

**NORTH CLACKAMAS COUNTY CHAMBER  
QUESTIONNAIRE – STATE SENATE**

The North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce is made up of more than 600 businesses, representing more than 26,500 employees, located in the Clackamas County and Metro area. We may be considering endorsing in your current race, and need to know more about your beliefs to assist us in making our recommendations. Please complete the following questionnaire and return promptly.

Responses to these questions may be the basis of the topics at the Candidates' Issues Events at which you may be invited to speak. Questions at the issues event may include any of the following.

Responses to this questionnaire will also be posted on the Chamber's website, [www.yourchamber.com](http://www.yourchamber.com).

Please return this by email to [ceo@yourchamber.com](mailto:ceo@yourchamber.com) before Monday, March 1, 2010.

**Please limit your response to each question to no more than 100 words.**

Name Brent Barton

Office Sought (and District) Senate District 26 Party Affiliation(if applicable) Democrat

Phone Number 503-659-5111 Fax Number 503-346-2086 email brent@votebrentbarton.com

- 1.) What are the major issues facing the office you are seeking and how will you respond to those issues if elected?

The Oregon legislature must increase return on investments in education, health care, and public safety, which together comprise 93% of the general fund budget.

- (1) Education – We must stabilize school funding by diverting the kicker into a rainy day fund equal to 10% of essential budget level. We also must also provide for more flexibility for teachers to innovate.
- (2) Health Care – Controlling the runaway costs of American health care is arguably the most important business issue of our time. Meaningful cost containment is the key to unlocking business growth.
- (3) Public Safety – We need to retool our judicial institutions to focus more on preventative safety.

- 2.) What should the legislature do in response to the economic downturn to support job development and the greater demands placed on social services?

Oregon's chronically high unemployment (even before this economic downturn), delayed recovery, and stagnant productivity are unacceptable. In the short-term, we must create jobs by investing in infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and, if I have my way, courthouses. In the medium-term, government must partner with the private sector to support small business and incubate innovation. Accordingly, I co-wrote HB 3644 (attached), which employs a model used by several other states to assist second stage businesses. In the long-term, we must re-invest in higher education, including vocational training.

3.) What do you view as the long-term solution to the broken, unbalanced funding system of the state?

We must divert the kicker into a Rainy Day Fund equal to 10% of essential budget level, and I believe the legislature should act towards this end as soon as possible.

4.) Can you give an example of a way in which you have supported a business position in the past?

As a moderate legislator who represents much of the heavy industry in Clackamas County, I advocate for business positions every day. Perhaps the most notable instance in which I advocated for business development is my role in HB 2001, the largest transportation package in Oregon history, which includes a \$100 million investment in Phase 1 of the Sunrise Project. Environmental groups attempted to derail or alter this legislation, but my district required a champion for investment in transportation infrastructure.

5.) List briefly the three top reasons voters should elect you to this position.

(1) *Effective*- Despite being a freshman representative, I delivered results and had a place at the table in almost every big discussion of the 2009 session. On the transportation front, I helped deliver a \$100 million investment in the Sunrise Project and also found funding to improve six miles of Highway 224, including all of downtown Estacada. I also co-wrote the most aggressive metal theft legislation in the country.

(2) *Unparalleled Work Ethic*- Even my biggest political detractors would concede that I am one of the hardest working people in Salem.

(3) *Independent*- I vote my conscience and represent my district, regardless of partisan politics. Whether it be taking a stand on behalf of the land use process (Metolius), voting against sweeping funds from the Cultural Trust, or voting against enshrining health care as an affirmative right in the Oregon constitution, I never hesitate to buck my party.

6.) List briefly your biographical information limited to age, former/current elected positions, years in State/region/County/district, community involvement.

**Age:** 30 on the day of the candidate forum

**Elected Positions:** State Representative, District 51

**Years in State/region/County/district:**

State: Entire Life (except for post-secondary education)

Region: Again, entire life

County: Since 2007

District: Since 2007

**Community Involvement:**

Commissioner, Oregon Criminal Justice Commission;

Member, Willamette River Cleanup Authority;

Member, Parole Board Advisory Committee;

Trustee, Oregon Ballet Theatre;

Director, Oregon Bus Project;

Volunteer, Classroom Law Project (judge for various high school civics competitions);