



# Oregon House Democrats

## Action Plan for Rebuilding Oregon

**A**s Oregon rebuilds from the global recession, the path back to prosperity requires leadership focused on making the right investments to rebuild our state, strengthening opportunity for middle class families, standing up for those most in need, and making Oregon a place where businesses excel and communities thrive.

Oregon House Democrats pledge to stand up for the middle class. Brick by brick, we will work together to find new solutions that rebuild our economy and protect the promise of opportunity for all Oregonians.

### **Making Smart Investments to Create Oregon Jobs:**

*We believe hard work should pay off with a secure job and a sustainable, healthy future. By investing in Oregon, we will create the environment that builds secure family-wage jobs, and provide opportunities for businesses to flourish and communities to thrive.*

- Create Oregon jobs by targeting state resources to expand access to capital for Oregon small businesses to expand and grow.
- Partner with businesses and community colleges to increase opportunities for worker retraining and job placement.
- Spur local job growth by redirecting state funds currently invested overseas or in Wall Street banks to local banks and credit unions making investments here in Oregon.
- Capitalize on Oregon's thriving clean energy industry and promote sustainable use of Oregon's natural resources to create Oregon jobs.
- Invest in local infrastructure projects that create Oregon jobs while laying the foundation for tomorrow's economy.
- Level the playing field for Oregon business, and keep tax dollars in Oregon by giving Oregon businesses a fair shot in competing for public contracts.

## **Standing Up for Middle Class Families:**

*We stand up for Oregonians hit hardest by the global recession. Our priorities are to ensure a quality education for our children, help families keep their homes, and provide access to quality, affordable health care.*

- Protect the promise of our children's education by working to prevent teacher layoffs and increased class sizes and by fighting to keep Oregon taxpayer dollars in Oregon classrooms—not funneled to private, out-of-state companies.
- Provide homeowners the protection they need to stay in their homes by prohibiting unfair foreclosure practices and requiring banks to work with homeowners doing their best to pay their mortgages.
- Require banks that foreclose on properties to keep them in good condition, keeping our neighborhood property values intact and our communities' safe.
- Increase access to affordable, quality health care for Oregon families and small businesses.
- Hold insurance companies accountable by further scrutinizing rate increases and giving individuals and the Attorney General the power to take them to court for unlawful practices.

## **Prioritizing the Services Oregonians Need:**

*We are committed to making government leaner, more transparent, and more efficient, protecting what's most important for middle class and struggling families: education, health care and public safety.*

- Cut excess bureaucracy, duplication, and unnecessary layers of management to guarantee the most efficient use of state resources.
- Hold government accountable for the effective use of taxpayer dollars by increasing transparency and scrutiny of public contracts.
- Eliminate sweetheart contracting deals by holding government and public contractors more accountable.
- Prioritize education, and services to seniors, children and people with disabilities when balancing the state's budget.