

Official website of Oregon Secretary of State

Oregon Constitution Challenge

Thank You for a Successful Oregon Constitution Challenge

The Cause to Restore, Preserve and Exhibit the Original 1857 Oregon Constitution

Oregon gained statehood in 1859, joining as the 33rd state in the Union. Two years prior to congressional approval, the state constitutional convention began drafting Oregon's founding document. It's one of the most significant markers in our historical legacy, but the Oregon State Constitution needed repair and restoration to be preserved for future generations. In 2014, then Secretary of State Kate Brown and the Archives Division started a "Dimes for the Constitution" fund drive with Oregon's school children. That drive raised about \$7000.

Secretary of State Dennis Richardson and the Oregon State Archives Division set out in 2017 to re-vitalize the drive by opening it up to all Oregonians to complete the project. Our goal of \$100,000 was surpassed by \$3,630 thanks to the generous donations of so many Oregonians! Watch the video below to learn more about the campaign to preserve this vital piece of Oregon history.

Conservation of the Original Oregon Constitution

By the Northeast Document Conservation Center

Restoring The Original Oregon Constitution

<https://youtu.be/PII843TpXYk?si=lrxl37RnhNIS25K->

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Oregon Constitution Challenge?

In 2014, then Secretary of State Kate Brown and the Archives Division started a "Dimes for the Constitution" fund drive with Oregon's school children. That drive raised about \$7000. However, that drive stalled and in 2017, Secretary of State Dennis Richardson and the Oregon State Archives Division set out in 2017 to re-vitalize the drive by opening it up to all Oregonians to help restore, preserve and exhibit the original 1857 Constitution. The fundraising goal of \$100,000 was to provide for professional restoration of the historic document and a secure, climate-controlled display case and exhibit. This goal was surpassed by \$3,630, thanks to the generous support of Oregonians statewide.

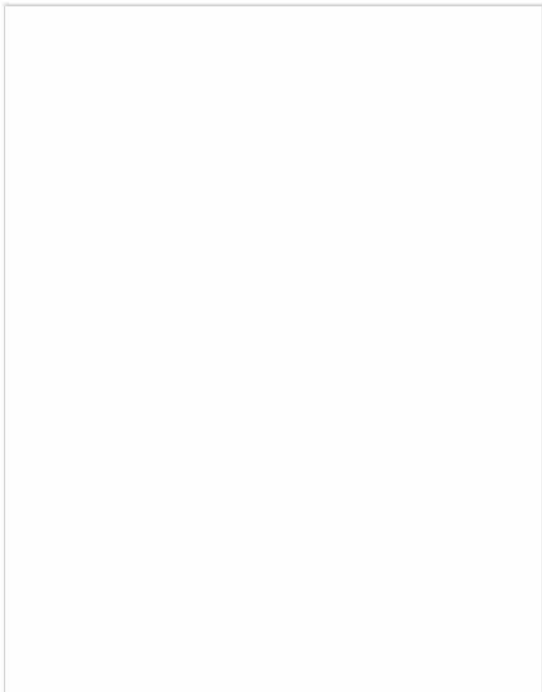
Why were Oregonians asked to lead the fundraising efforts?

In 1984, Oregon schoolchildren raised over \$37,000 in coins to re-gild the golden pioneer on the Oregon State Capitol. In that spirit, the Archives Division invited Oregon's school children in 2014, to contribute just 10¢ each to put the project on a path to success. The call for contributions was extended in 2017, to any Oregonian with a passion for our state's legacy.

The Constitution is both an important symbol of our democracy and the founding legal document upon which Oregon was built. It deserved to be restored and regularly displayed, and the Oregon Constitution Challenge gave Oregonians across the state an opportunity to protect our state Constitution and become a part of our state's legacy.

Who contributed to the Oregon Constitution Challenge?

Oregonians all around the state contributed to the Constitution Challenge.





The Oregon State Constitution rests in a case at the Oregon State Archives.



Oregon State Archives
800 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301
<http://sos.oregon.gov/archives/>

Constitution Challenge Contributors

Thank You for Preserving Oregon History

Names will appear alphabetical by first name.

\$10,000 Contributions

- F Lee And Mary D Allen
- Leo And Sudie Larson
- Leo C And Jeane R Larson
- Oregon Historical Society
- Tony And Shelly Larson

\$1,000 Contributions

- Beaverton Hillsboro Republican Women
- Fred Vannatta
- Gerald Frank
- Jim And Cathy Parker
- Or State Soc. Daughters Of The American Revolution
- Ron And Caly Garris

\$160 Contributions

- Bob Bills
- Debra Royal
- Erik And Kim Gellatly
- Kimberly Jensen
- Mary Beth Herkert

\$10 Contributions

- Anthony Testi
- Byron Beaulieu
- Dresden Skees-gregory
- Kick Ass Oregon History
- Kristin Wolter
- Kyle Knight

-
- Marvin Fjordbeck
 - Michael Calcagno
 - Pat Wels
 - Rhonda And Ella Lester
 - Robert Pitts

Other Contributions

Administrative School Dist No 1, Administrative School Dist No 1, Alison Kelley, Ann Bakkensen, Anna Pittman, Anonymous Donor, Anthony Testi, Associated Student Body Knappa High School, Benedict Ng, Bethany Charter School , Christopher Molin, Claudia Campbell, Coos Co School Dist 54, Crook County Historical Society, Dan Wellert, Dar Oregon Trail Chapter, Dennis Richardson, Dixie Montgomery, Donna Johnson, Duniway Ptsa, East Orient Student Body Fund, East Orient Student Body Fund, Gresham Barlow School District, Gresham-barlow School Dist, High Lakes Elementary Pta, Hollydale Elementary School, James Parr, Janette Gill, Jennifer Waggoner, Joan Whitford-school, John Hawkins, Kelly Creek Student Body, Kennth Kendall, Leslie Cummings, Lois Obrien, Loren Otto, Medford School District 549c, Michael Kane, Multnomah Chapter Dar, North Gresham Student Body, Oregon State Bar, Oregon-land.com, Pacific High School Government Class, Polk County Republican Womans Club, Powell Valley Student Body Fund, Renaissance Public Academy, Robert Joseph Bain, Robert Taylor, Robert Zakes, Roberta Jamieson, Salem Keizer School District 24j, Shaney Starr, Susan Bemetz, Sutherlin East Pto, Ted Kaye, Terry Lambeth, The Oregon Community Foundation, The Samuel S Johnson Foundation, Tualatin Chapter Nsdar, Tuck Putnam, Wally Gutzler, West Gresham School Fund, William Chastain, William Hall, William Richardson
