



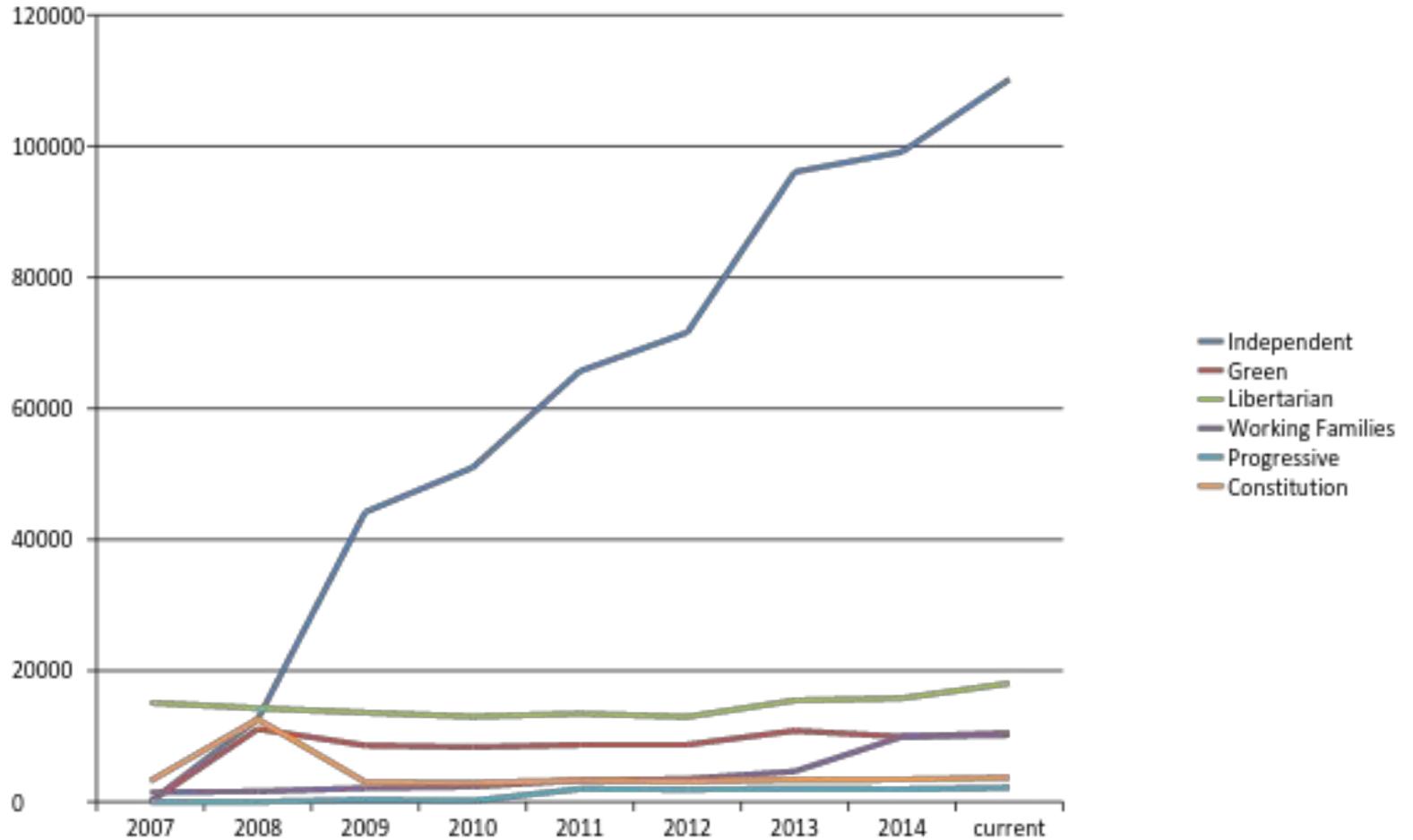
established 2007  
[www.indparty.com](http://www.indparty.com)

# History & Highlights

Party was formed when voters submitted more than 30,000 signatures to form the party. This, in response to 2005 legislation that made it more difficult to run for public office by petition and that removed the word “independent” as a descriptor on the ballot for such candidates.

- First party in US history to conduct binding statewide elections using the internet to distribute ballots to members.
- First party in Oregon history to be recognized as a “major political party”, which earned IPO a spot on the 2016 state primary ballot.
- Currently 120,000 members statewide – more than 100,000 more than next largest third party (Libertarians).
- In 2009 we helped repeal the law making it harder to run for office via an assembly of electors and helped to pass Oregon’s “fusion voting” law, which allows candidates to list multiple party nominations on their ballot line.
- Past cross-nominees include US Senator Jeff Merkley, former Governor, John Kitzhaber, current governor, Kate Brown, current SOS Dennis Richardson and many other prominent Oregon elected officials.

# IPO Comparison to minor parties



# Understanding the growth

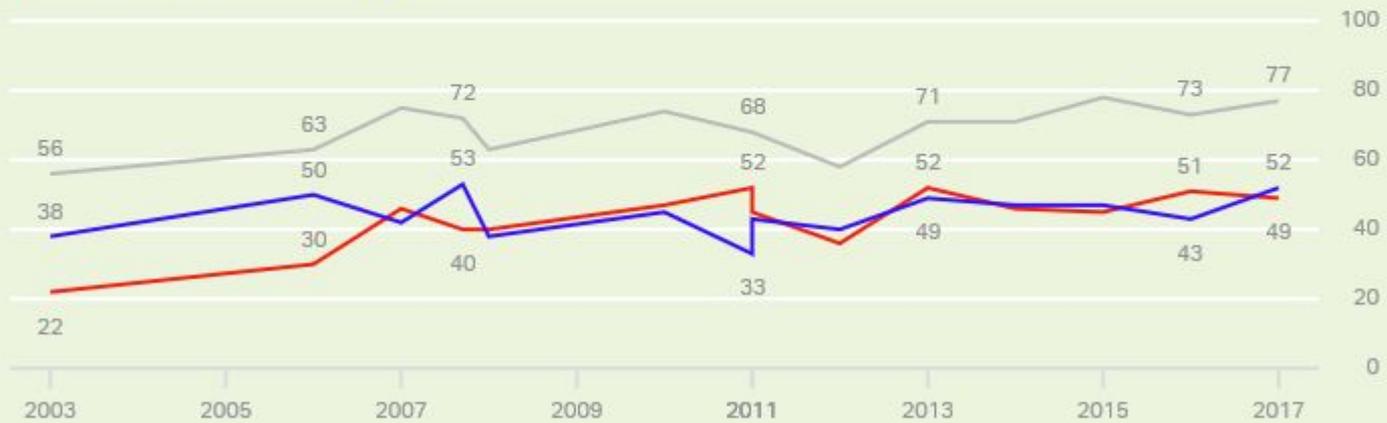
- A persistent 50 – 60 percent of Americans do not feel well represented by either of the two major political parties and believe a third party is needed. (Source: Gallup 2010 - 2014).
- Roughly 1/4<sup>th</sup> of IPO members are Democrats or Republicans who switched.
- Roughly half of IPO members are under the age of 40, making it the youngest political party in the state.
- Main ideological consistency is frustration with both parties and a desire to strengthen the public interest center.
- Joining IPO instead of other third parties because it is *less* ideological.

# Public support for a third major party

## Percentage Saying Third Major Political Party Is Needed, by Party ID

In your view, do the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job of representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?

■ Republicans ■ Independents ■ Democrats



GALLUP

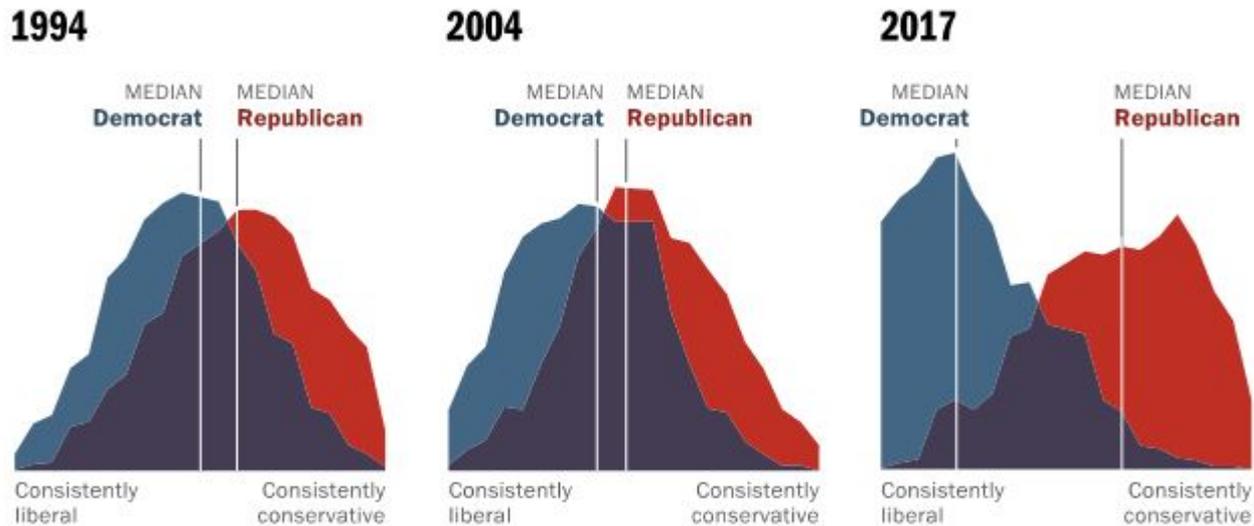
# Why do people want a third party?

- Polarization of major parties

---

## Democrats and Republicans more ideologically divided than in the past

*Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values*



Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see methodology). The blue area in this chart represents the ideological distribution of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents; the red area of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. The overlap of these two distributions is shaded purple.

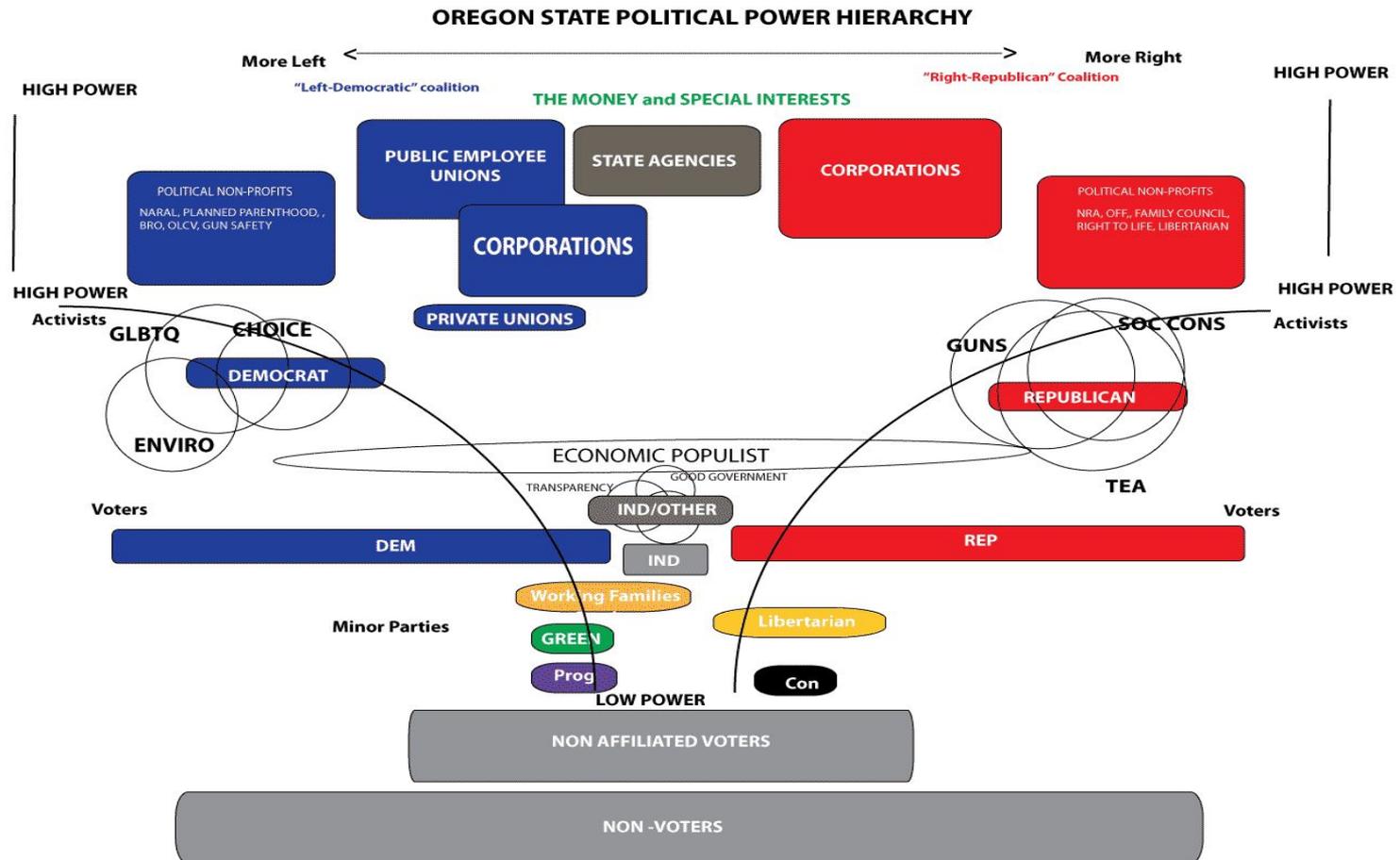
Source: Survey conducted June 8-18, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---

# Why do people want a third party?

- People feel that government is less responsive to ordinary citizens than it is to powerful special interests.



# Core frustrations of public

- Ordinary citizens do not have much influence on public policy compared with powerful special interests.
- Politics has become too partisan and not enough about problem-solving.
- Too little accountability over public institutions.

# Public frustrations are legitimate

- Oregon's system of government vests nearly all legislative control in the hands of the 6 people primarily responsible for raising money from big special interests.
- House Democrats have made the problem worse by breaking 100 years of Oregon tradition and allowing the House Majority leader to draw a salary from the House Democrats political committee, which is funded entirely with political contributions from the lobby.
- 97 percent of the \$130 million raised and spent in Oregon came from sources other than donations of \$100 or less.

# House campaign finance

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Amount (2015-16 cycle)</b>	<b>Main donors 2016-2017</b>
Kotek	\$586,800	SEIU, AFSCME, MV Software Corp, Carpenters
Williamson	\$451,500	SEIU, AFSCME, UFCW, Everytown for Gun Safety, Nike/Phil Knight
McLane	\$916,400	Low Income Dental Pac, AOI, Assorted industry pacs
FuturePac	\$3.4 m	Kotek, Williamson, Alonso-Leon, Bynum, SEIU, OEA, Everytown for Gun Safety
Promote Oregon	\$1.492 m	Republican State Leadership Committee, McLane, Altria, Oregon Auto-dealers Assn

# Campaign finance / lobbying cont'd

## Top direct contributors to state legislative candidate races in 2016

1. Health Industry: \$3.9 m
2. Public sector unions: \$3.8 m
3. Lawyers/Industry lobbyists: \$2.73 m
4. Private sector unions: \$2.4 m

## Top lobbying organizations in 2015

1. Everytown for Gun Safety
2. Oregon Afscme
3. OEA
4. Cities and County Government
5. AGC
6. Western States Petroleum
7. Cambia Health Solutions
8. Providence Health

## Top individual donors

1. Bud Pierce \$1.6 million
2. Nike/Phil Knight \$700k
3. Tom Steyer \$570k
4. Michael Bloomberg \$565k

## Top group donors

1. SEIU: \$1.34m
2. OEA: \$729k
3. OAR: \$565k
4. ONA: \$465k
5. OTLA: \$445k

# What are the effects of special interest control?

Major examples of what legislature does and does not do: **Environmental policy**

## What they did: Major Policy Initiatives

- **(AOI/Enviros) *Business Energy Tax Credit Program - 2007 to 2014*** - Spent \$1 billion in tax credits to encourage mostly large businesses to invest in energy efficiency upgrades.
- **(Steyer/Renew) 2015 Low carbon fuels bill** - requires gas companies to reduce carbon their products emit. Financial penalties for companies that exceed limit & financial rewards for companies that come in under limit.
- **(Steyer/Renew) 2016 Eliminate coal from Oregon power mix**
- **(Steyer/Renew) 2018 considering a carbon tax.** Goal is to raise \$1.2bn in new revenue by “capping carbon emissions from electricity, natural gas and fuel sectors” and selling “allowances” that permit companies to exceed the limit.

# Environmental policies that have not been addressed (1/4)

## 1. BETC

A 2016 audit of the state's Business Energy Tax Credits program found that the state gave out as much as \$340 million in tax credits out of a total of \$771 million that may have been fraudulently obtained. Despite this report, no action was taken by the 2017 Oregon Legislature to recover these funds.

# Environmental policies that have not been addressed (2/4)

**INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION** - Currently, more than three-fourths of the state's largest industrial polluters are discharging waste without valid permits. In some cases, permits are more than two decades out of date, and several facilities have gone for decades without inspection by the state. To address this problem, regulations for large-scale industrial polluters were proposed in 2017 but defeated during the legislative session.

# Environmental policies that have not been addressed (3/4)

**SOLID WASTE-** Overwhelmingly voted to remove the regulatory authority for the state agency responsible for regulating the final cover and structural integrity of landfills--immediately before one of the state's largest regional landfills is scheduled to close at the request of industry (which does not want to be subject to environmental regulation).

# Environmental policies that have not been addressed (4/4)

1. **CLEAN AIR** - In 2017, the legislature killed the governor's clean air proposal and the state legislature continues to refuse to regulate diesel emissions despite the fact that Multnomah County air ranked in the worst 1% of counties nationwide for concentrations of diesel particulate, according to the last EPA National Air Toxics Assessment (December 2015). The same study ranked Portland as the worst city nationwide for respiratory distress and Multnomah County in the worst 2% of U.S. Counties for cancer risk.

# Other examples

In terms of K-12 education, our state is at the bottom in student performance (40th), instructional time (45th), student-teacher ratio (46th) and high school graduation rate (48th) , despite being 21st out of 50 states in per student K-12 funding.

FamilyCare, Oregon's second-largest Medicaid provider, just closed its doors in response to a reimbursement dispute with the state, causing more than 100,000 medicaid enrollees to lose their provider.

The state wasted \$305 million in taxpayer funds on a healthcare web site that never worked. A 2016 Congressional report called for criminal investigation into the matter, but, again, no action has been taken by Oregon's government.

# How can we fix it?

## **1. Pass meaningful campaign finance reform.**

Oregon is one of only five states with no limits on campaign contributions, which is at the core of why our state policies, especially environmental, education, and tax policies, reflect the interests of the powerful rather than the general public.

This problem is made worse by the fact that Oregon's system of government vests nearly all of the legislature's power into the hands of the six leaders most responsible for raising money from the special interests that accounted for more than 97 percent of the \$130 million that was raised and spent in Oregon during the 2016 election.

[www.indparty.com/cfr](http://www.indparty.com/cfr)

# How can we fix it?

## **2. Allow more voters to meaningfully participate in our elections:**

More than half of Americans do not feel well-represented by either major party, so why do they control 100% of the political power in this country?

Roughly 85 percent of us live in districts that are dominated by either the Democrats or Republicans. This, combined with our closed primary system, has created a system where our elected leaders are far more responsive to their major funders and their most partisan supporters than they are to the less partisan general public.

- **Multi-member districts instead of single-member districts.**
- **Open primary elections to allow more political parties and voters to participate.**

# How can we fix it?

**3. We need more civic-minded people running for office who do not take \$\$ from inside sources and for people to vote for them when they do.**

In addition to pushing for reform, our party is seeking people to run for office who will represent their communities rather than powerful special interests.

We are encouraging candidates to run campaigns based on average contributions of \$100 to \$200 (i.e., raising \$50,000 from 500 people) rather than raising money from political insiders.

If we can develop a culture in Oregon where voters reward candidates who raise money in small donations rather than taking big contributions from insiders, it will go a long way toward reducing undue influence and the power of money.