

Oregon US Governor 2026

THE ISSUES

CHRISTINE
DRAZAN

REPUBLICAN

TINA
KOTEK

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Mixed. Is “ pro-life .” Supported the overturning of Roe v. Wade. In 2022 said she would veto bills expanding abortion rights in Oregon. Says the current Oregon law allowing abortions with no restrictions is “an outlier across the nation.” “I do not support banning abortion.”	Legal. Would “protect Oregonians from federal attempts to restrict access to abortion.” Opposed the overturning of Roe v. Wade. Signed a bill giving greater legal protection to people seeking abortion care and their providers. Signed a bill using state dollars to fund Planned Parenthood.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Mixed. Would “ rescinding ” the “ Climate Protection Program on day one.” Voted against a zero-emissions state retirement investment portfolio by 2050. Says clean fuels “should be an option, not a mandate.” “I absolutely believe that manmade climate change has an impact on us.”	Yes. Is “ 100% supportive of our current Climate Protection Program.” Signed a bill for a zero-emissions state retirement investment portfolio by 2050. Issued an executive order calling for “urgent action” to adopt “ climate resilient strategies.” “Climate is changing our world.”
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	“We need fewer needles and more cops to restore safe communities.” Opposes “treating police like criminals and criminals like victims.” Would prioritize “addiction recovery...and mental health treatment.” In 2022 called for repealing a 2020 Oregon measure that decriminalized possession of small amounts of hard drugs.	Would “work with local law enforcement to make our communities safer.” Directed the state to expand and expedite police training. Signed a 2024 bill reversing part of a 2020 Oregon measure by recriminalizing possession of small amounts of hard drugs and allowing drug users to be deflected into treatment programs.
DATA CENTERS Loosen or tighten rules around data center development?	Mixed. Says new data centers must bring benefits. Opposes data centers “in communities that don’t want them.” Calls for “an immediate moratorium.” Voted against the POWER Act , requiring data centers to pay their share in electricity use. The bill “ targeted small towns.”	Tighten. Would “introduce a bill on day one” requiring data centers “follow our rules,” and provide “community benefits.” Calls for a moratorium on new data centers “until we get this right.” Signed the POWER Act , requiring data centers to pay their share in electricity use.
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. Supports opting Oregon into a program that gives federal tax credits for donations to private school scholarships. Would “expand school choice.” “We urgently need more options for students and their families to succeed.”	No. Opposes efforts “to undermine public schools by providing taxpayer dollars to private schools in the name of ‘school choice.’” Opted Oregon out of a program that gives federal tax credits for donations to private school scholarships.
EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?	Yes. Opposes “children [being] exposed to radical ideologies at younger and younger ages.” Would “ensure curriculum transparency and the right for parents to opt out.”	No. Signed a bill preventing book bans based on the author’s identity or protected topics such as race. Opposed federal efforts to end diversity, equity, and inclusion practices in schools.
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	Mixed. Supports ensuring “appropriate” water and air quality. Calls for “manag[ing] our forests.” Voted against a tax on short-term lodging to fund wildlife conservation. In 2020 voted against banning pesticides containing chlorpyrifos .	Tighten. Would “ensure Oregonians have access to clean air and water.” Said a federal judge’s ruling restoring salmon river protections was “the right call.” Signed a bill to impose a tax on short-term lodging to fund wildlife conservation.

ISSUES	DRAZAN (R)	KOTEK (D)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Loosen. Opposed increased gun permit fees , longer processing times, and denying permits for people with misdemeanors. In 2021 voted against a bill requiring safe gun storage. "The Second Amendment isn't a suggestion ."	Tighten. Signed a bill to increase gun permit fees and processing times, and to deny permits for people with misdemeanors. Signed a bill banning "ghost guns." In 2021 voted to require safe gun storage. "Gun violence is preventable. We must do better."
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Decrease. Opposed a ballot measure creating a constitutional right to affordable healthcare; said she didn't want to lock "ourselves into a constitutional mandate." Voted against extending taxes to fund Oregon's Medicaid program. In 2021 voted against establishing a Prescription Drug Affordability Board.	Increase. Supported a ballot measure creating a constitutional right to affordable healthcare; said it would protect Oregonians from cuts to Medicaid or Obamacare. Signed a bill extending taxes to fund Oregon's Medicaid program. Would "team up with other states to reduce the cost of prescription drugs."
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Supported the 2025 deployment of federal troops to Portland: "We need order ." Sponsored a bill allowing state law enforcement to work with federal agencies to locate immigrants convicted of certain crimes. "Oregon's sanctuary state status is off the rails ...not a sane approach to public safety."	Signed eight bills in 2026 protecting immigrant rights in response to federal immigration enforcement in Oregon: "Oregon is not staying quiet." Defended Oregon's sanctuary law , which stops police from enforcing federal immigration law without a court order. "Our immigrant and refugee communities are Oregon communities."
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Harder. Voted against giving striking workers unemployment benefits. In 2019 voted against giving "reasonable paid time " to union representatives to conduct union business and making it easier to organize workers.	Easier. Signed a bill giving striking workers unemployment benefits. Issued an executive order requiring state construction projects to use project labor agreements . "I'm proud to stand with working people."
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Mixed. Sponsored a bill to ban transgender athletes from female school sports. " No more boys in girls' sports." Would not support repealing gay marriage rights in Oregon if the Supreme Court were to reverse such rights.	Expand. Opposed a Supreme Court decision allowing states to ban transgender athletes from female sports. Signed a bill protecting providers offering gender-affirming care. Would defend "our LGBTQ+ community from federal attacks."
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the state minimum from \$14.00 per hour?	No position found.	Likely yes. Celebrated a state minimum wage increase in 2026. In 2016 voted to increase Oregon's minimum wage incrementally through 2022. "All workers deserve fair, living wages."
TAXES How to handle state taxes?	Calls the Corporate Activity Tax "a mess" and says its threshold should be above \$2 million. Would "eliminate Oregon's unique death tax" and "expand childcare tax credits." Supports "bold tax cuts for families and businesses." Voted against tax credits for low-income Oregonians and businesses that increase in-state hiring.	Says the state needs a "broader conversation about tax reform, including the Corporate Activity Tax. Called for a pause on a county preschool-for-all tax on those making over \$125,000 per year; said it was causing people to leave. Signed a bill giving tax credits for low-income Oregonians and businesses that increase in-state hiring.
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Likely harder. Introduced a bill replacing Oregon's vote-by-mail system with in-person voting and requiring "voters to show picture ID when voting or requesting a ballot." Says she "had concerns about" the reliability of the US Postal Service. "I've always been a strong supporter of vote by mail." Introduced a bill to require "that a person may not return someone else's ballot." In 2021 voted against making voter pamphlets available in five additional languages.	Easier. Would "safeguard Oregon's...vote-by-mail system and hold the line against federal overreach." Opposed federal efforts to restrict mail-in voting. " Oregon has voted by mail for almost 30 years. It's safe, it's secure, and it works. I will always protect it." In 2021 voted to make voter pamphlets available in five additional languages.

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