



We envision an Oregon with healthy and prosperous communities where all have access to family wage jobs, quality education, nutritious food, stable homes and services that promote health and wellness.

2011 Legislative Agenda and Priorities

Housing and Homeownership: We all need a place to call home in order to succeed in life.

- Fund the Emergency Housing Account to provide housing stability and prevent homelessness.
- Support proven strategies to develop new housing, including tax credits and exemptions that directly benefit lower income Oregonians.

Food Access and Security: Good nutrition helps families learn better, work more productively, stay healthier and focus on opportunities to thrive.

- Invest in: General fund food program (GFFP), Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SNAP); Women Infants and Children (WIC); School Breakfast and Lunch; Summer and Afterschool Food Service Programs; WIC/Senior Farm Direct Programs.

Businesses and Jobs : Earned income is the first step towards a better future.

- Support targeted job creation and ensure that distressed communities reap the benefit of new jobs.
- Cultivate entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise, and small business.
- Support creation of a task force to examine work-family balance issues.

Financial Assets and Income: To enable Oregonians to weather unexpected financial storms, and to rebuild our middle class, Oregon families must be able to earn a living, save for the future, and protect those savings.

- Maintain state support for families and children through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.
- Support families' efforts to enter the workforce by investing in Employment Related Day Care and raising the Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit to 18%.
- Protect consumers from predatory refund anticipation loans.

Education/Early Education: Education promotes civic responsibility, advances economic competitiveness and expands economic opportunity.

- Maintain commitment to early childhood education through Head Start and other programs.
- Keep kids healthy in school – support School-based health programs.
- Allow Oregon kids to pay in-state tuition regardless of immigration status.

Health Care: We can improve community health, lower health care delivery costs and strengthen schools, businesses and homes.

- Give kids a healthy start – eliminate barriers to accessing the healthy kids program.
- Build the capacity of safety net clinics and community health organizations.
- Ensure the new Health Insurance Exchange is good for kids and families.

Community Investment & Accountability Policies: Oregon's revenues must be adequate to fund essential investments in our collective future.

- Reform the personal and corporate tax kicker and build state savings.
- Closely examine revenue proposals, direct expenditures, and spending through the tax code for transparency, fairness and prioritization with other forms of public investment.
- Examine the unintended impacts of state policy on specific communities, beginning with the use of Racial Impact Statements for Public Safety/Corrections and Department of Human Services.

Oregon Thrives uses an Assets and Opportunity framework to develop our legislative agenda. Based on a national model from the Corporation For Enterprise Development, this framework encourages a look across systems, agencies, and individual organizations to identify policies that promise real impact in our communities.

For more information, contact NW Public Affairs at 503-968-7161