



2016 Priority Legislative Action Items

1. Significantly increase investment and reinvestment in local, state, and national infrastructure to further commerce and provide consistent, safe means of transportation, including disaster and earthquake preparedness. Support Oregon's Democratic congressional delegation and the Legislature in their efforts to invest in infrastructure and transportation projects with strong provisions to create American union jobs.
2. Prohibit privatization and support full funding of the Social Security Trust Fund. Retain and enhance full benefits. Base the Social Security COLA on a separate index that considers what seniors are facing in terms of cost of living. Eliminate the income cap on social security taxation.
3. Amend the U.S. and Oregon constitutions to clarify corporations are not persons. The rights extended by the U.S. Constitution are rights of natural persons only, and money is not political speech.
4. International trade agreements, including, but not limited to the TPP, shall have enforceable labor, environmental, and human rights standards, prioritizing enforcement. No trade agreement shall give up America's sovereignty or allow any foreign tribunal, government, or international corporation the power to change our laws and/or regulations.
5. Reverse or prevent the privatization of functions that are appropriately public, such as, but not limited to, streets, roads, bridges, public health, military, schools, prisons, water, libraries, and public spaces.
6. Eliminate mandatory minimum prison sentences.

7. Respond to global climate change -- the greatest threat to the survival of humanity -- by instituting requirements to locate and contain the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in accordance with the Pacific Coast Collaborative Agreement by establishing a carbon tax to fund transitioning to renewable energy production and energy efficiency programs.
8. Establish a transparent public process in Oregon to publicly fund and implement a universal, publicly funded comprehensive health care system. The system would be funded by progressive taxes and allow patients to choose their providers.
9. Recognize the adverse impacts of exporting fossil fuels, including LNG, on climate change, property rights, fishing, tourism, and domestic natural gas prices. Fully utilize Oregon environmental, land use, and safety laws to prevent construction of terminals and pipelines such as the proposed Jordan Cove Terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline.
10. Ensure the right of people to organize a union and oppose any “right to work” legislation and anti-worker ballot measures which deny unions the “right to negotiate” fair-share contributions from covered non-union employees.
11. Reduce student debt for all. Allow student loan debt to be discharged through bankruptcy. Strictly regulate the student loan industry to end abusive and predatory practices. Allow student loans to be publically financed/refinanced to the lowest federal funds rate.
12. Reinstate a modernized Glass-Steagall Act in order to separate commercial and investment banks and regulate derivatives.
13. Reform immigration policies to include a “path to citizenship.”
14. Ensure that people in the United States get safe and secure access to education, social services, and health care regardless of immigration status. Recognize that requiring immigration documentation for these benefits creates a disenfranchised underclass that degrades our community.
15. Fully fund the Free Community College program. Lower or eliminate college tuition. Adequately fund and expand federal and state scholarships, grants, and low-interest loan programs and extend them to all public post-secondary education.