



COMMON SENSE FOR OREGON

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Better Government. Better Results. Stronger Oregon.

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St. Patrick's Day and Common Sense

By Ross Day, Executive Director and General Counsel

Today, March 17th, is more commonly known as St. Patrick's Day, the day Patrick is said to have died. Saint Patrick is generally recognized as the Patron Saint of Ireland. Patrick is generally credited with getting all of the snakes out of Ireland, at least that is what I learned in the third grade.

The story of St. Patrick is truly an inspirational one, to be sure. St. Patrick was born in England, but was taken prisoner as a slave to Ireland. Six years after being taken prisoner, Patrick fled his master and hopped a ship and traveled the world. He returned to his family in his early twenties and began his work in the Catholic Church, baptizing hundreds of people and tending to the faithful.

Patrick was a rare breed. He never accepted payment or gifts for the work he did to help his fellow man (or woman). In fact, when meeting with royalty, it was Patrick who bestowed gifts, and not the other way around, as was the custom of the time. Saint Patrick's attitude and actions were so abnormal that he was brought to trial on corruption charges because Patrick **did not** accept gifts or payment, which made the power-that-be even more suspicious of him.

Much the same way Patrick was dedicated to helping his fellow man, so too is Common Sense For Oregon. We are dedicated to protecting taxpayers from wasteful government spending, and protecting the citizens' access to the government through Oregon's initiative and referendum process. Ultimately, we hope that our works will make Oregon a better place for **all** Oregonians, not just those who are politically connected.

Unlike Saint Patrick, however, Common Sense For Oregon will accept your gifts. Many people ask me how Common Sense For Oregon is able to maintain its operations. The fact is that the only way Common Sense For Oregon can continue is through the generous donations from the thousands of common sense Oregonians located across the state. We cannot do our good works without your generous contributions.

So on this day where people around the world honor a man who dedicated his life to helping make the world a better place for all, would you please consider making a contribution to Common Sense For Oregon, so we can continue our efforts at making Oregon a better place?

One last common point between Saint Patrick and Common Sense For Oregon, just like St. Patrick, Common Sense is trying to drive all the snakes out of Salem! Although I doubt Common Sense will be canonized anytime soon.

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ODOT Recipient of the Golden Fleece Honorable Mention

ODOT earned our Golden Fleece Honorable Mention for spending \$20,155.40 on outside contractors to conduct a Cultural Competency survey! The process took 15 hours of employee focus groups, plus the time employees spent taking the online survey. Results from the Cultural Assessment will be applied to ODOT's Cultural Awareness Program. Congratulations ODOT.

Common Sense For Oregon Aids In School For Blind Victory

Common Sense For Oregon congratulates the students and parents of the Oregon School for the Blind for their victory with the passage of House Bill 3867. The measure, signed into law by Governor Kulongoski, reverses a mistake made by the 2009 Oregon Legislature which Common Sense For Oregon saw closed the Oregon School for the Blind without leaving the students and families with a viable educational option for former School for the Blind students. Common Sense then stepped in and met with families to help develop the strategy which led to this win.

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