



2018-19 POLICY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PLATFORM REVIEW

Released 11/30/2019

The 2018 IPO platform was released in December, 2017. It provided background information for IPO cross-nominees, media and the public on major problems that our members and the general public believe need to be addressed in Oregon.

2018-19 Priorities & outcomes

Anti-corruption & undue influence

Our party's 2018-19 anti-corruption platform called for the Oregon legislature to refer a constitutional amendment to voters to allow for contribution limits. We encouraged legislators to also pass meaningful limits and regulations that require strong tagline disclosures.

The Party has also advocated for a nonpartisan redistricting plan to be adopted by 2021 so that the post 2020 census redistricting does not get dominated by one political party and leave Oregon with gerrymandered districts and a hyper-partisan Legislature.

Good: The 2019 Oregon legislature has referred a constitutional amendment to Oregon voters that will allow for campaign contribution limits to be limited. The party's co-chairs, Dan Meek and Linda Williams have joined in argument in the Oregon Supreme Court to defend Multnomah County's strong campaign disclosure requirements .

Several IPO officers participated in drafting a proposed measure to create a non-partisan commission to redraw Oregon's legislative lines. State Council Member, Drew Kaza, was a participant in the work group that brought the final initiative forward. That group, called "People not Politicians" has filed a ballot initiative (IP-67) and is currently gathering signatures to put the non partisan redistricting plan on the 2020 ballot.

Bad: The contribution limit ballot measure simply sets the stage for meaningful campaign finance limits. The 2019 legislature passed weak disclaimer requirements which could prevent more meaningful regulation from being enacted.

National Study of Anti-Corruption (Nov. 2015) Grades Oregon: F

Public Access to Information	F	
Political Financing	F	
Executive Accountability	F	
Legislative Accountability	D-	
Procurement	F	
Lobbying Disclosure	F	
Ethics Enforcement Agencies	F	

Education

Our party's 2018-19 platform noted the poor performance of Oregon's K-12 system relative to investment and made several policy recommendations, including reforming Oregon's Public Employee Retirement System, increase funding for vocational training and the creation of incentives like a "teacher's ROTC program" that forgives student loans for teachers who relocate to low-performing schools or schools in economically disadvantaged communities. IPO co chair Rob Harris first proposed a "teachers ROTC" and the idea was expended and promoted by Dr. Knute Buehler during his 2018 campaign for Oregon Governor.

OREGON SCHOOL REVENUE PER STUDENT & STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO					
YEAR	School Funding Rank	Revenue/Student	Student-Teacher Ratio	S/T Ratio rank	
2010	35th	\$ 10,828.00	20.3	3rd worst	
2012	27th	\$ 11,566.00	21.8	2nd worst	
2014	22th	\$ 12,412.00	20.7	3rd worst	
2016	20th	\$ 14,217.00	20.0	5th worst	

Source(s): 2012, 2018 National Education Association Rankings & Estimates

The good: Oregon's legislature passed legislation to rebalance PERS, creating employee cost sharing for the defined benefits portion of the pension in a way that reasonably captures the costs associated with the current workforce. IPO Secretary Sal Peralta was a part of the PERS reform group PERSSOLUTIONS that was instrumental in negotiating a PERS reform with the State Legislators. Funding has been increased for vocational training in Oregon and there has been movement towards "teachers ROTC"-style incentives.

The bad: The PERS reforms passed by the legislature are only a partial solution to the problem due to the scale of the costs associated with current retirees that cannot be modified. This will continue to put significant downward pressure on entry-level teacher salaries and the overall performance of Oregon's K-12 system as well as other government entities that have education-related roles such as Community Colleges and state universities.

Environment

Our party's 2018-19 environmental platform noted that Oregon's leaders have generally allowed our state agencies to disregard core environmental protection needs, including the regulation of industrial impacts on air, water and soil. State and federal governments have not adequately addressed the economic impact that environmental policies have had on our communities, particularly with respect to the harvesting of timber and water conflicts among various stakeholders. We started to turn our focus on state agencies, their efficiencies, and their enforcement of current state laws. We believe there is more work to be done for holding state agencies and their management accountable, at the very least, for enforcing current law.

In 2017, we offered the following findings of fact:

- More than 40 percent of the state's largest industrial polluters are operating without valid permits. In many cases, permits are more than 2 decades out of date, and several facilities have gone for decades without inspection by the state. Despite this, in 2017 Oregon legislators defeated a proposal to regulate large-scale industrial polluters that would have addressed this problem .
- That same Legislature removed 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.
- A 2016 review by THE OREGONIAN of the state's handling of toxic air quality in Portland found that the agency was "timid, leaderless and consistently influenced by industry interests."
- Oregon is the dumping ground for dirty diesel engines and trucks that are banned in California and Washington but are allowed to operate in Oregon . Diesel emissions cause nearly 250 premature deaths in Oregon per year and \$3.5 billion in health care costs and lost productivity.
- 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.

We made several policy recommendations, chief among them that the state should prioritize core environmental functions including the proper regulation of industrial polluters and diesel emitters, increase fines and fees for polluters, require diesel vehicles operating in Oregon to meet clean air standards that have been on the books for several years in Washington and California; ban new fossil fuel facilities from being sited in Oregon and **consider** a carbon tax to discourage emissions of greenhouse gasses.

The good: The state has taken several steps to better regulate industrial polluters. A January, 2018 audit by the Oregon Secretary of State outlined the failure of DEQ to meet its responsibilities with respect to regulating industrial polluters and immediately set the stage for the passage of the first major overhaul for how the state regulates industrial pollution. A 2019 audit followup found that DEQ had completed 5 of the 10 steps outlined in the report and had made policies to comply with the remaining 5 recommendations.

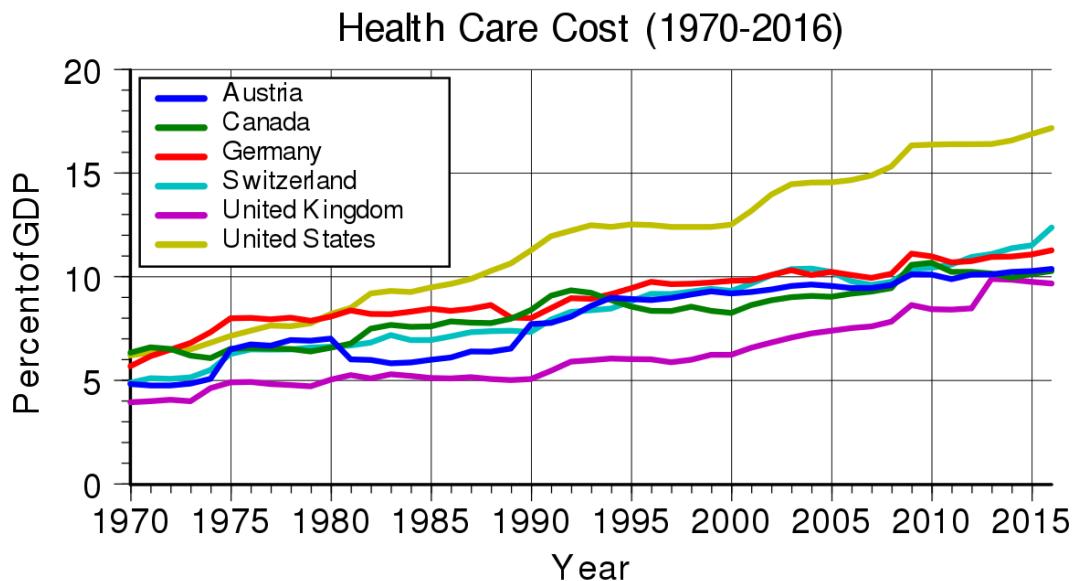
In 2019, the state legislature passed a law requiring vehicles operating in the Portland metro area to meet new diesel standards. Our officers successfully lobbied to protect the rights of local communities to adopt local policies to protect the health, well-being and natural resources of their local communities.

The bad:

- Oregon has gone significantly backward in terms of materials recycling. A larger percentage of our waste materials, particularly plastics and pulp and paper as well as more valuable materials are winding up in landfills.
- There is a current statewide push to restrict the rights of local communities to enact local regulations that protect them from things like aerial spraying.
- Conversations have broken down between policymakers on the issue of greenhouse gas reduction and exacerbated rural and urban divisions within the state that will make problem-solving harder.

Health Care

The 2018-19 health care platform was a policy backgrounder that did not articulate specific recommendations but instead noted increased costs relative to the delivery of care..



In the 2020-21 platform, this IPO policy area will be changed to Public Health to enable the party to better address meaningful reform related to health care. We will advocate for public health services that include health issues related to homelessness and for incarcerated individuals. Oregon currently ranks near the bottom in terms of untreated mental illness and unsheltered homelessness. Multiple policy reports have encouraged a substantial increase in funding in these areas.

Housing Affordability

IPO's 2018-19 platform noted that Oregon is in the midst of a housing affordability crisis driven by a lack of supply. Our report noted that statewide housing needs exceed demand; that housing costs are rising faster than incomes; and that city planners have little confidence in the efficacy of legislative policy solutions to address housing affordability. Our platform called for several "partial solutions" including starting a conversation about rebalancing the state's land-use laws to help alleviate housing costs and better meet the state's climate, transportation and environmental goals; encouraging shared housing services and local policies that allow more flexible accommodations in residential neighborhoods; and limiting the state home mortgage deduction to primary residences only, and only up to a certain amount above a region's median home price.

The good/bad: There have been several major policy initiatives in this area, the net effect of which remains unclear. In 2019, the Oregon legislature mandated that R1 residential zones will now be required to allow "missing middle" housing options that will increase neighborhood density. However, critics contend that the legislation does not adequately consider the limitations of local infrastructure to meet the new zoning requirements. At least one local jurisdiction has publicly stated that it does not intend to comply with the law.

Since 2018, housing affordability has gotten worse, and issues related to affordability have contributed to a significant and persistent increase in unsheltered homelessness. This is occurring not just in the metro areas but throughout Oregon. While all communities are impacted, each may still have different strategies and needs and different solutions.

This problem is exacerbated by and contributes to addiction-related mental illness. Our 2020 platform will address these policy areas more explicitly.