

I am a retired CPA, real estate broker and business and tax attorney with a Master's in Management-Finance. As a retired small business owner, I ran for school board for the Tigard-Tualatin school district. With the help of some good friends and my two children, we knocked on about 7,000 doors, talked to families, and passed out flyers. My platform was to return the focus of schools to the three Rs – reading, writing and arithmetic – and remove politics and activism from schools. The folks we met were excited that I was running and encouraged me. But, I lost.

I decided to swing for the fence and bring school choice to Oregon. I reached out to folks I met during my school board campaign, and we formed a group to figure out what needed to be done. I studied school choice legislation from Oregon and across the United States. I reached out to school choice think tanks across America and many national writers who wrote about school choice. I explained to these national figures what I wanted to do, and many stopped me mid-sentence and said incredulously, "Wait, you are bringing school choice to OREGON?" I chuckled and said, "You bet!"

Our group worked nonstop for several months and drafted a constitutional amendment to allow all Oregon families the opportunity to choose the type of schooling that works best for their children. We conducted focus groups and created a survey to gather input on what Oregonians would like to see in a school choice initiative. We chose the best features of all the existing and proposed school choice legislation, and then added protective features based on court holdings dealing with challenges to school choice legislation. The result is a School Choice Amendment is written "by the people, for the people" to benefit all Oregon families.

We filed our school choice amendment with the Oregon secretary of state on September 29, 2021. The amendment will break open – like a piñata – the vault that holds Oregon's education dollars and have the dollars follow the student to where the student actually receives education. We want all Oregon families, regardless of where they live and their level of income, to have the ability to make sure their children get the best customized education.

For private school choice, the amendment allows families to withdraw their children from public school or keep their children in nonpublic schooling and opt in for a School Choice Account. If they ask for it, Oregon education dollars will be deposited into their School Choice Account, an account that will be held and administered by a nonprofit organization chosen by the parents. Parents will not touch the money but will direct it be used to pay for education costs for their child, such as private school tuition, home schooling costs, nonpublic online programs, tutors, computers, transportation, testing and educational therapy. Any unused money will roll over to the next year, and any money remaining when the child completes high school will

be available to pay for college or trade/vocational school in Oregon. For public school choice, the amendment gives families the right to choose the public school in their school district.

The response from Oregonians has been phenomenal! Most people are thrilled. Many want to participate and take advantage of the choices offered in the amendment right away.

We submitted about 200% of the required sponsorship signatures for phase one. In about one week we will then move to phase two where the AG will prepare a draft ballot title.

We are optimistic that, with the help of Oregonians, we will be able to bring education fairness to Oregon families. By empowering Oregon families with the opportunity and dollars to customize the education to best serve their children, we believe Oregon students will be more successful in school. Introducing competition among all schools will lead to innovation and cost-saving improvements to the content and delivery of education to all Oregon students. Improving the education that Oregon students receive will improve the lives of Oregon residents.