



BARACK OBAMA: CHANGE OREGON CAN BELIEVE IN

Even before Oregon became a state in 1859, Oregonians have pioneered new solutions to America's most intractable social problems. The state was the first to allow citizens to propose ballot initiatives and the first to allow popular election of U.S. senators. Oregon was the first state to institute Labor Day and establish the eight-hour workday for women and workmen's compensation. It has led the way with groundbreaking health and environmental legislation. Barack Obama began his career as a community organizer and understands that the best ideas don't always come from Washington. He will be a president who listens to the people of Oregon and works with them to find a common purpose. Amid the partisanship and bickering of today's public debate, Barack Obama still believes in the ability to unite people around a politics of purpose – a politics that puts solving the challenges of everyday Americans ahead of partisan calculation and political gain.

ECONOMY

Jumpstart the Economy with a \$30 Billion Second Stimulus Package: Oregon's unemployment rate is higher than the national average – 5.5 percent versus 4.8 percent, which is tied to a loss of jobs in the construction, manufacturing and financial sectors. Barack Obama announced a comprehensive economic stimulus plan in January 2008, and supported Congressional efforts to provide working families an immediate tax rebate check. As the economy continues to worsen though, Obama has called on the President and Congress to implement a second stimulus package that will address the housing crisis and its effects on families throughout the country. Obama's plan will establish a \$10 billion Foreclosure Prevention Fund to help families avoid foreclosure, provide relief for state and local governments hardest-hit by the housing crisis to prevent cuts in critical services, and extend and expand unemployment insurance.

Provide a Tax Cut for Working Families: Barack Obama will restore fairness to the tax code and provide 150 million workers the tax relief they need. Obama will create a new "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to \$500 per person, or \$1,000 per working family. This refundable income tax cut will provide direct relief to 1.8 million Oregon families. It also will completely eliminate income taxes for 10 million Americans.

Simplify Tax Filings for Middle Class Americans: Obama will dramatically simplify tax filings so that millions of Americans will be able to do their taxes in less than five minutes. Obama will ensure that the IRS uses the information it already gets from banks and employers to give taxpayers the option of pre-filled tax forms to verify, sign and return. Experts estimate that the Obama proposal will save Americans up to 200 million total hours of work and aggravation and up to \$2 billion in tax preparer fees.

Invest in U.S. Manufacturing and Create 5 Million New Green Jobs: While Oregon has lost 21,500 manufacturing jobs since 2001, America still boasts the highest-skilled manufacturing workforce in the world and advanced manufacturing facilities that have powered economic growth in America for decades. Barack Obama believes that America is at a competitive advantage when it comes to building the high-demand technologies of the future, and he will help nurture America's success in clean technology manufacturing by establishing a federal investment program to help manufacturing centers modernize and help Americans learn the new skills they may need to produce green products. Along with the increased federal investment in the research, development and deployment of advanced technologies, this investment will help spur sustainable economic growth in communities across the country.

New Jobs through a New National Infrastructure Investment: Barack Obama believes that it is critically important for the United States to rebuild its national transportation infrastructure – its highways, bridges, roads, ports, air, and train systems. A robust federal infrastructure investment program today will strengthen the U.S. economy at a time when the housing and construction industries are slowing. Obama will create a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank to expand and enhance, not supplant, existing federal transportation investments. This independent entity will receive an infusion of federal money, \$60 billion over 10 years, to provide financing to transportation infrastructure projects across the nation. These projects will create up to two million new direct and indirect jobs per year and stimulate approximately \$35 billion per year in new economic activity.

Help Homeowners Facing Crisis: More than 12,000 Oregonians are expected to lose their homes to foreclosure between third quarter 2007 and the end of 2009, according to the Joint Economic Committee. Barack Obama has worked to prevent abuse in the mortgage markets and prevent the subprime lending crisis. More than two years ago he introduced comprehensive legislation to fight mortgage fraud and protect consumers against abusive lending. Obama's STOP FRAUD Act provides the first federal definition of mortgage fraud, increases funding for federal and state law enforcement programs, creates new criminal penalties for mortgage professionals found guilty of fraud, and requires industry insiders to report suspicious activity. His bill also provides counseling to homeowners and tenants to avoid foreclosures. Barack Obama also believes we should immediately create a \$10 billion fund to help people refinance their mortgages and provide comprehensive supports to innocent homeowners. The fund will also assist individuals who purchased homes that are simply too expensive for their income levels by helping them sell their homes. The fund will help offset costs of selling a home, including helping low-income borrowers get additional time and support to pay back any losses from the sale of their homes and waiving certain state and local income taxes that result from an individual selling his home to avoid foreclosure. These steps will ensure that individuals who have to sell their homes will be able to quickly regain stable financial footing. The fund will be partially paid for by Obama's increased penalties on lenders who act irresponsibly and commit fraud. Obama strongly supports the efforts of Senate Banking Committee Chair Chris Dodd (D-CT) to create a new Federal Housing Administration (FHA) program that will provide meaningful incentives for lenders to buy or refinance existing mortgages and convert them into stable 30-year fixed mortgages. This plan provides an important federal backstop – not a bailout – to this growing national problem. Neither lenders nor homeowners would receive a windfall from this plan.

Spur High-Tech Development: Oregon has always been a leader in high-tech industries and is recovering slowly, but surely from the crash of the late 90s. Barack Obama will invest in Oregon's new-economy. He will double federal funding for basic research, expand the deployment of broadband technology, and make the research and development tax credit permanent so that businesses can invest in innovation and create high-paying, secure jobs. As president, Obama will make long-term investments in education, language training, and workforce development so that Americans can leverage our strengths – our ingenuity and entrepreneurialism – to create new high-wage jobs and prosper in a global economy.

- **Invest in the Sciences:** Barack Obama supports doubling federal funding for basic research. As a share of the Gross Domestic Product, American federal investment in the physical sciences and engineering research has dropped by half since 1970. Yet, it often has been federally-supported basic research that has generated the innovation to create markets and drive economic growth. For example, one recent report demonstrated how federally supported research in fiber optics and lasers helped spur the telecommunications revolution.
- **Make the R&D Tax Credit Permanent:** Barack Obama wants investments in a skilled research and development workforce and technology infrastructure to be supported here in America so that American workers and communities can benefit. Obama wants to make the Research and Development tax credit permanent so that firms can rely on it when making decisions to invest in domestic R&D over multi-year timeframes. Tax incentives like the R&D tax credit helped cities like Portland attract high tech businesses in recent years.
- **Produce More Math and Science Graduates:** Barack Obama believes we must strengthen math and science education to help develop a skilled workforce and promote innovation. Obama will work to increase our annual number of science and engineering graduates, encourage undergraduates studying math and sciences to pursue graduate studies, and work to increase the representation of minorities and women in the science and technology talent pipeline, tapping the diversity of America to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce.

Fight for Fair Trade: Obama will fight for a trade policy that opens up foreign markets to support good American jobs. He will use trade agreements to spread good labor and environmental standards around the world and stand firm against agreements like the Central American Free Trade Agreement that fail to live up to those important benchmarks. Obama will also pressure the World Trade Organization to enforce trade agreements and stop countries from continuing unfair government subsidies to foreign exporters and nontariff barriers on U.S. exports.

Combat Poverty: In Oregon, poverty increased 9 percent since 2000 and more than 400,000 Oregonians live in poverty today. Barack Obama believes that people who work full time should not live in poverty. Before the Democrats took back Congress, the minimum wage had not changed in 10 years. Even though the minimum wage will rise to \$7.25 an hour by 2009, the minimum wage's real purchasing power will still be below what it was in 1968. As president, Obama will further raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2011, index it to inflation and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit to make sure that full-time workers can earn a living wage that allows them to raise their families and pay for basic needs such as food, transportation, and housing – things so many people take for granted.

Invest in Rural Areas: Barack Obama will invest in rural small businesses and fight to expand high-speed Internet access. He will improve rural schools and attract more doctors to rural areas. Obama will support entrepreneurship and spur job growth by establishing a small business and micro-enterprise initiative for rural America. The program will provide training and technical assistance for rural small business, and provide a 20 percent tax credit on up to \$50,000 of investment in small owner-operated businesses.

Support County Timber Payments: Barack Obama supports county timber payments and will work with the Oregon congressional delegation to find a meaningful, long-term solution that will provide Oregon communities the resources they need to invest in a strong education system and create a sustainable economy.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Oregon has been a national leader in energy independence, passing a 25 percent renewable portfolio standard, auto emissions standards and incentives to encourage development of biofuels and energy efficiency. Obama will build on Oregon's successes to move America on the path to energy independence and a cleaner environment. That is why more than 350 national, state, and local environmental leaders have endorsed his candidacy for president.

Require 25 Percent of Electricity to Come from Renewable Sources by 2025: Barack Obama will establish a 25 percent federal Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to require that 25 percent of electricity consumed in the U.S. is derived from clean, sustainable energy sources, like solar, wind and geothermal by 2025. This requirement will spur significant private sector investment in renewable sources of energy and create thousands of new American jobs, especially in rural areas. As an Illinois state senator, Obama cosponsored a measure to create an RPS in Illinois. And recently, Illinois signed into law a 25 percent RPS by 2025 measure modeled on Obama's state senate RPS efforts.

Reduce Carbon Emissions 80 percent by 2050: Barack Obama champions cutting greenhouse gas emissions and has proposed a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050. By auctioning off 100 percent of the carbon credit, Obama's plan will raise billions of dollars that can be used for clean energy technologies. Obama will start reducing emissions immediately in his administration by establishing strong annual reduction targets, and he'll also implement a mandate of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Obama will invest \$150 billion over 10 years in developing and deploying advanced renewable energy.

Increase Fuel Economy Standards: Barack Obama will double fuel economy standards within 18 years while protecting the financial future of domestic automakers. His plan will provide retooling tax credits and loan guarantees for domestic auto plants and parts manufacturers, so that the new fuel-efficient cars can be built in the U.S. rather than overseas.

Fight for Clean Air: Barack Obama will restore the force of the Clean Air Act. He will fight for continued reductions in smog and soot, and continue his leadership in combating toxins that contribute to air pollution. Unlike President Bush, Obama will listen to his scientific advisers on air quality standards. And he will reverse the Bush administration's attempts to chip away at our nation's clean air standards.

Clean up our Water: Barack Obama will reinvigorate the drinking water standards that have been weakened under the Bush administration and update them to address new threats. He will help communities by restoring better federal financing for water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, and he will continue his leadership in protecting national treasures like the Great Lakes from threats such as industrial pollution, water diversion, and invasive species. Obama will establish policies to help high-growth regions with the challenges of managing their water supplies.

Develop Plan to Restore Wild Salmon: Wild salmon populations have been decimated along the Pacific Coast to the point that the Pacific Fishery Management Council took the unprecedented step to ban commercial and recreational salmon fishing off the coast of California and most of Oregon in April. Barack Obama will implement a meaningful salmon recovery plan that will restore the salmon population, drawing on the advice of stakeholders including fishers, farmers, Tribes, environmentalists and foresters. Obama understands that the health of America's saltwater and freshwater resources is vital to the economic security of coastal communities. Key to achieving that goal is abatement of direct pollution from industry and wastewater, as well as runoff pollution, which are significant threats to fish stocks. Obama will work with affected fishers to ensure they can recover from the ban.

Maintain Oregon Say Over Siting of Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals: Barack Obama supports the right of states like Oregon to veto the siting and construction of onshore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities in their states. Obama believes that any LNG terminals must include strong environmental and safety reviews, a process that is critical for the proposed LNG facilities in Oregon. Obama supports legislation championed by Senator Ron Wyden to preserve Oregon's siting authority and will sign it into law as president.

Conserve Oregon's Woodlands: Oregon contains over 30 million acres of forestland. The U.S. Forest Service forecasts that America could lose tens of millions of acres of forestland over the next 30 years. Obama will ensure that the Forest Service has the resources necessary to properly manage and conserve forests. He will treat fire suppression as the emergency it is and not use funds appropriated for forest management to fight fires. Obama will promote cooperative discussion about public forests among all stakeholders including conservationists, wildlife experts, those who use the forests for recreation as well as for timber, and local communities who rely on the forests for economic development, recognizing that forests are all different from each other and need localized management.

Less than 4 percent of Oregon land is set aside as wilderness compared to 10 percent in Washington State and more than 14 percent in California. Obama will work with Oregon's congressional delegation to conserve more forest land as federally protected wilderness and as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

As president, Obama will provide technical assistance to private forest landowners to manage sustainable forests and to address invasive species, wildfires and other forest health issues. Obama will also encourage landowners to protect forests with federal tax incentives for conservation easements, and increased funding for the Forest Legacy Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Obama will promote renewable energy technologies, including cellulosic fuels derived from sustainably harvested forest biomass. Obama will use our forests as a bastion against climate change by enabling forest owners to benefit from conserving forests that sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Obama also will increase research of forest management practices that make forests more resilient to climate change.

Obama supports prohibiting the import of foreign wood products that have been illegally harvested overseas. Illegal logging is a contributor to global climate change, and illegal wood products undercut domestic producers who follow the rules.

FOREIGN POLICY AND HONORING OUR COMMITMENTS TO VETERANS

End the War in Iraq Responsibly: In 2002, Obama had the judgment and the courage to oppose the war in Iraq, saying it would lead to "an occupation of undetermined length, with undetermined costs and undetermined consequences." Since then more than 67 Oregonians have given the last full measure of devotion to their country in Iraq. Today, Obama has a plan to immediately begin pulling out troops engaged in combat operations at a pace of one or two brigades every month, to be completed in 16 months. He would call for a new constitutional convention in Iraq, convened with the United Nations, which would not adjourn until Iraq's leaders reach a new accord on reconciliation. He would use presidential leadership to surge our diplomacy with all of the nations of the region on behalf of a new regional security compact. And he would take immediate steps to confront the humanitarian disaster in Iraq.

Reestablish U.S. Moral Leadership: Obama will restore America's standing, reputation, and authority in the world by respecting civil liberties, ending torture, restoring habeas corpus, making the U.S. electoral processes fair and transparent, and fighting corruption at home.

Prepare the Military to Meet 21st-Century Threats: Barack Obama will not hesitate to use military force to take out terrorists who pose a direct threat to America. This requires a broader set of capabilities, as outlined in the Army and Marine Corps's new counterinsurgency manual. Obama will ensure that our military becomes more stealthy, agile, and lethal in its ability to capture or kill terrorists. He will recruit, train, and equip our armed forces to better target terrorists and to help foreign militaries to do the same. This will include a program to bolster our military's ability to speak different languages, understand different cultures, and coordinate complex missions with our civilian agencies.

Care for America's Veterans: There are more than 380,000 veterans in Oregon, and the Department of Veterans Affairs that was built to care for World War II veterans is not ready to handle the influx of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Barack Obama has fought to end benefit disparities, bring homeless veterans in off the streets, strengthen mental health care, add billions of dollars in additional Department of Veterans Affairs funding, and reform a system that often places barriers between veterans and the benefits they have earned. As president, Obama will ensure we honor the sacred trust to care for Oregon's veterans. In an Obama administration, the VA will provide benefits and care that will be accessible, high-quality, reliable, responsive and fair, year after year. He will care for our wounded soldiers; improve the transition to civilian life; fully fund VA medical care; improve the quality of VA health care; fix the Veterans Benefits Administration; honor veterans with the benefits and services they have earned, and rebuild and repair the military. Not only is this the right thing to do – it is a necessary investment for a great nation to maintain an all-volunteer force.

HEALTH CARE

Provide Universal Health Coverage and Lower Health Costs: More than 615,000 Oregonians, including 115,000 children lack health insurance. Premiums have risen 44.5 Percent in the state since 2000. Barack Obama is committed to signing universal health legislation that ensures all Americans have high-quality, affordable health care coverage by the end of his first term in office. His plan will save a typical American family up to \$2,500 every year on medical expenditures by providing affordable, comprehensive and portable health coverage for every American; modernizing the U.S. health care system to contain spiraling health care costs and improve the quality of patient care; and promoting prevention and strengthening public health to prevent disease and protect against natural and man-made disasters.

Expand Paid Sick Days: Half of all private sector workers have no paid sick days and the problem is worse for employees in low-paying jobs, where less than a quarter receive any paid sick days. Barack Obama will require that employers provide seven paid sick days per year.

EDUCATION

Early Education: Only 15 percent of the Oregon's 3 year olds and 24 percent of the state's 4 year olds are enrolled in early childhood education programs, according to the National Institute for Early Education Research. In addition, funding cuts to Oregon's Head Start program has led to a decline in state Head Start enrollment. Barack Obama supports increasing funding for the Head Start program to provide preschool children critically important learning skills to help close early achievement gaps. As president, Obama will launch a Children's First Agenda that provides care, learning and support to families with children ages zero to five. Obama will provide funding for states to create or expand high-quality early care and education programs for pregnant women and children. He will Obama will quadruple the number of infants and toddlers participating in Early Head Start, and provide funding for states to adopt voluntary, universal pre-School.

K-12 Education: Oregon's 4th grade test scores are below the national average, while just more than a third of 8th graders are proficient in math and reading. While the goal of the No Child Left Behind Act is the right one – ensuring that all children can meet high standards – the law has significant flaws that need to be addressed. Obama will reform and fund No Child Left Behind. He will also increase teacher salaries to better reflect the important work that educators do, and he believes that teachers who take on additional opportunities, such as mentoring and helping students succeed, deserve an increase in salary.

College Aid: College tuition for Oregon's four-year public colleges increased 27.5 percent since 1999. Barack Obama will make college affordable for all Americans by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit in exchange for 100 hours of community service a year. This fully refundable credit will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university. Obama also will work to increase the maximum Pell Grant for low-income students.

REFORM WASHINGTON

Sunlight before Signing: Too often bills are rushed through Congress and to the president before the public has the opportunity to review them. As president, Barack Obama will not sign any non-emergency bill without giving the American public an opportunity to review and comment on the White House website for five days. In addition to ensuring that the public has the ability to review legislation, the sunlight will help ensure that earmarks tucked into appropriations bills are exposed. And Obama will sign legislation in the light of day without attaching signing statements that undermine the legislative intent.

Expose Tax Breaks and Earmarks to Public Scrutiny: Building on his “Google for government” bill, which was signed into law and allows every American to do a simple search to track approximately \$1 trillion in federal grants, contracts, earmarks and loans online, Barack Obama will ensure that any tax breaks to special interests, or tax earmarks, are also publicly available by directing the Office of Management and Budget to post them on its website. Thousands of high-priced lobbyists prowl the halls of Congress trying to sneak in special tax breaks for their corporate clients. Transparency is the first step to holding government accountable, and we need to shine light on these tax breaks.

Fight Wasteful Spending by Ending Abuse of No-Bid Contracts: The current Administration has abused its power by handing out contracts without competition to its politically-connected friends and supporters. These abuses cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year. According to a 2006 study by the House Government Reform Committee, federal contracting mushroomed from \$203 billion in FY 2000 to \$377 billion by FY 2005—an increase of 86 percent. According to a report by the Center for American Progress, during just the last three years more than five federal officials have been convicted of crimes involving federal contracting, three others were placed under indictment, and more are under investigation. Barack Obama will end abuse of no-bid contracts. He will require that all contract orders over \$25,000 be competitively awarded unless the contracting officer provides written justification that the order falls within a specified exception and that the requirements and evaluation criteria are clear for every contract.

Close the Revolving Door on Former Employers: Obama will eliminate incentives that could be provided to newly-hired public employees to favor their former employers. No political appointees in an Obama Administration will be permitted to work on regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer for two years. A two-year ban will remove the incentive to employers to provide some sort of financial incentive, such as a generous severance package, to an employee leaving for a government job with an agency that regulates them.

Put Our Economic House Back in Order: The starting point for a competitive economy with a vibrant and growing private sector is sound fiscal policy. Obama will return the federal government to a pay-as-you-go system and address the short and long-run deficits facing the country.

IMMIGRATION

Reform Our Broken Immigration System Barack Obama has played a leading role in crafting comprehensive immigration reform and believes that our broken immigration system can only be fixed by putting politics aside and offering a solution that strengthens our security while reaffirming our heritage as a nation of immigrants. Obama's plan will strengthen border security, fix the dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy, and secure a responsible path to earned citizenship for undocumented workers and their families.