

Jason Kropf

House District 54 Candidate

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Top Priorities

What are your three top legislative priorities if elected to represent House District 54?

- Tackling the high cost of living and improving affordability
- Increasing housing stock with an emphasis on affordable and middle housing and expanding first-time homeownership opportunities
- Providing adequate funding for our K-12 schools and ensuring increased outcomes and student achievement

Business Competitiveness & Regulatory Predictability

Central Oregon employers consistently identify regulatory complexity, permitting delays, and policy uncertainty as barriers to investment and job creation.

What policies would you prioritize: 1) to ensure Oregon, as well as regions like Central Oregon, remain competitive for business investment and job growth; and 2) to support entrepreneurs and small business growth?

I believe in the enormous potential of Oregon and I'm confident we can come together to write the next chapter of our economic growth. In Central Oregon, the challenge isn't a lack of population growth, it's keeping pace with it. That means making sure housing, childcare, and our schools grow alongside our economy so employers can attract and retain a strong workforce. We also need a regional

approach to job creation and a permitting process that is clear, coordinated, and timely, so good projects aren't stuck in limbo. At the same time, we should foster and scale the entrepreneurial spirit that defines our state by expanding access to capital, technical support, and practical resources for small businesses. My focus is on making sure Central Oregon can grow responsibly while remaining a place where businesses, workers, and families can all thrive.

Workforce Availability

Employers across Central Oregon report difficulty recruiting and retaining workers due to limited access to childcare, rising healthcare costs, and a growing need for eldercare services. What legislative solutions would you support to: (1) expand access to childcare; (2) improve access to affordable healthcare; and (3) address the growing need for eldercare services in regions like Central Oregon?

To grow our workforce in Central Oregon, we have to tackle affordability head-on. With the region's rapid growth, we risk pricing out the very workers our economy depends on. Childcare, healthcare, housing, and eldercare are all part of that equation. Childcare is the "workforce behind the workforce," and I've supported efforts like creating the Department of Early Learning and Care and expanding programs that help families afford care and providers open or grow. We should keep investing in those programs while strengthening public-private partnerships that stretch every dollar further. On healthcare, we need to focus on lowering costs and expanding access, especially in fast-growing and rural areas. We also have to increase housing supply at all levels so workers and families can afford to live in the communities they serve. And as more families take on caregiving for aging loved ones, we need to expand access to home- and community-based care and support caregivers. If we make it easier for people to live and work here, we make it easier for businesses to hire and grow.

Infrastructure That Enables Regional Growth

Rapid population growth in Central Oregon is increasing demand for transportation, utilities, and housing needed to support economic development.

What policies or investments would you support to accelerate infrastructure development, increase workforce housing availability, and guide the next statewide transportation funding strategy to support growing regions like Central Oregon?

Meeting Central Oregon's growth requires targeted, region-specific investments in infrastructure, housing, and transportation. At the state level, we need stronger partnerships with local governments to accelerate infrastructure projects like water, sewer, and roads that unlock housing and economic development. Increasing workforce housing supply has to be a priority, including investments in infrastructure that make new housing feasible, affordable, and well-planned.

On transportation, we need a balanced, statewide strategy that recognizes major corridor projects like the I-5 bridge replacement while also directing resources to fast-growing regions like Central Oregon which have fundamentally different needs and challenges than the valley. There is a funding challenge here - with increased fuel efficiency and electric vehicles, revenue from the gas tax to pay for infrastructure maintenance and development is diminishing and there are not easy solutions. I support the Governor's transportation task force as a way to bring together stakeholders and develop a sustainable funding approach that reflects how Oregonians live and travel today, while ensuring growing regions like ours aren't left behind.

Education & Workforce Readiness

Employers increasingly rely on partnerships with education institutions and workforce training programs to meet evolving workforce needs.

How should Oregon strengthen career and technical education, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships to prepare students for in-demand careers?

As our economy evolves, our education and training systems need to stay closely aligned with real workforce needs. I'm proud of the investments I've secured for OSU-Cascades and the role it plays in preparing students for careers in Central Oregon, including through initiatives like the Innovation District that bring together education and industry. We should continue strengthening career and technical education, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships by creating clear, accessible pathways for students into in-demand careers, whether through college, trades, or hands-on training programs. That means deeper collaboration between employers and educators, expanded apprenticeship opportunities, and ensuring programs are responsive to the skills businesses actually need.

Balanced Environmental Stewardship & Economic Vitality

Central Oregon's natural environment is a key economic asset, while businesses also depend on reliable energy, water, and infrastructure systems.

What policies would you support to ensure reliable and affordable energy and utility infrastructure for Oregon households and businesses?

A large part of why people live in Central Oregon is our natural environment and we have to ensure our energy and utility systems are reliable, affordable, and built to support continued growth. That means investing in grid capacity, transmission, and modern infrastructure so we can deliver energy where it's needed without delays or rising costs. That will take significant investment in the development of clean energy infrastructure to meet our climate goals and rising energy demand. Water

infrastructure is just as critical in our region, and we should prioritize investments that promote greater efficiency and long-term planning to meet growing demand. My focus is on making sure we can support economic growth while keeping energy and utility costs predictable and protecting the natural resources that make Central Oregon such a strong place to live and do business.

Regional Representation

If elected, how would you work with regional partners, including local governments, business organizations, and the Central Oregon Legislative Caucus, to advance Central Oregon's priorities in Salem?

We are a region of growing importance and impact in our state and we have unique needs and challenges. I am proud to serve as part of the Central Oregon Legislative Caucus. Working together with the Chamber and other partners we have been able to elevate critical local issues and funding needs. Our region has a growing and earned reputation for innovation and that collaborative approach is a real strength of our region. We're building more housing, fostering innovative public-private partnerships, and investing in institutions like OSU-Cascades that will shape our long-term economy. By staying aligned and focused, we've been able to secure meaningful investments for projects like the Deschutes County Courthouse, Bend Lighthouse Shelter, Mosaic Medical, Heart of Oregon Corps, CORE3, the High Desert Museum, a new child psychiatry facility, and multiple OSU-Cascades initiatives. The Chamber has been a huge component of what has made this approach successful. I will continue working to elevate a unified regional voice so that Central Oregon continues to compete effectively for resources and attention at the state level.