denied unemployment and go back to work.

**Alex C DiBlasi, Pacific Green Party**

medium.com/@alexcharlesdiblas/the-green-new-deal-e293884fd35d

1. On changes to the national health care system.

We need Medicare For All. We needed it before the pandemic, but in our current situation the need for a nationwide healthcare plan that is free for everyone has been laid bare. Democrats aren't touching the issue in this election, even though 75% of Americans support it. Regarding COVID, we need a comprehensive testing system in place, contact tracing, and regular relief checks

for people impacted by job loss and shortened hours

2. On any changes to immigration law.

It should be easier to come into this country. The idea that people are flocking here from Central America and elsewhere to wreak havoc is racism, plain and simple. Migrants and refugees from both political and ecological terror are coming to this country because they see it as the land of opportunity that it was for many of our families and ancestors. Diversity has always been one of America's greatest strengths. Let them in. Abolish ICE. End family separation and the mass detention of children

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

We must protect families and workers from economic disaster by providing relief payments until the end of the pandemic. These UBI payments would motivate people to participate in the economy, stimulating growth for businesses.



Josh Solomon, Libertarian

solomon4congress.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

I propose a restructuring of our health care system that includes a substantial increase in the number of practicing physicians while lowering health care costs. This can be accomplished by using a tiered structure that is based on the credentials of the medical professionals in each tier. A tiered medical system provides a middle ground between choosing to have no medical coverage at all or paying prohibitively high premiums for health insurance.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

Certain agricultural sectors depend on migrant labor to provide food to the public. However, these practices can be exploitative of migrants and place the majority of the liability on the workers rather than the employers. If farmers are hiring migrants under the table, then it is imperative that we bring these practices to light and provide work permits for migrants through the legal immigration channels.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

In order to protect the liberty and economic security of the nation, we must give the public more freedom in deciding how to take care of their own health and well being during the pandemic. Small businesses that have been considered non-essential have suffered far more economic devastation than large corporations, largely because the public has been banned from engaging in commerce at these sites.

US HOUSE DISTRICT 4

Daniel Hoffay, Pacific Green Party

danielhoffay2020.org

1. On changes to the national health care system.

I want to see 100% socialized medicine, evidence based, full recognition and respect for patient's rights, and full patient sovereignty over all medical decisions.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

I want to see immigration policy follow economic policy. If we're to have 'free trade' when it comes to goods, services, and capital, the same should be true for human beings whose only capital is labor.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Investigation and prosecution of international, federal, and state agencies for their role in scientifically unsupported, overblown response to a proclaimed pandemic resulting in the shifting of \$trillions in public moneys to private corporations, the institution of mass surveillance, forced isolation, and the creation of another 'great depression' through the shutting down of hundreds of thousands of small businesses and forcing tens of millions of Americans into unemployment.



Peter DeFazio, Democrat and Working Families Party
defazioforcongress.org

1. On changes to the national health care system.

I voted for the CARES Act-- which provided funding for frontline workers and COVID-19 research-- and the HEROES Act-- which invested in testing and contact tracing and bolstered the public health system. I voted to strengthen the ACA by lowering premiums, deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs. I also introduced legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs on pharmaceuticals developed with taxpayer funded research and I voted to reduce prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries

2. On any changes to immigration law.

I was proud to cosponsor the DREAM Act when it was first introduced in 2010, and have supported the bill ever since. In 2019, I proudly co-sponsored and voted for the American Dream and Promise Act, which passed with bipartisan support. We need comprehensive immigration reform to fix our broken system-- not an expensive, ineffective wall. Immigrants are part of the backbone of our nation and we should welcome those wanting a fair shot at achieving the American Dream.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

I negotiated a workers-first approach in the CARES Act, COVID-19 relief package which should be extended. The program mandated that assistance for airlines must be passed directly to employees, workers could not be furloughed and funds could not be used for stock buybacks or executive bonuses. Additionally I support extending enhanced unemployment benefits, assistance to homeowners and renters, and support for small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program, among other things.



Alek Skarlatos, Republican

AlekforOregon.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

The most important thing America needs to change is our management of the national stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment and ventilators to ensure we do not face shortages in the event of future national health crises. Additionally, we must relocate vital medical manufacturing back to the United States to ensure that our country cannot be held captive by China. Finally, we must hold China accountable for their actions which have

led to the deaths of more than 200,000 Americans.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

As the son of an immigrant, I believe our diversity is an important part of what makes America great. However, the failure to secure the border threatens our national security and way of life. I oppose amnesty for illegal immigrants and taxpayer funding for their health benefits. For far too long politicians have refused to act, and it's time to put Americans and Oregonians first.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

As the country faces historic unemployment and the American economy struggles to recover from the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, we must make economic recovery a priority. It is essential we continue to safely reopen the economy, continue to provide federal assistance to businesses, and provide increased short-term unemployment benefits to individual workers. This should be coupled with targeted regulatory rollbacks to help stimulate an economic recovery

US HOUSE DISTRICT 4**Matthew James Rix, Libertarian****1. On changes to the national health care system.**

An elimination of regulatory statutes that inhibit doctors and nurses abilities to effectively treat their patients in a timely manner, develop medicines and testing procedures, or even so much as distribute those goods and services across state lines. I would specifically focus on eliminating laws such as certificate of need laws, laws that prohibit intrastate insurance and medical services, and regulations that put limitations on the supply of medical personnel and equipment.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

The way I see it, each and every person regardless of race, sex, identity or nationality is both a consumer of goods and services and a supplier of goods and services. There is something to be said regarding safety from hostile foreign aggressors coming in droves but realistically that seems farfetched. I would, however, be open to a vetting process that is extremely expedited.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

The lowest 25% of income earners make up roughly 80% of consumer spending. Considering this pandemic has most heavily impacted the consumer spending markets I would recommend a total halt on all taxation to the lowest income earners as well as eliminating regulations that hamper low income earners from pursuing higher income avenues of employment or entrepreneurship.

Amy Ryan Courser, Republican

Amyfororegon.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

We have several learning opportunities in this area. We need a federal program that is secure and consistent. From the beginning our data and numbers have been incorrect. This program should then be implemented at a state level for a stronger emergency

management response that is universally consistent. This would include training, protocols and a coordinated effort of implementation. This would allow us a stronger response to protect and save lives.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

We need to amend the current broken system. It's imperative to both repair and maintain a strong accounting and vetting process. We should honor those who are patiently waiting, fast track them while we secure and improve the process. It's critical for ongoing national security that we know who is entering our country. We need to develop a better system to welcome those who want to pursue the American dream while ensuring that citizen safety is a top priority.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

To be prepared w a financial emergency response package that is ready to go as needed. I would implement programs to support essential workers with a tax relief/credit. I would demand accountability for all financial programs with an oversight committee accounting for our tax dollars. Provide incentives for the private sector to respond with innovation. Above all streamline financial support directly to the communities in need. Above all provide common sense leadership Oregonians deserve.



Kurt Schrader, Democrat

kurtschrader.com

1. On changes to the national health care system.

The pandemic has shown the deficiencies in our healthcare system. Expansion of telemedicine infrastructure is not only crucial during a pandemic, but for our rural communities who must drive an hour or more to get care. We need to better track zoonotic diseases. I introduced the One Health Act to better prepare us for another outbreak like Covid-19. We also need to greatly increase our national stockpiles of PPE and other healthcare supplies, so we are better prepared

for the next pandemic.

2. On any changes to immigration law.

It's long past time for comprehensive immigration reform that not only reflects our values but strengthens our economy. I am an original cosponsor of the bipartisan Farm
www.lwvor.org

Workforce Modernization Act that is good for farm workers, businesses, and Oregon. I visited our southern border and saw firsthand the tragic effects of the child separation policy and worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to end it.

3. On the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

I supported the CARES Act that created several successful programs including the Paycheck Protection Program to keep people employed and increases to the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program to help businesses weather the pandemic. These need to continue. We need to provide aid to state and local governments as well as schools. People need childcare support for those returning to work, continued expanded unemployment insurance, and liability protections for employers, employees, and consumers.

SECTION 7: CANDIDATES, OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL

Oregon Attorney General

The term for Oregon Attorney General is 4 years. The annual salary is \$82,200.

We asked candidates for Oregon Attorney General the same three questions:

1. Should the Attorney General's office investigate police killings or other cases of police misconduct? Why or why not?
2. What can the state do to promote better models of handling mental health issues as people interact with the justice system?
3. What role does the Attorney General have in promoting transparency and fairness in the justice system?

Here are their replies, as received with no edits or corrections:



Ellen Rosenblum, Independent, Working Families Party, Democrat

ellenrosenblum.com

1. On investigating police misconduct.

Particularly at this time of reckoning, with protesters demanding an end to police violence and action to address racial injustices, what's most important is that investigations be conducted independently. Currently, my office can only investigate if a district attorney or the governor requests it. If the Legislature were to give my office broader authority, the Oregon Department of Justice will conduct our investigations with utmost care--

but will need additional resources to be effective.

2. On better handling of mental health issues in the justice system.

First, we need to ensure that justice system personnel on the street are better educated on mental health issues and better trained in de-escalation techniques. Ideally, every Oregon city would have a service in place modeled on Eugene's Cahoots. Second, we need mental-health courts, where all involved are focused on getting people proper treatment; jail is rarely the appropriate way to address mental health challenges.

3. On transparency and fairness in the justice system.

Transparency and fairness in Oregon's justice system are pillars of my work. The hate crimes and police profiling task forces I led focused on collecting, analyzing, and reporting data -- to create actionable information. Our work has provided support to victims of bias and hate and helped reduce -- but not eliminate -- racial disparities in stops and arrests. My office has also led the most significant Public Records Law reform in 40 years, giving the public timelier and better access to records.

Lars D H Hedbor, Libertarian

Candidate did not respond by deadline



Michael Cross, Republican

michaelcross4oregon.com

1. On investigating police misconduct.

The Oregon Constitution provides for the attorney general to provide legal opinions and represent the state in a variety of capacities. The attorney general is also sworn to defend and uphold the U.S. Constitution, the Oregon Constitution, and state law. Toward those end I will call for and support the investigation of alleged police killings and/or misconduct, and call for prosecutions where warranted and called for by the law.

2. On better handling of mental health issues in the justice system.

Mental health issues contribute to derailing the lives of many, and complicates the struggles of those trying to get their lives on track. People need to take responsibility for their actions, but I will improve the balance between punishment and mercy by making recommendations on legislation, and taking into account mental health issues when issuing legal opinions and making official representations. I also support exonerating wrongfully convicted people when new evidence comes to light.

3. On better handling of mental health issues in the justice system.

In ensuring transparency, securing the rights of all Oregonians, and holding executives accountable who exceed their legal or constitutional authority, the attorney general is empowered to issue legal opinions on all of these matters (and more) as provided for in the law. Perhaps as important, the office of attorney general also offers a platform to educate Oregonians about their rights under the law and how to hold all public officials accountable for how they use their authority

SECTION 8: CANDIDATES, OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE

Oregon Secretary of State

The term for Oregon Secretary of State is 4 years. The annual salary is \$77,000.

We asked candidates for Oregon Secretary of State the same three questions:

1. What criteria or factors would you use to make the right decisions for Oregon's state forests?
2. Do you support or oppose the creation of an independent redistricting commission? Why or why not?
3. What, if any, steps, should the Secretary of State's office take to improve election integrity and security?

Here are their replies, as received with no edits or corrections:



Nathalie Paravicini, Progressive, Pacific Green Party
paravicini4sos.org

1. On decisions for Oregon's state forests.

This year's fires make it clear we need to prioritize sustainability when making decisions about our forests. Our state services are underfunded because the federal government spends more than 50% of the budget on the military. I will help organize a national coalition to redirect our economy, with a focus on modernizing infrastructure. That would fund local jobs relieving the pressure on natural resources. My 2nd priority is bridging the false concept that we need to pit jobs against nature.

2. On the creation of an independent redistricting commission?

Absolutely. We need a fair non-partisan commission to oversee redistricting. The goal should be to facilitate true representation and participation in the electoral process, and NOT on keeping a "balance" of power for political machines. It is sad that Attorney General Rosenblum sabotaged efforts to place the initiative on the ballot, allowing We The People to make that decision. This clearly shows that the two-party system is corrupt. We need Ranked-Choice Voting more than ever: fairvote.org.

3. On steps to improve election integrity and security?

Fraud in elections are mostly campaign finance violations. OR already has good measures in place for voting per se. Mail ballots are secure with a paper trail. We could lead and move to open source election software and open security procedures. Other measures for integrity: 1) enforcing Measure 47 campaign finance limits for the 2022 elections, 2)

pushing public funding of elections similar to Portland's small donor match program that lead to increased diversity and quality of candidates



Kyle Markley, Libertarian

kylemarkley.org

1. On decisions for Oregon's state forests.

I have no background on forestry, so I would rely on the advice of experts in the field. I believe our forests are important resources, both ecologically and economically, and would seek to balance those uses. I do not believe government is necessarily the best steward of lands, and would be at least open to entertaining sales of land into private hands, whether for conservation or for productive purposes.

2. On the creation of an independent redistricting commission?

If the legislature is unable to enact a redistricting plan, and therefore the matter transfers to the Secretary of State, I would certainly create an independent redistricting committee or commission to perform that work. The approach I favor to avoid partisan gerrymandering is to draw district boundaries using an algorithm that is purposefully ignorant of voters' party affiliations, depending more heavily on factors like geographic compactness.

3. On steps to improve election integrity and security?

I believe Oregon already does a great job with election security and I have confidence in our results, but I would always welcome advice from security experts about how to improve. Regarding election integrity, we can do better. Although the regulation of political activity in Oregon is less than in most other states, our regulations still stifle grassroots political activity and suppress minority political ideas. We need more freedom to engage in politics and should vote against Measure 107.

Kim Thatcher, Republican

kim@kimthatcher.com

Candidate did not respond by deadline



Shemia Fagan, Working Families Party, Democrat

ShemiaForOregon.com

1. On decisions for Oregon's state forests.

We must serve as good stewards to current and future generations' natural resources. As a member of the State Land Board and a fiduciary of the Common School Fund, it will be my duty to balance the needs of the CSF against any potential negative impact on our environment. I will prioritize actively assessing maintenance costs of state lands, the fund's investment policy and performance, and ongoing fund distributions with the goal of ensuring lands

are maintained and that the fund is stable.

2. On the creation of an independent redistricting commission?

Every Oregonian's voice should be heard and their vote should count equally, that's why I support a fair and independent redistricting process and signed the National Democratic Redistricting Committee's Fair Redistricting pledge. A fair map comes from an inclusive and transparent process. If I were in charge of redistricting as Secretary of State I would prioritize creating a system that is transparent, inclusive, representative, and responsive to the will of the people.

3. On steps to improve election integrity and security?

Oregon's vote by mail system has been working safely and effectively for decades. As a Mom, I love voting at the kitchen table with my kids. Our next Secretary of State needs to focus on protecting our elections from misinformation and partisan attacks and securing Oregon's voter registration database from cyberattacks.

SECTION 9: CANDIDATES, OREGON TREASURER

The term for Oregon Treasurer is 4 years. The annual salary is \$77,000.

We asked candidates for Oregon Treasurer the same three questions:

1. Would you support a state bank for Oregon? Why or why not?

2. What criteria or factors would you use to make the right decisions for Oregon's state forests?
3. What ideas do you have for fulfilling the obligations of the PERS system?

Here are their replies, as received with no edits or corrections:

Michael P Marsh, Constitution

Candidate did not respond by deadline



Tobias Read, Working Families Party, Democrat

tobiasread.com

1. On the need for a state bank.

Oregon State Treasury provides many of the functions that proponents point to as desirable benefits of a "state bank." I understand why people are looking for ways that the state can better support locally owned lending institutions and small businesses. I think there are faster and less expensive ways to do that. I'm very interested in looking for ways that OST, as well as existing programs that are located at Business Oregon and with the Growth Board, can better align to accomplish these goals

2. On decisions for Oregon's state forests.

My priority on the State Land Board is to modernize how we approach the investment portfolio. Ultimately we must manage the portfolio in a way that recognizes both the environmental and economic impact that will result from our decision making. Giving weight to considerations that meet the public's general benefit such as conservation or recreation can also help give us a broader picture when making decisions

3. On ideas for fulfilling PERS obligations.

I have a responsibility to advocate for wise financial policy that stabilizes Oregon's long run financial future. I have worked to move some of our investment operations in house which has reduced the expenses we pay in fees to Wall Street firms. I've also sought to be honest about the pension system. There are many seeking elected office who pedal false promises, packaged up as supposed "reform" which are dismissive of the real constraints placed upon the system by our courts.

**Chris Henry, Progress, Pacific Green Party**

chrishenry.org

1. On the need for a state bank.

Creating a viable State Bank for Oregon is my top priority. The State of Oregon has over \$115 billion of investment funds, much placed with Wall Street, hedge funds, vulture capitalists who take about \$1 billion/year in fees (undisclosed) and direct nearly 100% to businesses outside Oregon. Oregon local governments pay Wall Street high interest rates + over \$100 million/year bond placement fees. They could borrow for much less from a State Bank. See www.orpublicbank.org and

www.chrishenry.org.

2. On decisions for Oregon's state forests.

Oregon should not sell the Elliot State Forest or any other state forest. The forests are Oregon's primary carbon sink and should be maintained to absorb some of the massive amounts of greenhouse gases we emit. We should manage them labor-intensively, without aerial spraying of pesticides. We should plant industrial hemp at appropriate locations to produce 50 times the fibre per acre of old growth forest.

3. On ideas for fulfilling PERS obligations.

Oregon has less unfunded PERS obligations per capita than 40 other states. Still, increasing PERS costs are a problem. As the only non-corporate, pro-worker candidate in this race, I do not support further cuts to employee benefits, and the Oregon Supreme Court has ruled that retirees are entitled to the benefits they earned. A State Bank could save Oregon up to \$1 billion/year in financier fees, while investing in Oregon jobs and more than covering the PERS deficit. More at www.chrishenry.org.



Jeff Gudman, Republican

JeffGudman.org

1. On the need for a state bank.

A state bank will require a voter approved change to Oregon's constitution. At this time, there are far more pressing needs to address than a change to the Oregon Constitution to permit a state owned bank.

2. On decisions for Oregon's state forests.

Serving on the State Land Board is the Treasurer's only Constitutional role, Oregon's assets are our state forests and waterways, not just currency. Like any financial asset, we want to that grow and must plan for restocking. My

approach is to recognize the discretion and flexibility that the law gives us to allow non-economic factors. I would apply federal environmental law robustly and I will make my decisions using collaborative, fact based research based on current law and regulations

3. On ideas for fulfilling PERS obligations.

There are no easy answers to the PERS obligations but I have ideas: redirect unanticipated revenue from the 2017 Federal Tax Act to the unfunded liability; evaluate the applicability of the recently adopted OHSU retirement program for all of Oregon; undertake no new infrastructure projects (but maintain/improve all existing infrastructure) and redirect those funds to the unfunded liability; consider joint adoption of a reduction in the income tax and introduction of a sales tax by voter approval

SECTION 10: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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