



Real Solutions. Right Now.

2009 Legislative priorities of the Oregon Senate Republicans

REAL JOBS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Oregon Senate Republicans want families struggling to afford gas, milk and healthcare to know that they are not alone. Oregon's stagnant economy needs to be strengthened so that working families can move beyond just making ends meet. The Republican vision builds on Oregon's great abundance to create over 7,000 new jobs, putting Oregonians to work managing our renewable, natural resources.

Real solutions:

- ⇒ **Manage state lands to keep forests green, cut carbon emissions** from forest fires and maximize income to the State School Fund
- ⇒ **Store excess water from the Columbia River during the rainy season** to irrigate 100,000 acres of new farmland and sell to water-poor communities out of state

HEALTHCARE WORKING FAMILIES CAN AFFORD

Few Oregonians are immune to the skyrocketing costs of healthcare, estimated to increase from \$16.8 billion in 2006 to \$19.3 billion 2008. Those costs mean that 576,000 Oregonians, including 116,000 children lack health care.

Real solutions:

- ⇒ Create **safety-net health insurance coverage for all Oregon families** that can be coupled with employer sponsored Medical Individual Retirement accounts to pay for basic health care needs
- ⇒ Implement **real medical malpractice reform** by limiting damages to decrease costs and increase access to medical care

ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

In 1991, Salem had a budget of \$15 billion. Today it is almost \$50 billion, a \$30 billion increase in just over 15 years. That is \$52,000 spent on every family of four in Oregon. Are we getting \$52,000 worth of benefit? Are our classrooms or streets any better off? Oregonians should be able to depend on a watchdog in Salem that will root out waste and restore discipline to the way government spends.

Real solutions:

- ⇒ **Establish a non-partisan Office of Government Accountability and Audits** dedicated to conducting thorough, top-to-bottom audits of spending in state agencies to ensure that taxpayer dollars are benefiting Oregonians

SAFE STREETS, HOMES AND SCHOOLS

Families should feel safe whether they are on the road, in their homes or at school. That means giving Oregon State Police the resources they need to be successful, cracking down on individuals that drive drunk or with suspended licenses, and establishing a zero tolerance policy for predators in our classrooms.

Real solutions:

- ⇒ Dedicate 1% of the budget to Oregon State Police so **Oregon families are always safe on the road and in their homes**
- ⇒ **Increase penalties for drunk drivers** and keep unlicensed drivers off the streets
- ⇒ Enact **strict penalties for child predators** in schools