

Bio for Ken Embery

IPO Steering Committee Candidate

Born in Spokane and raised in communities all around the Pacific Northwest, I graduated from high school in the Seattle area, then traveled to the East Coast for college via a Congressional appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Prior to my junior year at USNA, I transferred to the University of Washington, where I earned a BA in Political Science. I moved permanently to Eugene in 1971 to attend the University of Oregon as a National Defense Education Act Graduate Teaching Fellow. My time at the U of O as a grad student was punctuated by various campaign volunteer jobs, Master's thesis voter behavior studies, and organization of the first Impeach Nixon movement in Oregon.

After earning Master's degrees in both Political Science and Journalism, and after an hiatus in between as a freelance writer/screenwriter, I worked for 6 years as a field reporter for KEZI, the ABC TV affiliate, in Eugene. I specialized in State, County, and City of Eugene governmental issues, and got to know the local politicians of the day, including Dave Frohnmayer and Peter DeFazio, quite well. While at KEZI, I married and started a family. My wife passed away 6 years ago from lymphoma. I have three children--a PSU graduate, currently working for the City of Portland; a Sophomore at the U of O, currently making sandwiches for Subway, and a Sophomore Honor student at Sheldon High School.

From KEZI, I transitioned to owning and operating my own video production company. We produced commercial, industrial, and public relations videos for private clients, regional corporations, trade associations, and political candidates.

As the recession of the late 80's took hold, I jumped at an opportunity in the emerging, hi-tech field of video games. I have spent the intervening twenty-plus years as an executive/senior project manager for the largest video game companies in the world. I have held positions including General Manager, Executive Producer, Marketing Brand Manager, PR Manager, and VP Business Development. I have managed facilities with over 300 employees, and teams of 20-to-60 in studios all over the world. I routinely work with project budgets of \$5-to-\$15 million.

Politically, I was raised a Democrat, but became a liberal/radical Independent. I have been a registered Independent for some time. I very strongly believe that the two major parties have evolved an identical governmental model which makes all decisions by the wealthy, for the wealthy, and to promote centralization of wealth. I very strongly believe we need a constitutional amendment to overturn the absurd, recent Supreme Court decision protecting corporate 'free speech' rights by allowing companies to spend unlimited amounts on campaign financing. I very strongly believe that the Independent Party's highest priority should be to end the influence of lobbyists on policy-making by convincing the American people this is our, collective, highest priority. We need to create and lead this movement, and we need to figure out how to lead without taking corporate money.