

STAND

2020



★ AN ELECTION GUIDE BY AND FOR RURAL OREGONIANS ★

IT TAKES ALL OF US

Rural Oregonians are resilient and fiercely interdependent. We are currently facing a series of overlapping crises including COVID-19 outbreaks, wildfires tearing through our communities, attacks on the postal system, massive unemployment, political unrest, and deep polarization in our communities. Times are scary and it is hard to know what to expect next.

This isn't the first time we have faced tragedies. We know all too well how important our neighborhood phone trees are when fire evacuation notification systems (if they exist at all) don't reach all of us and we don't have 24-hour 911 dispatch to rely on. To keep one another safe, we continually build networks of community support, demonstrating the care and commitment we have for each other and proving that together we can build solutions. We have weathered storms and adapted to new normals before. But these current overlapping crises combined with crumbling roads, schools, and bridges make this

election season the most critical one we have ever faced.

Here at ROP, we have seen rural communities across Oregon set up mutual aid networks to help families and communities survive the fallout from fraying social safety nets. As thousands evacuated their homes due to the wildfires, we opened up respite sites and shelters, cooked and served meals, and met new friends and neighbors showing up for each other. We are now helping rebuild our communities and supporting essential workers who have been unable to get access to unemployment or other aid. We are taking care of each other's children as families figure out how to navigate school and childcare in the middle of a pandemic.

Now we need to take that spirit of mutual aid to the polls. By working together with our neighbors, we can create the future we want. It's going to mean making sure that we exercise our

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EN ESPAÑOL

Esta guía esta disponible en español. Bájela de nuestro página web en www.rop.org o llame a nuestra oficina para pedir una copia por correo postal o electrónico.

LISTEN TO STAND ON THE RADIO

Check out www.rop.org/stand to listen or find out when a local radio station is playing the STAND Election Guide



VOTING IN OREGON

Who Can Vote

Every Oregon resident who is at least 18 years of age and a US Citizen at the time of the election can:

- Vote by mail. Postage is now free--no stamp required!
- Vote if you are returning to your community from serving time in prison or jail, even if you have a felony record or are on parole or probation. You'll need to re-register to vote after you're released from prison.

Vote by Mail

Ballots will be mailed on October 14. To vote:

- Fill in your ballot, put it in the return envelope, and sign the return envelope to make it count!
- Return your ballot by mail before October 28 or drop it off at an official ballot drop box. You can find official dropbox locations at sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/drop-box-locator.aspx. All ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

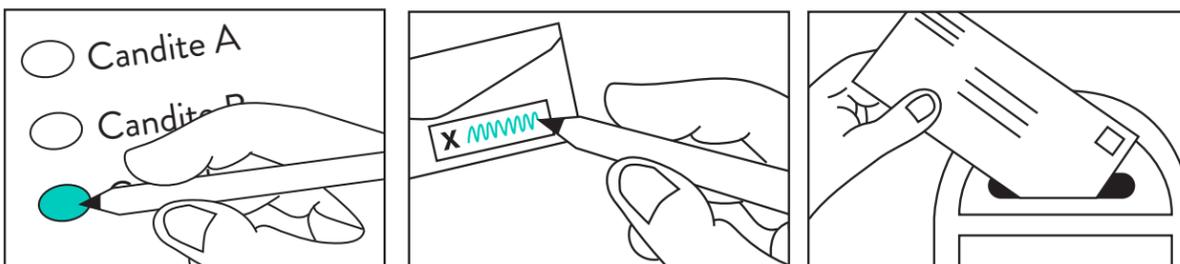
Voters Who Are Houseless Or Displaced By Fires

You do not need to re-register to vote if you are living somewhere temporarily because of wildfires or other circumstances. Just tell election officials where to mail your ballot! You can pick up all of your mail (including ballots once they are mailed on October 14) at the post office that serves your permanent residence address. You can also request to receive your ballot at a temporary address, such as a friend's house or a shelter. Visit www.oregonvotes.org or call your county's election office to learn how.

Can't Vote Yet?

If you are under 18 years old or not a US citizen, you can still make a difference this election by talking to your neighbors, family, and friends, and encouraging everyone who can to register and cast their ballot. You can also register to vote as early as 16 years old even though you won't receive a ballot until you are 18 years old.

HOW TO VOTE



BALLOT BASICS Who represents you?

<p><i>In the</i> US CONGRESS <i>in Washington D.C.</i></p> <p>2 US Senators represent all of Oregon</p> <p>1 US Rep. represents your district in Oregon</p>	<p><i>In the</i> STATE LEGISLATURE <i>in Salem</i></p> <p>1 State Senators +</p> <p>1 State Rep. represent you, based on where you live</p>	<p><i>In your</i> COUNTY</p> <p>County Clerk County Commission Circuit Court Judges Sheriff District Attorney and more</p>	<p><i>In your</i> CITY OR TOWN</p> <p>City/Town Council Mayor Judge</p>	<p><i>The Power of Local Office</i></p> <p>Town or City Councils and County Commissions decide how your money is spent and are responsible for water quality, the police department, roads, hospitals, parks, libraries and more.</p> <p>District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace and other locally elected Judges oversee the courts, jails and their personnel. They also decide whether or not to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other federal agencies.</p> <p>School boards make decisions regarding curriculum and facilities. Schools are also the community centers we rely on when natural disasters strike.</p>
<p><i>In your</i> PUBLIC SCHOOLS</p> <p>School Boards Community College Boards</p>				

5 Oregon is divided into 5 districts, and elects **5 US Representatives** in all US Reps



The Rural Organizing Project is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to advance democracy and human dignity in all of Oregon's 36 counties. We prepare this Election Guide to encourage rural Oregonians to participate in the election process in pursuit of democracy and justice—regardless of your party affiliation. With this in mind, we advocate for ballot measures that will strengthen our communities, but not for or against any candidates.

Learn more at www.rop.org or get in touch at office@rop.org or 503-543-8417.

OREGON BALLOT MEASURES

Do these measures advance democracy?

107



YES

Oregon is one of only five states with no limits on contributions, which allows special interests and huge corporations to contribute millions of dollars and sway our elections to support their own bottom line. Measure 107 would amend the state constitution to allow the state, cities and counties to limit political contributions and spending while still making sure candidates can get the resources they need to run campaigns. It would also require that campaigns disclose the source of all contributions and expenses, including political ads. Passing Measure 107 would help protect our elections from out-of-state interests and large corporations.

108



YOU
DECIDE

Measure 108 would increase taxes on tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems such as e-cigarettes and vapes. The money generated from the tax would help fund the Oregon Health Plan and other healthcare-related programs including those that prevent smoking and help people quit. The tax applies to distributors of tobacco products, which includes anyone in the state who manufactures, transports, or sells those products.

While this tax might discourage some people from continuing or starting to use tobacco products, it also lets tobacco companies off the hook. Oregonians pay \$1.5 billion per year in smoking-related health care costs while Big Tobacco continues to profit from tobacco products. This tax won't fix that or the fact that tobacco manufacturers won't be held responsible for the impact and the actual cost to Oregonians that are directly caused by the products they create.

109



YES

Measure 109 would create a new avenue of mental health care free from the control of pharmaceutical companies. The measure would legalize psilocybin treatment by creating the Oregon Psilocybin Services Program under the Oregon Health Authority. Studies from Johns Hopkins University and beyond show that psilocybin is an effective treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and end of life care. Measure 109 would permit patients 21 years and older to access this treatment after receiving a referral from a doctor and only through a licensed psilocybin service center under the care of a trained facilitator.

110



YES

Oregon ranks 50th in the nation for drug treatment availability. Measure 110 would decriminalize possession of certain drugs and establish a statewide drug addiction treatment and recovery program funded by the state's marijuana tax revenue. Many of us know all too well the pain of seeing a loved one struggle with addiction and know that drug treatment options are especially hard to find in rural Oregon. While we are working to make ends meet, afford healthcare, or recover from addiction, big drug corporations rake in record profits, all while putting treatment out of reach for most of us. People suffering from addiction need access to care, not criminal punishment.

DE•MOC•RA•CY

(noun)

If democracy is to work, it must continue to uphold some basic principles. Here are four principles of democracy according to the World Book Encyclopedia:

1 Inclusion of all and equality for all

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all [people] are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

—US DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

2 Majority rule and rights for all

"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

—14TH AMENDMENT, US CONSTITUTION

3 Well-educated and well-informed people who participate in the democratic process

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

—1ST AMENDMENT, US CONSTITUTION

4 A reasonable standard of living

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of [themselves] and [their] family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age and other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond [their] control."

—ARTICLE 25, UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ADOPTED BY UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (US INCLUDED) 1948

WHO BELONGS?

At the height of this year's fires, 500,000 people in Oregon were under evacuation notices. This sounds familiar to families who trace their own migration back to the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Forced off of their farmland that had become a dust-choked desert, the refugees from THAT climate disaster were called Okies, and many made their way west to form the communities we know today. In the communities where they tried to shelter, billboards read "Jobless Men, Keep Going" and local police threw refugees in jail for vagrancy. They were frequently met by vigilantes who attacked their camps or set up armed roadblocks on the roads leading into town.

During our 2020 fires, the roadblocks returned. False rumors that people of a particular political persuasion were starting the fires spread faster than the flames. These rumors were so hazardous that the FBI, state police, and local sheriffs departments issued public statements declaring the rumors false and pleading with Oregonians to stop their spread. Nevertheless, people were stopped outside their towns because "they didn't look like they belonged." All too often, these were people of color.

These roadblocks were an outgrowth of a summer of armed vigilante action throughout Oregon. The protests against the murder of George Floyd and in favor of equal protection under the law spread peacefully across rural communities. Thousands of neighbors from every county in our state organized vigils to declare that Black Lives Matter and to oppose police violence. Almost immediately, heavily armed men began confronting peaceful protests, motivated by false rumors that "Antifa" was coming to attack their towns. The armed vigilantes squared off against their fellow townspeople often shouting or waving their weapons at people kneeling on the ground. To the people who fancied themselves "militia," the protesters "didn't look like they belonged," even though they often had deep ties to the community.

As we struggle through an economic crash caused by a pandemic virus, we ask ourselves, "who belongs?" Who gets to have health coverage? Who is entitled to job safety as they do essential work? Who gets access to housing?

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NOW HIRING! REPRESENTATIVES FOR ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT!

In our democracy, the people are responsible for choosing who is the best fit for the jobs of representing us on local school boards, city councils, state legislatures and even in the White House. It's a big responsibility to decide who should make decisions on our behalf concerning schools, healthcare, emergency response, budgets, transportation, housing, and more!

Let's use the election season to make sure candidates reflect our values and our priorities, but most importantly, are ready to stand up for the core tenants of democracy. Call up campaign offices and ask for candidates' positions on the issues you care about. Attend a candidate forum and ask them directly. Post these questions on social media and encourage your friends to ask these same questions and share the candidates' responses.

1. Inclusion of all and equality for all:

Refugees fleeing fires, poverty, and violence are moving into new communities. Sometimes they are coming from just up river, and sometimes they are coming from half a world away. Regardless, our communities need politicians who will make sure that all community members are treated fairly. Do local candidates make their resources and information available in Spanish? Will they make sure that immigrants and refugees from other countries aren't separated from their families for seeking a better future?

2. Majority rule and rights for all: Will this candidate defend our democracy by ensuring that our election remains free and fair and that all votes are counted so that majority rules? Are they committed to respecting the rights of the minority to freely express their disagreement?

3. Well-educated and well-informed people who participate in the democratic process: Will this candidate prioritize educating our youth? We have felt the devastating effects of underfunding in our schools, even before the pandemic forced teachers to transition to virtual classrooms, where not every student has reliable high speed internet. Does this candidate see the value in bolstering community media? We've seen local media sources bought up by out-of-state corporations or go under completely, when we most need them to deliver information that can be literally lifesaving, like evacuation notices and where to find wildfire relief.

4. A reasonable standard of living: Will this candidate fight to ensure that people hit hardest by historic unemployment, wildfire, or the impact of COVID have their basic needs met? Oregon has never had as many millionaires as we do today, while there are also more people struggling to feed their families than ever before. Will they represent the interests of everyday people even if it means making corporations pay their fair share so that the rest of us can access affordable housing, medical care, healthy food and dignified jobs?

ROADMAP TO A THRIVING RURAL OREGON

What do we want the future of our rural communities to look like? What do we need to ensure everyone has the opportunity to thrive? These are the questions we've been asking our member groups and people like you.

We're using your answers to collectively build a Roadmap to a Thriving Rural Oregon, which will continue over the course of next year. This Roadmap can also serve as an important template for asking elected leaders how they will help us move towards solutions that support us all.

Rural Oregonians say that **we are ALL essential!** We need housing, childcare facilities, schools, and workplaces that are safe, healthy, and accessible spaces to live, work, learn, and play. We call on our public institutions to provide free childcare and a universal basic income so that Oregonians can stop worrying about eviction or not having enough money to feed their families.

Rural Oregonians say that **healthy people make healthy communities!** Leaders from across the state identified the importance of ensuring that we all have access to healthy food, clean water, and health care including expanding COVID testing, tracing, and treatment. To make this possible it is crucial to release people held in unsafe conditions inside jails and prisons, and to support sustainable, local food production.

Rural Oregonians call for **safe and welcoming communities!** In order to thrive, we demand safety from state violence, rent and mortgage forgiveness, and housing for everyone. We call on state and federal leaders to invest in rural Oregon and demand that our democracy uphold its founding ideals of being inclusive of everyone.

Rural Oregonians call for **connecting our voices!** In order to thrive, rural leaders feel a deep need for publicly-funded community media, broadband internet for all and a robust United States Postal Service. We want to be able to communicate with each other, stay up to date on the news in our towns and across our regions, and celebrate rural Oregon's mosaic of experiences. Without these things, we are left relying on word of mouth and national media outlets to paint a picture of our communities which we know is all too often oversimplified and overlooked.

IT TAKES ALL OF US

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right to vote in record numbers, making sure that everyone who wants to vote can, and then making sure that every vote is counted. We know that no one candidate will provide a magic bullet, but voting for candidates with a vision of safe and welcoming communities for all is one simple way for many of us to participate in advancing democracy.

The common work of caring for our families, our homes, and our communities binds us together. We may have different politics or philosophies, but we all share common concerns for home, health and a voice in the decisions that affect our lives. Engaging in the democratic election process is one

way to help our communities grow, but it can't stop there. Talk to your neighbors about important and difficult issues. Contact candidates to ask them questions and hold them accountable. Share your opinion online and through letters to local newspapers. Organize and bring people together to take action for positive change in your community.

The Rural Organizing Project is a statewide network of locally-based groups who share a commitment to human dignity: the belief in the equal worth of all people, the need for equal access to justice and the right to self-determination. Get in touch with us. Let's organize!

WHO BELONGS?

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Oregon workers produce a \$50 billion dollar agricultural economy. Yet many immigrants are being told to labor for minimal pay in hazardous, smoky conditions without proper housing or protective equipment. Many face the threat of deportation if they speak up.

For the past 40 years, federal funding for affordable housing went from building 38,650 rural affordable housing units to building 763 in 2011, and zero since 2012. The money is still there, but funding switched from housing for those most in need to military spending and tax write-offs for home-

owners. Long before the fires, thousands of people didn't have reliable housing. Many folks without housing found shelter in the woods that have now burned down. With thousands made newly homeless by fires, and those already out of doors now displaced once more, the question of "who belongs?" has never been more critical.

Rural Organizing Project's vision is simple: if you call rural Oregon home, you belong. This election season, we have an opportunity to vote in candidates that share that vision and talk to our neighbors about how to make our communities safe and welcoming for all.



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ROADMAP TO A THRIVING RURAL OREGON

See page 3 for more details!

