

# Tony DeBone

Commissioner Seat # 1

[www.electtonydebone.com](http://www.electtonydebone.com)

## Top Priorities

What are your three top priorities if elected to the Board of County Commissioners?

1. Economic Diversity and job growth for local businesses and workers of Deschutes County
2. Housing options at every income level, permitting efficiency and responsible and prudent growth
3. Public Safety by supporting the Sheriff's office and prepare for and respond to disasters

## Business Competitiveness & Regulatory Predictability

County governments play a key role in land use planning, permitting, and regional economic development. What role should Deschutes County government play in supporting economic development and maintaining Central Oregon's competitiveness as a place for businesses to invest and create jobs?

As a member of the Bend Chamber, I am actively involved with business owners. I am also on the board of the Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO) in Redmond and Sunriver/La Pine. We set the table and invite businesses to be successful in Deschutes County. EDCO provides legislative advocacy as well as local land use efforts for commercial and industrial parcels.

## **Workforce Availability**

Employers across Central Oregon report difficulty recruiting and retaining workers due to housing affordability, childcare access, and other cost-of-living pressures.

What actions should Deschutes County take to help increase the supply of workforce housing as well as access to childcare in the region?

I am a current commissioner, and I have been involved in supporting Habitat for Humanity, Housing Works, and other housing efforts. I also strongly support the private builders that create the housing stock that we need. Prudent managed growth in land for housing is important. I am experienced in going to Salem to explain the need for more housing in the cities. Outside the cities I support being able to build on the existing private land that is available.

## **Infrastructure That Enables Regional Growth**

Rapid population growth in Central Oregon is increasing demand for infrastructure to support housing, job creation, and economic activity. What transportation investments or state highway priorities should Deschutes County advance, particularly related to Highway 97, to improve safety, reduce congestion, and support regional mobility?

There is a current effort to ask the state and federal government to focus on Hwy 97 from Jefferson County through Deschutes and Klamath County. The state legislature is going to need to come up with a funding plan for the future because the cost of maintaining the system is going up, and gas tax and registration is not keeping up. Deschutes County road department does a great job maintaining the road system we have with the resources available. COIC is now charging \$2 to get on the bus,

and that will make the experience more pleasing for anyone wanting public transit for the daily commute.

## **Education & Workforce Readiness**

Strengthening the regional workforce pipeline requires collaboration between employers, education providers, and public agencies. How should Deschutes County support partnerships with schools, colleges, and workforce training programs to strengthen the regional talent pipeline?

I am currently serving on the East Cascades Workforce Investment Board. We provide job training and placement services. COCC and OSU Cascades provide college experiences right here in Deschutes County. I support the trades and the efforts at the high schools in getting experiences for the youth in many career paths.

## **Balanced Environmental Stewardship & Economic Vitality**

Deschutes County must balance competing priorities including housing availability, protection of agricultural lands, water use, rural open space, wildfire preparedness, and habitat preservation. How would you approach these tradeoffs, and what principles would guide your decisions when conflicts arise between increasing housing supply and preserving resource lands?

Deschutes County is 79% publicly owned with USFS and BLM lands, making up the majority. There are many acres of farmland that have irrigation district water and should be used to the highest and best use. Each city has a growth management plan, and when a city grows, it comes from land in the county. There are some

"resource" lands that are called farmland that have never been farmed for a profit, had agricultural water and no history of farming. I do support rezoning some land for housing outside the cities according to the statewide land use plan. I respect the good water that is available for domestic use and farming. I support water efficiency efforts and groundwater protection by allowing innovative solutions outside the cities. Everyone is responsible for defensible space around their homes and community efforts to reduce the threat of wildfire.

## **Regional Representation**

If elected, how would you work with cities, regional organizations, and the state to advance Central Oregon's economic and infrastructure priorities? How will you ensure local employers and business organizations remain engaged in county decision-making?

I know each and every city councilor in Deschutes County, and I support each city and community in the county. I love to have input on any of the topics that we cover. When I am making decisions at the board of commissioners, I am thinking of the people who are not in the room. I have worked as a software developer in Aerospace and Biotechnology, and I was a small business owner. I am currently a commissioner, and I know that I am Open, Honest and Approachable. I share information that I have and am honored to serve each and every person in Deschutes County. Please vote for me on May 19th, 2026 -- Tony DeBone, feel free to call me at 541 728-3012