

2018

Oregon Labor Candidate School

BIENNIAL REPORT



SARA RYAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

www.oregonlaborcandidateschool.org

The Oregon Labor Candidate School



Mission

The mission of the Oregon Labor Candidate School is to train leaders to be successful candidates for elected office. OLCS alumni will champion policies which positively impact all Oregonians, including, living wages, a superb education system, access to quality and affordable healthcare, a secure retirement, and to defend and grow the labor movement in Oregon. Our curriculum includes an equity lens, providing candidates with the tools to make justice-oriented policy decisions.



Vision

The vision of the Oregon Labor Candidate School is to increase the representation of union members in elected office who will champion policies which reflect the values of the labor movement and benefit working people in Oregon.

Collective Action. Economic Fairness. Empowerment.

"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads form one to another that creates something."

Sandra Day O'Connor



Coming Together

OLCS connects working people with the political process in Oregon, easing the way for union members to participate in government.



"Working people in Oregon can't sit back and hope that elected officials will understand their issues. Our laws are better when Oregonians of every background are involved in writing them. That's something I saw clearly in the State Legislature, and it's even more clear to me in Washington, D.C. where there aren't leaders from enough walks of life to fully understand the struggles many Oregonians face. That's why the Oregon Labor Candidate School is so important: it gives middle class Oregonians, working people, the background they need to run for office and strengthen our state."

Senator Jeff Merkley



Local Government Matters



OLCS By the Numbers

109 Union members who have graduated from the full training

15 OLCS alumni who won elections

31 OLCS alumni who have run for office

10 OLCS alumni currently serving in elected office

30 Different unions represented

Financials

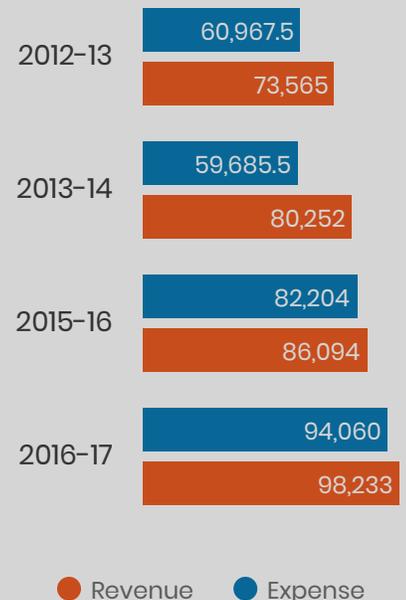
Labor Organizations

Individual Donors

Participant Fundraising

As a 501 c4 nonprofit, OLCS depends on funding from union members and other individual donations.

Check out the back page to find out how to support our work.



Participants. Alumni. Supporters. Partners.

"We need to build power among our workers - and it starts with you running for leadership. Whether it's state level, local level, or even your school board. It is imperative that you see the value in your own leadership and consider running for office."

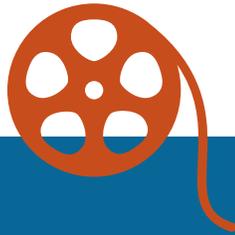
Representative Teresa Alonso León,
HD 22, SEIU



"We need people in elected offices that care about our issues. That's why it's important for union people to run for office."

The Labor Candidate School will make it possible for you to do a good job at this and win."

Representative Rob Nosse, HD 42,
ONA, Teamsters



OLCS Video

In 2017 we released our first promotional video. It highlights three graduates who currently serve as Oregon legislators. Check it out on the OLCS website!

"I think everybody wonders if they can do this. As we went around the table I saw that everybody else had those same kind of fears. I realized I could do this and so could all these other people too. We all have our unique abilities."

Representative Sheri Malstrom, HD 27, ONA



Get Involved



Annual Calendar

OLCS Cohort: An intensive six month course for union members who are seriously considering a run for public office in the next few years.
October – March

OLCS Trainings: One day intensive candidate trainings for union members and allies around Oregon.

OLCS Workshops: Monthly 2-hour evening workshops that cover a variety of campaign topics. Workshops take place in Portland and are open to the public.

OLCS Events: Networking and educational events take place occasionally throughout the year for our alumni and prospects.

For all of our classes and events please check out our website at:

www.oregonlaborcandidateschool.org



OLCS Alumni Advisory Board

We appreciate the support of our alumni. To join the Alumni Advisory Board please contact Sara.

HELP US

RECRUIT!



We all know someone who **inspires** and **encourages** us. Someone who regularly steps up to get things done and is often the busiest person we know. Nominate a member today and make an impact on the future of our elections!

To nominate a member to OLCS please send an email to sara@oregonlaborcandidateschool.org with the name of the person you are nominating, their phone and email contact information, and why you want to encourage your nominee to attend OLCS and run for office.

OLCS Board Members

Joe Baessler (AFSCME)

Kevin Billman (UFCW)

Tim Frew (Building Trades)

Jess Giannettino Villatoro (AFL-CIO)

Chris Hewitt (ONA)

Jon Jensen (IBEW)

Kevin Larson (IAFF)

Soren Metzger (OSEA)

Jennifer Parish-Taylor (AFT)

Jenny Smith (OEA)

Matt Swanson (SEIU)



...the world is run by those who show up.

Our Trainers

The eighteen OLCS Trainers come from eight different unions and have experience in running campaigns, communication, networking and organizing.

- Dan Torres
- Soren Metzger
- Elvyss Argueta
- Tyler Whitmore
- Jennifer Parrish-Taylor
- Eva Rippeteau-Chavira
- Kyndall Mason
- Jon Jensen
- Catie Thiesen
- Annabel Torres
- Chris Hewitt
- Jenny Smith
- Russell Sanders
- Trent Lutz
- Kathy Formella
- John McGovern
- Alma Raya
- Chelsea Watson

Our Partners



Does the Under-representation of Union Members in Politics Matter?



"Keeping pro-labor leaders in office in Oregon is critically important to retaining our state's rock solid reputation for supporting working families. Without this strong and steadfast support, we will be susceptible to the attacks from "right to work" groups like the Freedom Foundation and others who seek to chip away at our state's progressive policies that make Oregon a place we are proud to work and live."

Kamala Shugar, OLCS Alum, AFSCME



***Congratulations
to the class of
2018!***



"If working class Americans – people with manual-labor and service-industry jobs – were a political party, that party would have made up more than half of the country since the start of the 20th century, but its legislators (those who last worked in blue-collar jobs before getting into politics) would never have held more than 2 percent of the seats in Congress."

Nicholas Carnes, author of *White-Collar Government: The Hidden Role of Class in Economic Policy Making*

Solidarity & Respect. Democracy. Justice.

"The only effective answer to organized greed is organized labor."

Thomas Donahue,
AFL-CIO



"I am so grateful that I was selected for the Oregon Labor Candidate School for 2017-18. As a newly appointed Hillsboro City Councilor, I realized that I lacked the critical skills to run a successful campaign and was unaware of the resources available to assist me. The OLCS curriculum helped me to identify a practical timeline for planning, challenged me to reflect on my purpose for wanting to serve, and introduced me to the power of unions in politics.

My family is first-generation, my father fought in WWII and Korea, and he and my mother raised us through the Civil Rights movement to care about the rights of others to this day.

My parents helped me understand what social justice means from the Great Depression to present times - workers (individuals and families) need protection and equitable laws. My parents understood the value and power of unions. I am a member of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT - PCC) and before that the Associated Academic University Professionals (AAUP - PSU). OLCS has inspired me to develop my campaign strategy to reach listen to and work with Oregon unions for the common good of Oregonians. Thank you Sara Ryan and your amazing team!"

Olivia Alcaire
Hillsboro City Council, AFT

Labor History Quiz

1. What year did the first 8-hour workday for federal workers take effect?
2. In 1881, who staged one of the largest and most effective strikes in the history of the South?
3. What state was the first to officially declare a statewide Labor Day in 1887?
4. What union was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. supporting when he visited Memphis in 1968?
5. What state was the first to adopt a minimum wage law? Bonus: What year?
6. In 1970, more than 200,000 workers walked off the job in the first national strike of public employees. Who were they?

1. 1868 2. Black women laundry workers 3. Oregon 4. AFSCME sanitation workers 5. Massachusetts, 1912 6. Post Office Workers

Your donation is critical to continue our work!

Labor unions across America are under attack at the federal, state and local levels. Fundamental issues such as collective bargaining rights, access to affordable and quality health care, and retirement security, are being eroded by elected officials.

Elected leaders, from the state legislature to local boards, make important decisions which impact union members every day. At OLCS participants learn important skills to successfully run for office at the local and state level in Oregon.

OLCS is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization. Please help us continue to do this important work.

Yes! I will support the Oregon Labor Candidate School.

Contact Us



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"The next generation will not charge us for what we've done; they will charge and condemn us for what we have left undone." -Mary Harris "Mother" Jones

Donate Online!

<http://www.oregonlaborcandidateschool.org/donate>

