



# TALKING POINTS

## PITCH

IP 28 is a ballot measure that would fund the schools and health care our families need by making large and out-of-state corporations pay their fair share in taxes. The major reason why Oregon has the 3rd largest class sizes in the country and 400,000 Oregonians still don't have health care is that Oregon's corporate taxes are the lowest in the country. Companies like Bank of America, Comcast and Wal-Mart make hundreds of millions of dollars from the business they do in Oregon but pay lower taxes here than they do anywhere else in the country. With IP 28 we'll increase the minimum tax for the country's largest corporations and be able to hire back the teachers we've lost, increase access to health care and make sure that seniors get the care they need.

## ABOUT IP 28

- + A study done by the independent Anderson Economic Group showed Oregon has the LOWEST corporate taxes in the country. It's time for big corporations to do their part.
- + The new minimum tax rate applies only to those corporations with more than \$25 million in Oregon sales. These are large and out of state corporations that can afford to do their part.
- + Based on 2012 Department of Revenue data we know that more than 70 percent of those corporations subject to the new rate are headquartered outside of Oregon.
- + Some examples? Walmart, Comcast and Bank of America.
- + In 2013, 530 corporations managed to reduce their tax bills to nothing thanks to loopholes and carveouts. That's just not right.
- + Even with IP 28 in effect, Oregon would still have the lowest corporate taxes on the west coast.

## SCHOOLS

- + Insert personal story about your school or experience.
- + Our schools have been crippled by decades of underinvestment, and it's obvious that our students are struggling without the resources they need.



- + Just look at the statistics: We've got the third lowest graduation rate in the country, the third largest class size and among the shortest school years.
- + Thanks to layoffs, we also have 2,000 fewer teachers today than we did in 2008 even though class sizes have gone up.
- + A recent Education Week report gave Oregon a D+ for school finance and F for schools spending. That's unacceptable.
- + It would take an additional \$2 billion in revenue over the next two years to fully fund our schools, according to the Quality Education Model
- + That's where IP 28 comes in: A game-changing investment in the quality of our schools.
- + It would raise \$5 billion over the next biennium, finally giving our schools and other critical services the funding they desperately need.
- + We could ... restore school days, hire back teachers and rebuild the Career Technical Education programs that have been slashed in half. We would improve the lives of all Oregon kids by giving them the education they deserve.

## **SENIOR SERVICES**

- + Our senior population is growing: The number of Oregonians age 75 or older is expected to increase by 233,000 over the next decade, according to a state forecast.
- + And we are living longer, too: The Social Security Administration estimates that one in 10 65-year-olds will live past 95.
- + Meanwhile, state data shows the number of Oregon seniors living in poverty is 29 percent higher today that it was a decade ago.
- + The U.S. Census Bureau reported that 55,000 Oregon seniors were living below the federal poverty line in 2014.
- + Add to the mix that  $\frac{2}{3}$  of retired Oregonians are living completely off social security, and it's obvious we need to strengthen our senior services.



- + The average social security income, by the way, is \$16,000 a year and \$1,335 a month for retired workers.
- + That means many seniors are one unexpected expense away from not being able to pay their rent or buy groceries.
- + Seniors deserve to live with dignity and have access to affordable care. We have to do better and with IP 28 the state will finally have the resources.
- + Oregon Project Independence, which provides affordable in-home care to seniors in need, will have to serve a growing number of seniors over the next decade. IP 28 would position the state to better support the program and ensure that seniors are able to maintain their independence.

## **HEALTH CARE**

- + Health care costs have risen by more than 32% in the last decade, about twice as fast as the rate of inflation. So we know that vital treatment is out of reach for many Oregonians.
- + Even after the passage of the Affordable Care Act, medical debt remained the leading cause of personal bankruptcy filings, according to NerdWallet.
- + A 2014 Act Healthy Oregon study of Lane County found that 72 percent of bankruptcy filers owed money for medical-related expenses.
- + 400,000 Oregonians remain uninsured, according to an Oregon Health Equity report.
- + There is a \$1.7 billion Medicaid funding gap expected in 2019-21 because of shrinking federal contributions
- + Even among those on the Oregon Health Plan, many aren't getting the treatment they need.
- + According to an analysis done by the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs, 160,000 people who need mental health treatment are going without, due to a lack of funding.
- + Another 87,000 seeking help with a substance abuse issue have to go without the help they need to get back on their feet.



- + Everyone deserves quality care, and vital treatment shouldn't be out of reach because of funding shortfalls. That's where IP 28 comes in.