

### **XIII. PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

#### **Agriculture Policy for Oregon 13.005**

- 1 An agricultural policy for the State of Oregon needs to be adopted  
2 that would:
- 3 1. Acknowledge the importance of agriculture to the state's  
4 economy and to the well being of all of its residents;
  - 5 2. Promote agriculture in positive actions that result in a vibrant and  
6 healthy agriculture in Oregon; and
  - 7 3. Provide that any and all proposed rules and regulations or  
8 legislation affecting agriculture should enhance the importance of  
9 and the operation of agricultural enterprises in Oregon. (00)

**Policy No. 12.010, Voice of Agriculture, was deleted in 2005.**

#### **Communication with other Organizations 13.015**

- 1 We encourage greater communication and cooperation with other  
2 agricultural and natural resource organizations at the national, state and  
3 county levels. (07)

#### **Action by Farmers 13.020**

- 1 Farmers and agricultural organizations must become more  
2 aggressive and involved in community, state, and national affairs.

#### **Freedom to Farm 13.030**

- 1 Increasing demand for agricultural lands and increasing concerns  
2 about agricultural practices, have created severe restrictions on the  
3 freedom of farmers. It is important, therefore, that farmers take an active  
4 role in securing reasonable laws and regulations, in areas such as:
- 5 1. Land use;
  - 6 2. Agricultural chemicals;
  - 7 3. Food processing;
  - 8 4. Packaging;
  - 9 5. Marketing;
  - 10 6. Noise, dust, air pollution;
  - 11 7. Water use; and
  - 12 8. Biotechnology. (14)
- 13 Farmers should retain the right to use accepted agricultural  
14 practices.

15 We oppose any legislation or regulations that restrict or mandate  
16 farm practices. Accepted farming practices should be exempt from state  
17 laws and regulations, local ordinances and suits related to dust, odor,  
18 noise, etc. and other conditions not appreciated by the public. The right  
19 to farm laws should be strengthened to require that a plaintiff has the

20 burden of proving that the farming practice endangers public health or  
21 safety. Unsuccessful plaintiffs should be responsible for the attorney  
22 fees, court costs and compensation for other expenses of the defendant.  
23 (07)

**Beginning Farmer Assistance 13.040**

1 We oppose the concept of the state acquiring farm land in a  
2 beginning farmer program. The State of Oregon should encourage  
3 retiring farmers through tax incentives to rent or sell their land to  
4 beginning farmers. Farm Credit Services should be encouraged to work  
5 with beginning farmers.

**Encouragement of New Industry 13.050**

1 We propose that the state encourage new industries to locate in  
2 Oregon which have the ability to use the abundance of raw agricultural  
3 products that are produced here.

**Policy No. 12.060, Exposition Center, was deleted in 2005**

**Policy No. 12.100, Citizenship, was deleted in 2008**

**Jury Duty 13.110**

1 We support adequate juror compensation that would enable all  
2 adults to participate in this very important service to their fellow citizens.  
3 Key personnel should have the option to delay jury duty until the next  
4 available session.

**Publications of Government Proceedings 13.115**

1 We favor maintenance of the statutes which require county courts  
2 and boards of county commissioners to publish monthly proceedings and  
3 expenditures.

**Government Surplus Properties 13.117**

1 We propose altering the existing practice of disposal of federal real  
2 property that has been declared surplus to federal needs. No new  
3 government entities, such as Native American Tribes, should take  
4 precedence over other government entities in bidding for surplus federal  
5 real property. This prohibition extends to the Bureau of Indian Affairs  
6 from acquiring surplus federal real property on behalf of any Native  
7 American Tribe. (03)

**Policy No. 12.120, Federal State and County Projects, was deleted in 2005**

**Qualifications for Public Office 13.125**

- 1 We believe the voters should decide whether or not a candidate is  
2 qualified for public office. We oppose establishment of any new  
3 qualifications not already prescribed by law.  
4 Any salary increases for an elected official should not become  
5 effective until after the next general election. (05)

**Policy No. 12.127, Judicial Elections was deleted in 2005**

**Voters Pamphlet Information 13.126**

- 1 The state should develop a system that enables persons to submit  
2 voter pamphlet information at each county clerk's office or online instead  
3 of in Salem at the Secretary of State's Office. (04), (05)

**Oregon Constitution 13.130**

- 1 Article II, Section 16 of the Oregon Constitution should be amended  
2 to require a majority vote for the election of all public officials.

**Initiative Process 13.135**

- 1 We support the initiative and referendum process that has been part  
2 of the Oregon Constitution since the turn of the century. We are  
3 concerned that this historic citizen check and balance of state  
4 government in recent times is being misused.  
5 The initiative and referendum process should require:  
6 1. The prohibition of signature gatherers being paid for each  
7 signature obtained;  
8 2. That qualifying signatures be required to be gathered equally  
9 from each congressional district or similar regions of the state;  
10 and  
11 3. Constitutional amendments not referred to the voters by the  
12 legislature should require a 2/3 majority vote of the voters for  
13 adoption. (07)

**Oregon Public Employees in Legislature 13.140**

- 1 We support action to repeal Section 8 of Article XV of the Oregon  
2 Constitution which allows public employees to serve in the legislature.  
3 Because it is the responsibility of government agencies to implement  
4 public policy, not to formulate public policy, no state or federal agency  
5 should publicly take sides on any issue or policy concerning the general  
6 public.

7 We oppose any effort of any government agency in attempting to  
8 formulate farm thinking for presentation in support of any legislative farm  
9 programs. (05)

**Public Employee Strikes 13.141**

1 We are opposed to strikes by public employees. We recommend that  
2 all public employee contracts contain a no-strike clause or where union  
3 contracts do not exist, the public employees should sign an agreement  
4 waiving a strike action as a condition of employment. When binding  
5 arbitration is imposed, both parties should submit their final offer to a  
6 three member arbitration board which would accept one final offer from  
7 the disputing parties.

8 More attention needs to be given to providing efficient delivery of  
9 government services including education. Productivity and performance  
10 need to be considerations for salary increases. (04)

**Voter Registration 13.150**

1 We support the state election laws which require voters to be  
2 registered at least thirty days prior to election. (05)

**Religious Life 13.200**

1 Our national life is founded on spiritual faith and belief in God. We  
2 favor leaving "In God We Trust" on coins and "Under God" in the Pledge  
3 of Allegiance. We believe it to be an inalienable right to worship God, to  
4 offer prayers, to read the Bible in private or public places, including  
5 schoolrooms. This perpetuates the principles on which this nation was  
6 founded.

7 Solutions to problems arising from social and economic change  
8 involve recognition of spiritual and moral values. The proper role of  
9 churches and organizations of churches in this field is to provide  
10 guidance on the moral and spiritual aspects of social and economic  
11 problems, rather than to lobby for or otherwise promote specific  
12 governmental actions. If churches or church organizations continue to  
13 intrude into political action programs, that portion of their resources used  
14 for such activities should not be given preferential property tax treatment.  
15 (05)

**Rural Health 13.400**

1 We urge continued interest and education of our membership in  
2 health and disease control programs.

3 We support incentives to encourage rural hospitals, emergency  
4 medical services and clinics.

5 We oppose employer mandated health insurance. (09)

**Policy No. 12.410, Aids Testing, was deleted in 2004**

**Foods and Nutrition 13.420**

1 We recommend continued nutritional improvement of school lunch  
2 programs.  
3 We recommend that county Farm Bureaus promote the use of  
4 domestic and locally produced farm products on school premises.  
5 Dietary goals should be based upon documented scientific proof.  
6 We oppose any committee, agency or persons dictating the foods  
7 that should or should not be eaten. We deplore the spending of the  
8 taxpayers' money for controlling or attempting to control the diets of the  
9 American people in any way. (04), (08)

**Social Services 13.430**

1 The present Social Services program tends to perpetuate rather than  
2 cure the problem. The program should be redesigned to make it more  
3 attractive to work than be a recipient of social services. Acceptance of  
4 work training should be mandatory for able bodied persons. Incentives  
5 should be provided for those taking jobs or work training. Primary  
6 emphasis should be placed on the problems and needs of families with  
7 children. Aid to the blind, elderly and the totally or permanently disabled  
8 individuals must be adequate. We support requiring proof of citizenship  
9 and testing for illegal substances for social service recipients.  
10 We support community representation on public social service  
11 boards. (08)

**Emergency Medical Service 13.440**

1 We support state-wide emergency medical and trauma services.

**Volunteer Emergency Personnel 13.441**

1 We support modifications of OSHA rules and Oregon State  
2 regulations to recognize and give credit for the expertise of an  
3 emergency volunteer's occupation.

**Volunteer Fire Fighters 13.442**

1 Oregon should adopt training standards appropriate to the needs of  
2 rural fire districts and their volunteers. (03)

**Confidential Financial Records 13.500**

1 Any information exchanged between borrower and lender should be  
2 considered confidential and privileged. The release of any information  
3 should occur only upon the mutual agreement of both parties.  
4 We support legislation to make the unauthorized release of  
5 confidential and privileged information between borrower and lender a  
6 criminal offense.

**Personal Property Rights** **13.504**

1 Before the State of Oregon adopts laws, rules, and/or regulations,  
2 agencies should first take into account the economic and non-economic  
3 impact they would have on private property rights.  
4 We urge legislation protecting the private property interests of  
5 farmers and ranchers, for their livestock, including those who choose to  
6 raise nontraditional species. (03), (06)

**Trespassing** **13.505**

1 We recognize that the vast majority of citizens are responsible  
2 people who recognize and respect rights of others and the need for  
3 protection of their property.  
4 We urge cooperation with organizations of sportsmen and other  
5 interested citizens who wish to gain understanding of the trespass  
6 problems.  
7 Heavy penalties for acts of vandalism are encouraged.  
8 Violation of the hunting with permission statute in the game laws  
9 should be subject to the penalty for trespassing in the criminal code.  
10 A landowner is subject to loss of time and considerable cost when a  
11 suit or injury is initiated by a trespasser. We support legislation to require  
12 the plaintiff to pay legal and other costs incurred by the landowner.  
13 We support legislation relieving property owners of liability for injury  
14 or death sustained by a trespasser regardless of age.  
15 We recognize the need for property owners to have a cost efficient  
16 and long lasting way to post property for no trespassing.  
17 We support the statewide use of painting the tops of fence posts as a  
18 legal means of posting ones' property for "No Trespassing." (00), (05),  
19 (07), (08)

**Drone Technology** **13.506**

1 We embrace drone technology for production agriculture. We  
2 support laws that protect private property owners from the trespass of  
3 drones. (15)

**Right to Farm** **13.508**

4 Accepted farming practices utilized in the production of food and  
5 fiber should be protected by "Right to Farm" provisions in the Oregon  
6 statutes. (See also policy 3.030) (06)

**Nuisances** **13.510**

1 Persons or jurisdictions initiating an unsuccessful nuisance suit  
2 should be liable for the loss of any economic value pre-existing business  
3 and facilities of the defendant.

**Legal Action** **13.515**

- 1 We must use the courts to test unreasonable laws or regulations.
- 2 This should be the last resort after all other approaches have been
- 3 explored and exhausted.
- 4 We support a policy that requires any filing party of a government
- 5 suit to post a bond to cover the legal costs of the prevailing party.

**Probate Fee** **13.520**

- 1 Special priority should be given to the revision of probate fees so
- 2 they are commensurate with the amount of legal work required.

**Small Claims Court Judgments** **13.525**

- 1 We support forcing the payment of judgments won in small claims
- 2 courts.

**Judicial Reform** **13.530**

- 1 We support the maintenance of Justice of Peace Courts. The
- 2 present system for election of judges should be retained. A maximum
- 3 limit should be retained for each class of lawsuit. When a defendant
- 4 prevails, the plaintiff should be liable for all attorney fees and the court
- 5 costs. (07)

**Liability Suits** **13.535**

- 1 We support legislation to limit excessive liability judgments.
- 2 Judgments should be based more closely on the actual economic loss
- 3 incurred.
- 4 We support legislation to:
  - 5 1. Strengthen the legal concept of "fault" as a basis to determine
  - 6 damages. "Strict liability" concepts that hold parties liable for
  - 7 losses when no fault exists are unfair,
  - 8 2. Control expert testimony,
  - 9 3. Eliminate "joint and several liability,"
  - 10 4. Allow for the recovery of medical expenses, property damage
  - 11 and lost wages, pain and punitive damages should be
  - 12 commensurate to company size and financial status,
  - 13 5. Allow the payment of large awards for future damages to be
  - 14 made in installments rather than a lump sum,
  - 15 6. Eliminate double recovery. Court awards should be reduced by
  - 16 the amount of other financial sources such as medical insurance
  - 17 and wage continuation plans, and
  - 18 7. Encourage alternatives to lawsuits such as binding arbitration
  - 19 and mediation. (08)

**SLAPP Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation 13.536**

1 Citizens currently are granted immunity in testifying during the  
2 legislative process. We support legislation which would grant citizens  
3 similar immunity when testifying at the state or local level. (00)

**Third Party Lawsuits-Harassment 13.537**

1 When a citizen accuses a landowner of violating agency rules and  
2 the agency pursues the accusation, the accusing person should have to  
3 testify at any hearing or court proceeding so that the accused may face  
4 their accuser. (00)

**Policy No. 12.540, Enforcement-Rules and Regulations, was deleted  
in 2005**

**Truth in Real Estate Sales 13.550**

1 We support the concept that all mineral, water and timber rights,  
2 easements, zoning constraints and deed restrictions be included in a  
3 land sale contract.

**Takings of Property 13.560**

1 We believe that any action by government that restricts or diminishes  
2 an owner/operator's right to conduct farming or forest practices on the  
3 property constitutes a taking of property.

4 Therefore, government should provide due process and  
5 compensation to the exact degree that an owner/operator's right to use  
6 the property has been diminished by government action. All claims for  
7 loss of value should be filed within two years on new actions. Partial  
8 takings of property should be prohibited unless compensation is made  
9 for reduction in the value of the total property.

10 We are opposed to removing the applicability of land use laws as an  
11 alternative to financial compensation for loss of property value due to any  
12 action by government.

13 Further, government should acquire property or easements through  
14 negotiated mutual agreement. The loss of undeveloped property value  
15 should be calculated by comparing the value of the property one year  
16 before the zoning law was enacted compared to the value one year after  
17 the new zoning law was put into effect and the lost value should be  
18 indexed for inflation. (00), (04), (07)

**Compensation 13.570**

1 When a governmental action results in an economic decrease to the  
2 owner because it restricts or adversely affects a farming or forest  
3 practice and upon providing proof of the economic decrease, the owner  
4 shall be compensated by the public entity both for the amount of the  
5 economic decrease and the cost of professional assistance paid by the



6 owner to establish the economic decrease including attorney fees and  
7 court costs. (04)

**Compensation for Losses 13.575**

1 When an action by government results in an economic loss to the  
2 agriculture producer, by limiting or prohibiting the use of real and  
3 personal property, including but not limited to, chemicals, water or  
4 equipment, the producer should be able to file a claim and be  
5 compensated by the regulating government entity.

6 We are opposed to any government action that results in an  
7 economic loss that does not provide appropriate compensation. (06)

**Compensation Revenue Sources 13.577**

1 When Measure 37 or Measure 49 claims are approved for the loss of  
2 property value the appropriate method of compensation from the  
3 following list of options should be employed:

- 4 1. State income tax credit for state actions;
- 5 2. County or city property tax credit for local government actions.

6 A county compensation fund should be established for future  
7 compensation claims and revenue continuously appropriated from the  
8 following list of options:

- 9 1. Farm and forest use assessment tax penalties when land use is  
10 changed to a non-farm or non-forest use;
- 11 2. A real estate transfer tax on Measure 37 or Measure 49 claims  
12 when the land is sold.

13 Installment payments for the loss of property value should be made  
14 when the state or local government entity has adequate funding. (07),  
15 (08)

**Condemnation 13.580**

1 Any government or utility with condemnation authority should be  
2 prohibited from exercising that authority on land zoned for farm or forest  
3 use without the approval of the county governing body.

4 If condemnation authority is exercised on land zoned for farm or  
5 forest use, the land should be valued as though it were inside an urban  
6 growth boundary and zoned for the intended use.

7 Any public agency or utility that has condemnation powers should be  
8 required to pay all legal costs to the private property owner whose  
9 property the agency has plans to take for a public use. The agency's or  
10 utility's liability should begin with the first notice to the property owner  
11 and continue until the final conclusion. (01), (08)

**Historic Preservation of the Oregon Trail 13.585**

1 Historic preservation should not conflict with existing and or accepted  
2 farming practices. (07)

**Parole Eligibility** **13.600**

1 We urge that parole requirements for repeat offenders be  
2 strengthened to a degree which will insure more protection of lives and  
3 property from the depredations of habitual criminals.

**Policy No. 12.610, Juvenile Delinquency, was deleted in 2005**

**Capital Punishment** **13.620**

1 We support capital punishment for specified crimes.

**Illegal Drugs** **13.625**

1 Greatly increased penalties should be imposed on those convicted of  
2 producing, transporting, or selling illegal drugs or recruiting others to do  
3 the same. Bail requirements should be maximized. (14)

4 Additional funds should be appropriated for the education and  
5 treatment of our youth. A reward program for informants should be  
6 instituted.

7 We support the right of private employers and government agencies  
8 to test employees for drug use. Prospective employees should be  
9 informed that drug tests will be given.

10 We support Law enforcement shall be notified right to know that a  
11 marijuana operation is legally sanctioned a mechanism to determine if a  
12 marijuana growing operation is actually sanctioned as a medical grow.  
13 Necessary information should be subject to the public disclosure laws  
14 available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, to local police agencies so  
15 they can determine if a grow operation is legal. (06), (10)

**Crime Prevention** **13.630**

1 We support legislation that will declare the removal or alteration of  
2 serial numbers from personal property and owner identification numbers  
3 an illegal act.

4 We support the establishment and continuation of crime prevention  
5 programs throughout the state.

**Policy No. 12.635, Insanity Plea, was deleted in 2005**

**REDDI Program** **13.640**

1 We support the "Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately" (REDDI)  
2 program.

**Policy No. 12.700, Racing Funds for County Fairs was deleted in 2004.**

**State Board of Agriculture** **13.705**

1 We support maintaining the advisory role of the State Board of  
2 Agriculture. (03), (04)

**Government Agency Lobbying** **13.710**

1 We support legislation prohibiting state and local agencies financed  
2 by tax money from engaging a lobbyist for hire. The agency's  
3 involvement should be limited to only testimony invited by or information  
4 requested by a legislator.

5 State agencies should be limited to one representative. Their  
6 testimony should be limited to the factual effects of the proposed  
7 legislation. Additionally, all lobbyists working for organizations receiving  
8 taxpayer money should be clearly identified by a name tag which  
9 discloses their name and organization when they are within the Capitol  
10 building. These requirements should not be considered to apply in any  
11 way to elected officials of any jurisdiction of the state.

**Administrative Agencies** **13.720**

1 The legislature should not delegate legislative authority to  
2 administrative agencies, or in cases of emergencies, the appropriate  
3 interim committee.

4 At least a majority of the regulatory body committee members should  
5 be present throughout the legislative hearings.

6 Administrative agencies should not be allowed to impose fines  
7 without action by a court. Right of appeal by agencies should be denied  
8 after a court decision.

9 Any state agency charged with enforcing federal laws should not  
10 adopt rules more restrictive than the federal rules or apply the rules in a  
11 more restrictive manner than the rules are when enforced by the federal  
12 government.

13 Statutory language should be adopted which defines the purpose of  
14 each current agency and any new agency when it is created.

15 State agencies should be permitted to enact administrative rules only  
16 to the extent that such rules are necessary to accomplish the purpose for  
17 which the agency was formed and only to the extent that such rules do  
18 not diminish or detract from the vested private property rights of citizens.

19 All previously enacted administrative rules which exceed the  
20 legislatively defined purpose of the agency should be declared null and  
21 void.

22 Any person or persons attempting to enforce rules which exceed the  
23 purpose for which the agency was formed should be subject to criminal  
24 penalties for abuse of authority.

25 Any proposed rule should require legislative approval prior to  
26 implementation.

27 All government agencies or their employees, while working in their  
28 professional capacity, should be held to the same standard as individuals  
29 or businesses in complying with the laws of the land.

30 Government regulatory agencies should not be allowed to levy fines  
31 upon issuance of a citation for noncompliance of regulations.

32 Civil penalties collected by any regulatory agency should go into the  
33 general fund.

**Agency Liability 13.725**

1 When an agency charges a landowner with a violation of an agency  
2 regulation, and forces the landowner to stop an activity, and in an  
3 ensuing investigation and/or court proceeding the land owner is found to  
4 be innocent of the charge, the agency should be held responsible for  
5 reimbursing any revenue losses and legal fees suffered by the  
6 landowner due to the cessation of the activity. (00)

**Government Growth 13.730**

1 We oppose the establishment of additional departments and  
2 divisions in state government unless it can be proven that such an  
3 addition will reduce the cost of goals or services to the public and the  
4 new department or division will be subject to the "Sunset Law."

**Service Fees 13.740**

1 We support legislation to change service fees charged by public  
2 agencies so they are commensurate with the cost of providing the  
3 service.

**Required Local Government Programs 13.750**

1 We support legislation to require the State of Oregon to appropriate  
2 funds for local governments to finance programs required by new  
3 legislation or administrative orders.

**Funding for Enacted Legislation 13.760**

1 No law or legislation should be passed by Congress or the State  
2 Legislature unless it is also funded by that body.

**State Boards and Commissions 13.770**

1 We request that the Governor appoint at least two farmers or  
2 ranchers to state boards or commissions which have authority over land,  
3 water and other natural resources.

4 A majority of persons who are appointed to state boards and  
5 commissions should have practical production experience or use of the  
6 resource that the board or commission oversees.

7 We support a uniform system for state agency (commission and  
8 director) appointments.

9 All state agency commission members not elected should be  
10 appointed by the Governor in a timely manner, approved by the Senate,  
11 and should not be changed by the Governor.

12 Any director of an agency governed by a state agency commission  
13 should be appointed by that state agency commission.

14 All agency directors should be governed by a state agency  
15 commission. We support that any forms needed by a state agency  
16 and/or commission or board are also offered hard copy and may be  
17 faxed, mailed or scanned and emailed to the appropriate  
18 agency/commission,etc.(16)

**Publishing Legal Notices 13.771**

1 We support continuation, by public agencies, of the existing practice  
2 of publishing legal notices in newspapers. (10)

**Limiting Legislative Sessions 13.780**

1 We support limiting regular sessions of the legislature to a maximum  
2 120 day session every other year. The Oregon legislature should pass a  
3 budget in 75 days after the opening of session. If this is not  
4 accomplished, the session should close, the Governor should call a  
5 special session and only budget bills should be allowed to be introduced.

**Legislative Emergency Clause 13.785**

1 Any legislation with emergency clauses should be approved by a  
2 super majority of both houses and shall not disallow a referral by the  
3 people in the form of an Initiative. (15)

4 The Legislative Emergency Clause shall be used exclusively during  
5 Special sessions of the Legislature for the purpose of balancing the  
6 budget or for responding to natural disasters.(16).

**Acquisition of Public Lands for Tribal Reservations 13.790**

7 We oppose any acquisition of public lands by Native American  
8 Tribes for either creating new or enlarging existing reservations. (03)

**Internet Access 13.800**

1 Access to high speed internet should be available statewide, similar  
2 to telephone service. (08)

**Single Subjects for Congressional Legislation 13.900**

1 Be it resolved that just like the Oregon ballot initiative, all bills must  
2 be limited to one issue.