



INTRODUCTION TO THE EXTENDED 2018 PLATFORM OF THE INDEPENDENT PARTY OF OREGON

The Independent Party was formed ten years ago to give voice in Oregon to candidates and ideas stifled by the dominant two-parties but popular among voters. The IPO initially did not adopt a rigid “platform,” but instead focused on commonsense issues that Oregonians from across the political spectrum supported - reforming elections to make them more responsive, protecting Oregon consumers, reducing government waste and creating a business climate where small businesses and working families can thrive.

This approach led to great membership growth. The IPO has just completed its first election cycle as a major party. In November of 2016, IPO ran several candidates for the State Legislature and Statewide offices. It currently has over 121,000 members.

We learned much from this first cycle as a major party: chief among them is that voters want more information about what it means to be or vote for an Independent Party candidate. As we move towards our second election cycle as a major political party, our officers have recognized the need to broaden our platform to better respond to the issues and to help voters and potential candidates know what the Independent Party stands for.

The expanded platform is based on the following criteria.

- The positions of our various candidates that performed well or over performed
- Responses to the many member surveys the IPO has completed over the years, including the last survey in June 2016
- Feedback we’ve personally received from party activists.

In order to remain true to founding principles to promote a strong middle class against special interests, the planks we are advancing balance:

- Fiscal responsibility
- Fundamental fairness and equity
- Recognition of Oregonians’ unique relationship to the environment and natural resources
- Rational, evidence-based, data-driven approach to policy grounded in scientific realism
- Support for small business
- Respect for all who contribute to Oregon’s welfare and compassion for those in need.

From this foundation we look forward to emphasizing the issues and solutions our members want to advocate for in the coming election cycle.

We realize that some members and some IPO candidates will not agree with all of our priorities or remedies.

We respect that and invite those members to consider whether on balance, the IPO still more closely represents their view better than another political party. We understand should some members decide to leave the Party because these party positions did not exist when some members joined.

We are also hoping that many non affiliated voters, and many Democrats and Republicans, will see in this platform planks that they can support and will want to join a party that is fiscally responsible, environmentally aware and socially tolerant.

Our new extended platform identifies our party's important policy principles. Under each area of policy we've included a list of objectives, goals and some specific recommendations. We provide these as examples or starting points for further development of the platform and welcome ideas for additional specific proposals.

The First platform planks we will release will be on environmental policy. It will be followed in successive weeks with planks on education, health care, campaign finance, election reform and public safety..

We appreciate the work, input, and interest so many Oregonians have contributed to the growth of the Independent Party, and look forward to this next chapter in our party's growth.

Signed

Linda Williams

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