

Patti Adair

Candidate for Congressional District 5

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Business Competitiveness & Regulatory Predictability

Central Oregon businesses are navigating rising costs, regulatory complexity, and economic uncertainty. The Bend Chamber supports policies that strengthen business resiliency while providing greater regulatory and tax predictability.

What federal tax, regulatory, or economic policies would you prioritize to improve the business climate and help Central Oregon businesses invest, grow, and create jobs?

First, I will make the no-tax on tips, overtime, and Social Security permanent and increase the Child Tax Credit. These tax breaks are for working people, and they expire in just 2 years. We need to make them permanent to give working families relief.

Second, I will cut wasteful federal spending and stop Washington from driving inflation. As a CPA and County Commissioner, I treated taxpayer dollars the way I treat my own budget. Congress should do the same.

Third, I will reduce the regulatory pile that delays hiring, permitting, and expansion. Federal rules should not take longer than the project they are supposed to review. I will work to streamline NEPA and related reviews for housing, industrial sites, and infrastructure that local governments have already prioritized.

Lastly, I have overseen the most pro-small-business county environment in the state

In Congress, I will fight for the same thing as I have done as a County Commissioner: lower costs, lower taxes, and a government that gets out of the way so employers can create jobs.

Workforce Availability & Readiness

Central Oregon employers continue to face challenges recruiting and retaining workers due to housing, healthcare, childcare, and workforce training needs. The Chamber supports policies that increase housing production and childcare access

while strengthening career-connected learning, workforce training, and credential portability.

What federal policies would you support to strengthen Central Oregon's workforce by addressing housing and childcare barriers? How would you support improving access to education, training, apprenticeships, and other pathways aligned with employer needs?

I will support federal policies that will actually lower the costs to build homes. As a commissioner, I spent three years testifying for Oregon's ADU bill (SB 391) because it can add thousands of units in Deschutes County alone. I have backed Habitat projects, a veterans village, and practical workforce housing. In Congress, I will get down to the bottom of what is driving up housing costs so we can lower them and help Central Oregon's workforce have affordable housing.

On childcare, I will increase the Child Tax Credit so families keep more of what they earn, and I will support employer-aligned solutions. Parents and local communities know what works better than any government agency in Washington.

To improve apprenticeships, training, and education, I will support registered apprenticeships, dual-credit and CTE pathways with Central Oregon Community College and high schools, and federal workforce dollars that require a local employer to have a seat at the table. If a program does not lead to a job our businesses are trying to fill, it should not get the money.

I look forward to partnering with the Bend Chamber of Commerce to strengthen and grow Central Oregon's workforce.

Infrastructure That Enables Regional Growth

The Chamber supports coordinated infrastructure planning and investments that enable housing, private development, and long-term economic growth.

What federal transportation, utility, and infrastructure investments would you prioritize for Central Oregon, and how would you work with local and state partners to secure funding for projects that support housing, business growth, and regional mobility?

First, I would invest in improvements for Highway 97. This investment would improve safety on Highway 97, reduce congestion, and keep freight and people

moving efficiently. I will also support investments in regional transit, bike and pedestrian connections.

For housing, I would use federal dollars to invest in wastewater capacity, utility extensions, roads, and other infrastructure needed to open up land for housing. Central Oregon cannot build enough homes if our community lacks the basic infrastructure to support them.

To secure funding, I will work with our cities, counties, COIC, EDCO, ODOT, and the utilities to have projects in front of federal grants, rural utility programs, and housing-infrastructure funds. I will also fight to speed permitting so a transmission line or a sewer interceptor doesn't sit in review for months upon months.

I am not going to Congress to keep spending money. We need to be accountable with taxpayer money, and I will support funding that produces houses people can live in, roads people can drive safely, and power businesses can count on.