



**DEMOCRATIC
PARTY *of*
OREGON**

**2021 Reorganization
Election**

Voters' Pamphlet

Paid for by the Democratic Party of Oregon | www.dpo.org
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee

Candidates for Democratic Party of Oregon Officer Positions

Candidates are listed by position, then in alphabetical order by last name.

Name	Position	Self-identified gender	County
Carla "KC" Hanson	Chair	Female	Multnomah
John Harris Knight	Chair	Male	Multnomah
Rosa Colquitt, PhD	Vice Chair	Female	Washington
Keith Haxton	Vice Chair	Non-Binary	Washington
Pete Lee	Vice Chair	Male	Multnomah
Kent Stevens	Vice Chair	Male	Lincoln
Eileen Kiely	Secretary	Female	Deschutes
Jeff Weston	Secretary	Male	Multnomah

Candidate statements in this Voters' Pamphlet are provided by the candidate and are not vetted for accuracy, nor do they necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Carla “KC” Hanson – Candidate for Chair

Self-Identified Gender: Female Candidate Statement:

Last year was tragic, yet through the devastation, Oregon Democrats rose up to meet the challenge.

During the pandemic 2700 Neighborhood Leaders contacted 185,000 voters. Counties and Caucuses ran phone banks, sent GOTV postcards and dropped slate cards. The Local Elections Project and Leadership Retreat saw record online turnout, and DPO staff ran non-stop Zoom trainings.

Together, we won back the Secretary of State’s office, repelled an attack on Rep. Defazio, and defended our legislative majorities. That Biden/Harris and Sen. Merkley won so handily is a point of pride and strength.

In the next 2 years we must back the critical work of the Racial Equity, Accountability and Leadership Committee, increase support for rural & frontier Democrats, re-elect Sen. Wyden, elect a Democrat to the open Governor’s seat and elect Democrats up and down the ballot.

Our work is essential, and I ask for the honor of your support on March 20, and every day as we work together as proud Oregon Democrats

Candidate Questions:

1. What does equity mean to you and how does it influence your leadership decisions? What steps will you take to increase representation of historically underrepresented and disenfranchised communities and build equity within the Democratic Party of Oregon?

My passion for equity, fairness and justice has been the political motivator for my entire life and propelled me into the 90’s battles for LGBTQ rights.

As I’ve grown older, I’m even more aware of how much I need to learn and understand about the prejudice and challenges regularly faced by people marginalized because of the color of their skin or their ethnicity. This drives me to work harder and evaluate my every decision through the “lens of equity.”

That’s why the Committee appointments I’ve made reflect the wide diversity of our party, why I created the Racial Equity, Accountability and Leadership (R.E.A.L.) Committee, and why the R.E.A.L. Committee must continue its work to ensure that DPO becomes more diverse at every level.



Carla “KC” Hanson – Candidate for Chair

2. What concrete steps will you take to support and elect Democrats in rural areas? Specifically, what should the DPO do in rural districts to further invest in recruiting candidates up and down the ticket, and to reach voters?

As Chair, I’ve prioritized DPO programs critical to rural County Parties working to elect local Democrats. Programs we must invest in include the Local Elections Project, Neighborhood Leader Program, Voter File access, Check for Democracy Grants, Fundraising Training, and communications support for local campaigns.

The DPO Candidate Bootcamp is a perfect example - providing a virtual Candidate 101 training just in time for May’s elections.

But even with resources just a keystroke away, doing democracy in a red county can be a lonely endeavor. As Chair, I’ve committed to working with rural counties and to connecting them with each other. Sharing rural challenges and best practices allows us to support each other, sparks innovations, and will help us earn more wins every election.

3. The Democratic Party of Oregon draws our strength from our diversity – both of the people who make up our Party, and of the ideas and interests they bring to the discussion. But we can sometimes disagree on how we should achieve our shared goals. As a Party Officer, how do you plan to promote unity and build trust among the various groups and coalitions within our Party, even when they might disagree?

As Democrats we share core beliefs in building a just society; as passionate Democrats it’s not surprising we sometimes disagree on how we reach our goals. And healthy debate often builds the best policies. But our debates and interactions must be civil, respectful, and built on a common belief in our unifying values.

As Chair, I secured a Conflict Manager to train us on ways to resolve disputes, established a Code of Conduct Committee (CCC) to draft guidelines to help us work together, and worked for new ways to make our meetings run better during Covid19. In 2021-2022 we must make the CCC’s recommendations a reality, provide more training on conflict management, and create more opportunities to work together and talk together with respect.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:
kc-for-oregon.blogspot.com

John Harris Knight – Candidate for Chair

Self-Identified Gender: Male Candidate Statement:

Calling all around the state, I have collected your concerns and ideas into concrete proposals. As a student of history, I have devoted myself to understanding what happens when a culture is fragmented between left- and right-ward ideas. We are living in such a moment now.

The DPO is in a unique position. When Democratic candidates step up from our ranks, Democrats gain the power to make changes that have a worldwide effect. Where do these candidates come from? Where do the ideas for sweeping changes come from? They come from all of us, in this body, in the SCC, when we decide to work together to champion what we believe in.

Some in this body are new to political involvement. They have energy and heart, and we want them to become part of our great big team, to recruit other members, and to make our voices bigger, and louder, so that an equity-centered platform of the DPO is represented and written into law -making the world a better place for all of us. And we know this to be true.

Candidate Questions:

1. What does equity mean to you and how does it influence your leadership decisions? What steps will you take to increase representation of historically underrepresented and disenfranchised communities and build equity within the Democratic Party of Oregon?

Equity is intersectional empowerment - cooperative and collaborative, never individualistic - rooted in the intersections of place and individual needs. How?

Implement an equity-centered collaborative approach so we all feel and are valued - starting within our Standing Committees.

Facilitate intersectional collaboration between Caucuses. Collaboratively draft an equity-centered Strategic Plan.

Develop relationships with diverse communities in Oregon.

Equitable, participatory inclusion: create an inviting, collaborative environment that attracts, retains, and uplifts diversity in everything we do.

Service activities outside the Party to connect with communities we rarely reach.

Pay Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion professionals to guide development of equitable processes and culture within our party.

Encourage contributions of diverse perspectives and lived experiences, including identity, region, and status in every decision the Party makes.



John Harris Knight – Candidate for Chair

2. What concrete steps will you take to support and elect Democrats in rural areas? Specifically, what should the DPO do in rural districts to further invest in recruiting candidates up and down the ticket, and to reach voters?

Propose a Special Committee to develop recommendations for supporting our County Parties' efforts in smaller and rural communities, including NAV outreach, sharing resources, volunteers, fundraising, IT help, and campaign support.

Facilitate County to County collaboration, relationship building to bridge rural-urban divide.

Form a group of Democratic elected officials and former candidates in rural communities to provide mentoring and support for candidates and campaigns.

Recruit Democratic Legislators to visit our rural County communities, and act as their Representatives in Salem.

Build relationships with state and local elected Democrats to encourage more collaboration with the SCC and its Caucuses.

All to break down conservative dominance in rural communities, counter Timber Unity, win local elections, and build a rural bench.

3. The Democratic Party of Oregon draws our strength from our diversity – both of the people who make up our Party, and of the ideas and interests they bring to the discussion. But we can sometimes disagree on how we should achieve our shared goals. As a Party Officer, how do you plan to promote unity and build trust among the various groups and coalitions within our Party, even when they might disagree?

An effective Chair of the Party will facilitate that success by bringing all our different, diverse perspectives. The wisdom of our veteran members is the bedrock of our party. Our newest delegates are inspired and optimistic to join our efforts. No matter our points of view, every delegate reading this survey has been ignited. We know we are so much stronger when we all work together. When we make a plan, involve all our expertise, we can reach a mutual solution for the problems we face. Consistently including every willing voice, we build trust. Every meeting that ends on time will build trust. Through that trust, we can truly unify and move forward, past momentary disagreements, and plan for our successful future.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:

JohnHarrisKnight.com

www.facebook.com/JohnHarrisKnight

youtube.com/channel/UCODfpHCMtLLq1f3sbahxrXQ

Rosa Colquitt, PhD – Candidate for Vice Chair

Self-Identified Gender: Female Candidate Statement:

I bring a wealth of leadership experience and diversity expertise to the position of Vice Chair. We need both of these qualifications to best represent our people and to elect Democrats across the state. My volunteer work began in 2008 with the Washington County Dems as a House District Leader (HDL), recruiting and supporting other PCPs, with a focus on BIPOC communities. As HDL, I went on to join the DPO's 2012 Citizens Involvement Committee. Our committee reached out into each of our Congressional Districts to train and advocate for National Convention delegates, which resulted in one of the most diverse DNC delegations in Oregon history. Since then, I've served as Chair of the WashCoDems and DPO Black Caucus, and successfully chaired a number of committees in the DPO. Years of community and party activism have taught me that we need to seek input from ALL members, amplifying and valuing diverse, unheard voices. We can do this. Democrats can win! I am honored to ask for your vote.



Candidate Questions:

1. What does equity mean to you and how does it influence your leadership decisions? What steps will you take to increase representation of historically underrepresented and disenfranchised communities and build equity within the Democratic Party of Oregon?

Equity means fairness and justice. Equity requires recognizing that we don't all start at an equal place and change is necessary to mitigate imbalances. To be achieved and sustained, equity must be understood as a "structural and systemic concept." This understanding influences my leadership decisions. To build equity, I will implement equity tools such as: 1) A "racial equity lens" to analyze individual and group behavior for inclusion or bias in documents and practices. For example, in bylaws, conducting meetings, appointing chairs, using technology; 2) A resolution to strengthen the voices of the underrepresented by increasing the number of SCC delegates for Identity caucuses from one to three; and 3) A collaboration with community organizations who have developed best practices for building and sustaining equity.

2. What concrete steps will you take to support and elect Democrats in rural areas? Specifically, what should the DPO do in rural districts to further invest in recruiting candidates up and down the ticket, and to reach voters?

My response to this question is based on outreach to Democrats who actually "live in rural districts." I don't have the same lived experience as my rural friends, so in lieu of lived experience, I bring open ears and the same values of compassion and interest in community concerns that I bring to supporting all underrepresented communities.

Rosa Colquitt, PhD – Candidate for Vice Chair

First and foremost, DPO leadership must LISTEN to rural voices to build a trusting, effective communication network. We must also consider how poverty affects elections in rural districts. Financial support, such as funding Internet services for Democratic activists in rural areas, is key to effective electoral organizing. We must also do more to strengthen Neighborhood leader programs, and provide local parties with more signage and supplies.

3. The Democratic Party of Oregon draws our strength from our diversity – both of the people who make up our Party, and of the ideas and interests they bring to the discussion. But we can sometimes disagree on how we should achieve our shared goals. As a Party Officer, how do you plan to promote unity and build trust among the various groups and coalitions within our Party, even when they might disagree?

My leadership experience teaches me that we build trust relationships through constant engagement. If elected, I pledge to attend and engage in as many central committees and CD/caucus meetings as invited into. This participation is an important opportunity to listen, take questions, and be a conduit between DPO leadership and local Democrats. This level of involvement and transparency is integral to promoting unity and building trust. As Vice Chair, I will recommend implementing a "Unity Commission"--an ongoing, facilitated process, led by professionals from outside the DPO. Their charge will be to identify and engage the various coalitions within our Party, with a focus on areas/issues that divide rather than unite us. Facilitators should have diverse and culturally responsive ways to resolve disagreements.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:
https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1BTatt9lJcZr-z_PFTOXKROht14LXPbH4

Keith Haxton – Candidate for Vice Chair

Self-Identified Gender: Non-Binary Candidate Statement:

I'm asking for your vote because our party vitally needs progressive and democratic reform on the most fundamental level. Our party is meant to represent the broad interests of more than one million voters, not the interests of a small group of established party insiders. The representative democracy that our state central committee was meant to be has been eroded to the point that it hardly functions, often silences delegates and the communities we represent and often contradicts what our one million party members actually desire. If you elect me I will use the position to ensure our party's diverse voices are heard and included, even when I disagree with them. I will do my best to ensure that our members are served by the party and that personal bias doesn't obstruct progressive reform nor the deliberative process. I will use the position to hold our elected officials accountable, to increase transparency in our party, and to bring genuine democracy to all of our party's committees.



Candidate Questions:

1. What does equity mean to you and how does it influence your leadership decisions? What steps will you take to increase representation of historically underrepresented and disenfranchised communities and build equity within the Democratic Party of Oregon?

Equity is justice. As the first openly non-binary SCC delegate, as a queer working class disabled veteran from rural Florida who has been homeless and works a low wage job, I know a little bit about disenfranchisement. I got started in politics fighting against the criminalization of homelessness in southern Oregon, which impacts the most marginalized communities. Our party likes to harp about including diverse voices and communities of color, but my and my partner's experience has shown me those voices are only welcomed when they support the party establishment. As vice chair I would change that by advocating for programs that help the most marginalized be able to attend our meetings, which would include offering interpreting services, childcare and reimbursement for travel costs.

2. What concrete steps will you take to support and elect Democrats in rural areas? Specifically, what should the DPO do in rural districts to further invest in recruiting candidates up and down the ticket, and to reach voters?

As a person who has spent most of my life in rural areas, I think the best thing our party can do to bridge the divide between rural and urban Oregonians is to stop believing the lies that the GOP spreads about what rural communities want. This problem shows itself prominently in our state's minimum wage, which is lower outside of the Portland Metro, and even lower for rural Oregonians. Discriminatory

Keith Haxton – Candidate for Vice Chair

policies that are based on a faulty neoliberal philosophy and which are championed by our party, like our unique three-tiered minimum wage, lay at the root of both the poor treatment of rural communities by our party, and those communities' justified resentment of us. Approving HB 3351 would help rectify this specific issue.

3. The Democratic Party of Oregon draws our strength from our diversity – both of the people who make up our Party, and of the ideas and interests they bring to the discussion. But we can sometimes disagree on how we should achieve our shared goals. As a Party Officer, how do you plan to promote unity and build trust among the various groups and coalitions within our Party, even when they might disagree?

I find that genuine unity in our party can and will only come about with genuine democracy. In so far as unity is possible within our body, I firmly believe that it can only arise when we have a fair and democratic decision-making process, which we currently lack in our central, executive and standing committees. In late 2019 I worked with officers and other SCC delegates for months to develop a proposal for a Unity and Reform Commission for the Democratic Party of Oregon. Although that resolution was submitted to the chair and then killed in the Rules Committee, I believe it was and still could be a good starting point for achieving unity in our party by way of democratic discussion and reform.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:
N/A

Pete Lee – Candidate for Vice Chair

Self-Identified Gender: Male Candidate Statement:

I started life as a Republican and then worked at Enron. Seeing the corruption and greed sickened me - and that changed me and changed my life. People were patient with me and knowing I was heard and welcomed created a deep sense of compassion within me. It made me a better person and made me want to serve - to help others and do the work to make my community a better place for all. I volunteered for Obama in 2008, Bernie in 2016 and many campaigns along the way.



As a bridge builder, I believe in the value of our fellow human beings and building a strong team. As a DPO Vice Chair, I've learned that being an officer in this party is hard work and in a way like being an elected to public office. We have a limited budget and resources and we have a critical job to do. Fortunately, we have great County and Caucus leaders, Neighborhood Leaders, DPO staff, and support from a massive volunteer team of Democrats. That team is critical to electing Democrats in 2022 and beyond!

Candidate Questions:

1. What does equity mean to you and how does it influence your leadership decisions? What steps will you take to increase representation of historically underrepresented and disenfranchised communities and build equity within the Democratic Party of Oregon?

Black, brown, and indigenous communities experience astounding levels of inequity. We need to listen better, ask "what do you need" and support them and their empowerment. I learnt through working on JoAnn Hardesty's campaign that we build connections by showing up, speaking little, and listening. I cannot walk in and tell someone what I think they need. That doesn't respect their experiences or struggles. We build connections when we show up and listen to what people say about their lived experiences, honoring the gift of their time, their struggles, and the hopes of what they want to do. This is how we build trust with marginalized communities and how we build concrete plans for equity.

2. What concrete steps will you take to support and elect Democrats in rural areas? Specifically, what should the DPO do in rural districts to further invest in recruiting candidates up and down the ticket, and to reach voters?

Knocking on doors for Jamie McLeod-Skinner taught me that every rural and frontier community has different needs. For rural and frontier Democrats I know at times your mission and work might seem an almost insurmountable task. With few resources you have to recruit, identify, and train candidates to run within your counties and

Pete Lee – Candidate for Vice Chair

your neighborhoods. We must support your efforts to organize, activate, mobilize, and win - with great training through the Local Elections Project, by supporting your Neighborhood Leaders Programs, and investing in rural efforts statewide to build the Democratic team.

3. The Democratic Party of Oregon draws our strength from our diversity – both of the people who make up our Party, and of the ideas and interests they bring to the discussion. But we can sometimes disagree on how we should achieve our shared goals. As a Party Officer, how do you plan to promote unity and build trust among the various groups and coalitions within our Party, even when they might disagree?

Democracy requires constant effort to ensure we are building mutual inclusion, trust, and consent with all participants. We build party unity when we make real connections with each other. We have to take the time to listen and really get to know each other and respect each other's lived experience. As Democrats we must work with each other one-on-one to build rapport, respect and understanding. Knowing we each have value even though we may not agree, can be hard work - but it's deeply critical to our success. As Vice Chair I'm committed to that work, to listen and learn, and build a more unified DPO.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:

www.facebook.com/PeteLee.Us

Eileen Kiely – Candidate for Secretary

Self-Identified Gender: Female Candidate Statement:

I am the current Secretary of the DPO, Vice Chair of the Deschutes County Democrats and a past delegate to CD2 and member of the Platform and resolutions Committee.

I am the only member of the admin committee who has been a legislative candidate, and the only one from CD2. If reelected, I will still be the only member with that perspective, and I believe it is critical experience for our leadership team.

Running for the Oregon legislature is like running up against a brick wall every day for a year. What makes it worth it is knowing that even if you don't break through, your efforts will help the next candidate. Every race is a relay – we build on each other's work to achieve our goals

We need people in leadership who understand how hard this is, especially for our candidates who fight in rural districts.

I am honored to have served you these past two years, and I am asking for your vote to continue the work.

Candidate Questions:

1. What does equity mean to you and how does it influence your leadership decisions? What steps will you take to increase representation of historically underrepresented and disenfranchised communities and build equity within the Democratic Party of Oregon?

We have a responsibility to promote access and amplify the voices of those who do not have a place at the table. As a manager, I actively recruited and promoted women and BIPOC employees – and as a result I never had a shortage of diverse and qualified candidates for any position I hired.

To advance the welfare of all Oregonians, we need to actively recruit new voices to run for office at all levels of government. As a woman in male dominated industries, I had to fight for a place at the table, Once I got there, it was my duty and privilege to fight to make a place for others from underrepresented communities.

We show our commitment by the teams we create.



Eileen Kiely – Candidate for Secretary

2. What concrete steps will you take to support and elect Democrats in rural areas? Specifically, what should the DPO do in rural districts to further invest in recruiting candidates up and down the ticket, and to reach voters?

To win, we need to run candidates who meet the needs of our communities and we must support them – win or lose. Every election we contest helps us move our progressive agenda forward. Our key to success is to develop that support in our county parties, and two critical areas are fundraising, and relationship organizing. In my legislative races, the county Neighborhood Leader program was the MVP of our GOTV efforts. I helped found the Deschutes County Candidate Committee to recruit and support candidates at all levels, and when I work with candidates, they know I am drawing on real experience. I plan to continue outreach to rural county parties, and help them build the connections that win

3. The Democratic Party of Oregon draws our strength from our diversity – both of the people who make up our Party, and of the ideas and interests they bring to the discussion. But we can sometimes disagree on how we should achieve our shared goals. As a Party Officer, how do you plan to promote unity and build trust among the various groups and coalitions within our Party, even when they might disagree?

I've travelled every county in Oregon, and attended a County party meeting in most of them. Our ideas of how to do it "right" are shaped by our communities, both geographic and demographic.

The first SCC meeting I served was Prineville, in May 2019. To complete the minutes, I had to watch and listen to that meeting 3 times. I saw inappropriate behavior by delegates, and also by us in the leadership team.

When we are elected to leadership, our job is to make sure that the will of the body is heard and respected; our personal opinions and needs are secondary. I do not have all the answers, but we together do. Democracy is a team sport, and I am honored to serve.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uaDTBStHGNyZbjQfxWHIH-zcRc-a_dNI/view

Jeff Weston – Candidate for Secretary

Self-Identified Gender: Male Candidate Statement:

My name is Jeff Weston and I am seeking your vote to be Secretary for the Democratic Party of Oregon.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Secretary is to produce meeting minutes. If elected as Secretary, I pledge to produce minutes within seven days of meetings. As a current and past Secretary for various organizations, including the Oregon Association of Parliamentarians, I have the skills and experience to produce accurate minutes quickly and fulfill my pledge. It is also important to know what belongs and does not belong in minutes so they don't get bogged down with useless details. As a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians I study parliamentary procedure and know what to include and what not to include in minutes.

The Secretary also manages the official records of the Party. As a software developer I am well versed with information technology and will use those skills, and my strong attention to detail, to manage those records. Thank you.



Candidate Questions:

1. What does equity mean to you and how does it influence your leadership decisions? What steps will you take to increase representation of historically underrepresented and disenfranchised communities and build equity within the Democratic Party of Oregon?

Equity to me means having access to the same opportunities and resources as everyone else in order to ensure your own success. To build equity in the Democratic Party of Oregon I would advocate for parliamentary training to give all of our members an equal opportunity to effectively participate in our meetings and have their voice be heard.

2. What concrete steps will you take to support and elect Democrats in rural areas? Specifically, what should the DPO do in rural districts to further invest in recruiting candidates up and down the ticket, and to reach voters?

We need to demonstrate to rural voters that the Democratic Party of Oregon has not abandoned them and we are advocating for issues that are important to them too. In particular, the stranglehold that large corporations have in rural districts is choking out small businesses and family-owned farms. This stagnates wages and lowers the quality of life for those in rural districts. Raising the minimum wage, increasing access to health care, and providing support for those affected by the pandemic will help everyone, including those living in rural districts.

Jeff Weston – Candidate for Secretary

3. The Democratic Party of Oregon draws our strength from our diversity – both of the people who make up our Party, and of the ideas and interests they bring to the discussion. But we can sometimes disagree on how we should achieve our shared goals. As a Party Officer, how do you plan to promote unity and build trust among the various groups and coalitions within our Party, even when they might disagree?

Party Officers are responsible for carrying out the will of our members and not their own personal agendas. It is critical that Party Officers carry out their responsibilities without bias or prejudice towards any group or individual. As Secretary I would do my best to create meeting minutes without any bias. I would also provide equal access to Party records and not give preferential treatment to certain individuals or groups.

For additional information about the candidate, visit:

N/A