



Yamhill County
DEMOCRATS

Mission

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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 we share values & principles about the roles of government.

Principal Roles

The principal roles of the Yamhill County Democratic Party in fulfilling its mission are:

- (1) to create a **positive environment** for Democratic candidates to run in;
- (2) to identify and **help Democratic candidates** run successfully; and
- (3) to **collaborate** with the state Democratic Party of Oregon to achieve our goals.
- (4) to provide **grassroots support** to Democratic officials in office.

Guiding Principles

For each action we undertake in the Party, we should be able to answer clearly one of these questions, corresponding to each respective Principal Role:

- (1) **Create a positive environment for Democratic candidates.** *Is the action helping build "party identification"? As examples: Are we making more people feel that the Party's values are better-aligned with their values than with the Republican Party's values; ... that they feel good about the Party as helping bring about positive change? ... that it increases the number of people volunteering? ... that it increases the number and quality of people considering running for office as Democrats?*
- (2) **Help Democratic candidates win.** *Is the action helping elect Democrats that represent Yamhill County? Are we providing volunteers? ... making infrastructure and information available? ... identifying candidates? ... raising funds for and increasing awareness of the candidate and/or key issues?*
- (3) **Collaborating with the Democratic Party of Oregon.** *Is the action improving the working relationship with the Democratic Party of Oregon? As examples: Are we communicating our experiences and views and are they being heard? ... are we benefiting from their infrastructure and experience? ... are we getting assistance?*
- (4) **Provide grassroots support to Democratic officials.** *Is the action engaging residents of Yamhill County to make their voice heard and take action to support important issues? Are we writing letters to the editor? ... visiting representatives? ... setting up local meetings? ... making phone calls?*

Vision

Our vision is that Yamhill County voters look to the Yamhill County Democrats for leadership and that quality Democrats have filled vast majority of positions representing Yamhill County.

Shared Values & Principles

As Democrats, we share core values about the role of responsible government and its relationship to market-based prosperity, individual responsibility and civil society. We believe that:

- ★ government should *work in our common interest*, not for special interests — strengthening the middle class, helping our kids and stewarding our resources for future generations;
- ★ government should *honor human dignity* by protecting those unable to help themselves and move ever closer to the ideal that “all men are created equal” and deserve equitable treatment; and
- ★ government should not only protect but also *expand our democratic freedoms ...from oppression by the powerful ...of civil rights, and ...to participate* meaningfully in our democracy.

Ideal Candidates

We are looking for candidates that demonstrate leadership by taking competent initiative

- ★ to listen to people and understand the critical issues,
- ★ to shape people’s understanding of key issues, and
- ★ to bring people together to work in our common interest

in order to strengthen Yamhill County workers, families and their communities, and businesses across generational, socio-economic, religious and other interest areas.

Representing Yamhill County

Yamhill County Democrats stand behind the understanding that elected representatives should operate from the values and principles that make them who they are, but at the same time must respect that they are elected to represent their *entire* district, not only the agenda of those who voted for them. We expect our representatives to collaborate in legislative give-and-take with their colleagues “across the aisle” — practicing the traditional “politics is the art of compromise” rather than supporting a fixed ideology.

While the majority party is going to drive a legislative agenda, we affirm the traditional American value of respecting the rights and views of the minority by giving the minority an opportunity to be heard and to influence the shape of legislation. In today’s fairly evenly divided electorate, an agenda that prevents the minority from representing their districts alienates half of the population, and that is no way to govern in the best interests of the *all* the people of Yamhill County.