



To: Nick Williams, Director of Public Affairs, Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

From: Laura Morett, candidate for Oregon House of Representatives, District 20

Date: May 23, 2016

Subject: Response to the questionnaire received May 16 from the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the questions posed. Please find my responses below.

1. It is important that we honor our contractual agreements. The Oregon Supreme Court has ruled on our obligations. I think one of the major solutions is to help grow our economy. Create more jobs and build a stable business environment. Gradually reduce the state work force by not replacing those retiring from the state. I do not support any increased spending, but rather be fiscally responsible with the current funds. As a business owner, I know how to balance budgets and work within the means provided. We need to go through the budget and decide where we could potentially “shave” down costs and be responsible for the debts we owe.
2. I believe we definitely need to address our transportation problem. I am not necessarily in favor of the package that Kate Brown would be putting together, but I do feel we need to address the issue of our overcrowded freeways. Our bridges throughout the region need repair and I am in support of the Salem River Crossing. As for expansion of the Salem/Keizer Transit, I am not in favor of increasing any taxes to help fund the Transit. I believe the voters spoke loudly on this issue with the most recent attempt to raise taxes.
3. Our schools are overcrowded and students are not succeeding. It is vital that our children are prepared for school. We need to support local Head Start and Healthy Start programs. Our children all need to be able to read by third grade.

Nationally Oregon is ranked one of the lowest in education. We need more local control for our schools. We need to get the Federal Government out of our classrooms and give our teachers and parents more control. We need to be sure that our children have the best qualified teachers, not because of seniority, but because of their ability to teach.

Every student deserves a chance at a good education. We test our children too much and spend too much time on preparing them for testing rather than teaching. We need to support more career tech programs such as CTEC and encourage our students, who may not be the “A” typical student heading off to college, to learn skills and trades that will allow them to get a good paying successful job.

I am uncertain of the financial problems with our school system and would need to research and review the budget closer to get a better idea on any financial suggestions. I do know however, that the cost of higher education is out of control and we need to make sure it is affordable for anyone who has the desire to attend.

4. I am adamantly opposed to IP 28! If passed, the tax will have huge negative economic effects. It is a tax that we as a consumer and community and state will have to pay. A compression tax, pyramid tax - whichever you would like to call it - it will be passed on to us the consumer and will harm our most vulnerable, our elderly, single moms, and those of fixed incomes.

If you have any questions, or need any clarification please contact me directly at 503.551.2037 or via email at [laura@lauramorettfororegon.com](mailto:laura@lauramorettfororegon.com). I look forward to the Public Policy Meeting on Thursday, June 2 at 7 AM.

Keeping the Faith,



Laura Morett  
Candidate for Oregon House of Representatives, District 20