

# Umatilla County DEMOCRATS

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Chair 2007 - 2009  
Umatilla County Democrats

## **State of the Party**

Template source: Thank you to Will Neuhauser & Yamhill Dems

# Elect Democrats in Yamhill County

★ Our mission is to better people's lives by having a responsible government that works in the common interest.

★ We accomplish that by electing Democrats to offices that represent Yamhill County because Democrats share values and principles about the roles of an accountable government, including ensuring fairness and opportunity for all.

## Democratic experiment

It works! It improves lives on  
a grand scale — 20th Century

- ◆ Social Security
- ◆ Integrated military
- ◆ European reconstruction
- ◆ Medicare for the retired
- ◆ Medicaid for the poor
- ◆ Unionization
- ◆ Civil Rights
- ◆ Camp David peace accord
- ◆ Balanced Budgets
- ◆ Women's rights
- ◆ ... and more

# Party values work because ...

## Shared progressive principles behind past and future success:

- ★ **Accepting Shared Responsibilities**
- ★ **Accountable Government in the Common Interest**
- ◆ Ethical Business
- ◆ Values-based Foreign Policy
- ◆ Equitable Treatment
- ◆ Open Democracy

# Republican experiment

## How have 30 years of right-wing politics worked for America?

### Right-wing core principles:

- ◆ Always cut taxes
- ◆ Trickle down economy
- ◆ Government is bad

# U.S. taxes are not too high

Rank OECD	Country	Tax % of GDP	OECD average
1	Sweden		51.1
2	Denmark		49.7
3	Belgium		45.4
4	Norway		45.0
5	Finland		44.5
6	France		44.3
7	Iceland		42.4
8	Austria		41.9
9	Italy		41.0
10	Czech Republic		38.5
11	Luxembourg		37.6
12	United Kingdom		37.2
13	Hungary		37.1
14	New Zealand		36.6
15	Spain		35.8
16	Germany		34.7
17	Canada		33.5
18	Turkey		32.3
19	Australia		30.8
20	Ireland		30.5
21	Switzerland		30.0
22	Slovakia		29.4
<b>23</b>	<b>United States</b>		<b>26.8 &lt;&lt;U.S. 10 points below average</b>
24	South Korea		25.6
25	Mexico		19.8

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/8/4/37504406.pdf>

# **Middle class undermined**

**Low, Middle, and high-income growth, 1947-2005**

**First 32 Years: All Income Classes Grow Together**

**1980: Regan Elected Median: + 18%**

**Next 25 Years: Income Classes Grow Apart**

**Last 25 years: Top 5%: + 44% and Bottom Fifth: + 6%**

Source: State of Working America 2006/7—an Economic Policy Institute Book: Ithaca, NY

# Republicans govern badly

- ◆ Katrina fiasco
- ◆ No WMDs in Iraq
- ◆ Ignored warnings on Bin Laden & Al-Queda
- ◆ Warrantless wiretapping of Americans
- ◆ Torture & rendition
- ◆ Needless war and occupation in Iraq
- ◆ Immunity for cronies
- ◆ Huge deficits
- ◆ Politicizing the DOJ
- ◆ Signing statements
- ◆ Secrecy
- ◆ Cronyism
- ◆ K-Street project
- ◆ Governing by “majority of the majority”
- ◆ Many congressional bribery scandals
- ◆ Corruption in Iraq reconstruction
- ◆ Scooter Libby crony pardon
- ◆ Indifferent oversight

**What about here?**

**Same in Oregon**

# Oregon taxes not high

## Median of 50 states Rank Tax Rate by State

1	14.1%	Vermont	24	10.8%	Pennsylvania
2	14.0%	Maine	25	10.7%	Indiana
3	13.8%	New York	26	10.7%	South Carolina
4	12.7%	Rhode Island	27	10.7%	Utah
5	12.4%	Ohio	28	10.6%	Massachusetts
6	12.4%	Hawaii	29	10.5%	Mississippi
7	12.3%	Wisconsin	30	10.4%	Colorado
8	12.2%	Connecticut	31	10.3%	Arizona
9	11.9%	Nebraska	32	10.3%	Georgia
10	11.6%	New Jersey	33	10.2%	Virginia
11	11.5%	Minnesota	34	10.1%	Missouri
12	11.5%	California	35	10.1%	Idaho
13	11.3%	Arkansas	36	10.1%	Nevada
14	11.2%	Michigan	<b>37</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>Oregon</b>
15	11.2%	Kansas	38	10.0%	Florida
16	11.1%	Washington	39	9.9%	North Dakota
17	11.0%	Louisiana			
18	11.0%	Iowa			
19	11.0%	North Carolina			
20	10.9%	Kentucky			
21	10.9%	West Virginia			
22	10.8%	Illinois			
23	10.8%	Maryland			

**Oregon 93% of median,  
71% of top rate**

[http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/burden\\_by\\_year\\_all\\_states-2007-04-04.pdf](http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/burden_by_year_all_states-2007-04-04.pdf)

# **OREGON's**

## **middle class stagnant**

**1980: Regan Elected Median: + \$ 618**

**\$20/year Top 1%: + \$ 580,000**

OCPD analysis of OR Dept. of Revenue data, Inflation-adjusted 2005 dollars with US CPI-U.

# Republicans govern badly

## Just in Umatilla County...

- ◆ County Jail poor planning and under-utilized
- ◆ Inadequate family planning
- ◆ Stagnant, low and declining

park job development

- ◆ Water quality-quantity, roads & infrastructure crisis

## Lessons learned

# Failed right-wing experiment

★ The problem isn't that taxes are too high, the problem is that incomes are too low.

★ People who believe government is bad, govern badly!

**“Who’re you gonna call?”**

# Looking forward, which party can tackle these? Republicans?

- ◆ Deniers of global warming will take action on global warming?
- ◆ War cheerleaders will get America out of Iraq?
- ◆ Enablers of administration lawfulness will apply the law fairly?
- ◆ Incompetent managers will run an accountable government?
- ◆ Cheap government ideologues will fund public infrastructure?
- ◆ Capitalism for cronies will rebuild the middle class?
- ◆ Opposers of children’s healthcare will address healthcare crisis?

**“Who’re you gonna call?”**

**Democrats!**

- ★ Accepting Shared Responsibilities
- ★ Accountable Government in the Common Interest

We’re all in this together, so we are working in the common interest to assure fairness and opportunity to all

# Which brings us back to ...

## ... Our mission

◆ To address Umatilla County residents' desire for a better future, we need to elect more Democrats here:

<b>US Senate</b>	<b>Oregon House/Senate</b>	<b>County Commissioners</b>
<b>1</b> vote majority	<b>1</b> vote majority	<b>3</b> vote minority
Replace Gordon Smith	Replace D. Nelson (S29)	Replace all
	Replace R. Jensen (HD58)	
	Replace G. Smith (HD 57)	

**Which brings us back to ...**

... And oh yeah...

**US President**

Replace  
George W. Bush

# Umatilla County situation

## Increasingly competitive races

- ◆ Democrats here do much better than registration predicts  
Umatilla County: 13.2k R — 9.4k D — 7.1k Non
- ◆ Republicans have an registration edge, yet ...  
many council members and mayors are Dems
- ◆ BUT it is the non affiliated votes hold the keys  
to both office and ballot measures here

## **Building the party — goals**

# Areas of focus for the Umatilla County Democratic Party

- ★ Stronger operational capacity
- ★ Broader out-reach/communications
- ★ Maintain headquarters in prime location(s)
- ★ Provide matching funds and training for candidates

## Building the party

# Stronger operational capacity — excellent progress

- ✓ Website
  - ✓ Online donations, tickets
  - ✓ Email system
  - ✓ Build Operations Handbook
  - ✓ Coordinate more with DPO
  - ✓ Partner with Morrow County Democrats on technology, fund-raising
  - ✓ Launch large / monthly donor program
- ◆ Use VoteBuilder for racking voter contacts, walk lists, etc

## Building the party

# Broader out-reach/ communications — progress

- ✓ Implement email newsletter (frequency ? — \$\$ for print)
- ✓ Presence at fairs again
- ✓ More coordination with BMCC College Students
- ✓ Refreshed logo:
- ✓ Begin weekly cable access “Frankly Speaking”
- ◆ Outreach: new registrants, Neighbor; use VoteBuilder non-affiliated voters, others
- ◆ More involvement outside Pendleton
- ◆ Implement Neighbor-to-Neighbor

## Building the party

# Helping candidates — beginning

- ◆ Raise a farm team and “candidate seed fund” to help local candidates move up the funding ladder
- ▶ Matching funds at different tiers as candidate campaigns meet criteria (voter contacts, funds raised, etc.)
  - ✓ Provide candidates access to VoteBuilder
    - ◆ Provide campaign assistance
- ◆ Raise visibility of Republican failures to govern well in Umatilla County (the Smith’s, Nelson, Jensen)

## Building the party — status

# Areas of focus for the Umatilla County Democratic Party

- ✓ Stronger operational capacity
- ✓ Broader out-reach/communications — \$
- ✓ Maintain headquarters in prime location — \$\$
- ▶ Matching funds and training for candidates — \$\$

# We compete in Umatilla County

## Making good progress

- ◆ Nationally & locally: 2006 started the change; it will continue in 2008 but ... Democrats haven't sealed the deal ... yet!
- ◆ Can win in Umatilla County
- ◆ Progress building the party so candidates have a better chance
- ◆ Need to do more, especially in out-reach to independents, Morrow County, Hispanics, new registrants, increasing candidate support
- ◆ Next phases require more \$\$ and new volunteer action

# Republican-busters

## Help be the change ...

- ◆ Elect Democrats — people that ...
  - ▶ Accept Our Shared Responsibilities
  - ▶ Support Accountable Government in the Common Interest
- ◆ By helping build the party by giving generously of ...
  - ▶ your time this election year and, this evening,
  - ▶ your financial support to the Umatilla County Democrats

# Thank-you, Democrats!

★ **Accepting Shared Responsibilities**

★ **Accountable Government in the Common Interest**