

CONGRESS *from A10*

together in Congress to make a significant investment in our nation's infrastructure to create good-paying jobs in construction, technology and engineering, and get the country's economy moving.

I have three bipartisan infrastructure proposals that are fully paid-for and would not increase the deficit that would invest over \$500 billion in the nation's crumbling roads, bridges, transit systems, ports, harbors, and airports. According to the Council of Economic Advisers, every \$1 billion invested in transportation infrastructure creates or sustains 13,000 jobs.

Many Oregonians are one serious health issue away from personal financial crisis. Quality affordable healthcare is the top concern of most Americans and a top priority for Democrats in Congress.

I am also hopeful we can find common ground to reduce healthcare costs by expanding coverage, protecting consumers, creating a public option outside of the for-profit insurance industry, and allowing the federal government to negotiate lower drug prices for Medicare recipients.

ROBINSON: Electing representatives that support the President. President Trump has done a great job fixing the economy and cutting taxes. But Mr. DeFazio opposes the President, not for his ideas or policies but as a partisan attack on the President.

I think it is very important that we elect representatives that support the president and his policies. Mr. DeFazio has opposed any changes that the President has wanted to make, not because of the policies, but as a way to make a partisan point.

He does this for votes, not because of what he believes.

Please provide our readers with the major differences between your opponents and yourself.

DEFAZIO: I supported the Affordable Care act and expansion of Medicare to 150,000 people in my district. My opponent opposes expanding Medicare and making health care more affordable.

I support strengthening Social Security by lifting the cap and making all income subject to the federal payroll tax — a waiter shouldn't pay a higher percentage of his or her salary to Social Security than a CEO of a corporation. My opponent wants to privatize Social Security and let Wall Street gamble with it.

I've always supported a woman's right to choose and access the health care that she needs.

I stand with Planned Parenthood and have opposed efforts to defund this critical service. My opponent has said that he's "rabidly pro-life" and has said that banning abortion is the most important issue in America.

I believe that the federal government can and should do more to invest in our students and schools by increasing K-12 funding, as well as affordable higher education opportunities. My opponent has consistently said that "the whole public-school system is child abuse and that he thinks 'the public schools should be abolished.'"

I am actively working in Congress to advance plans and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and address the dangers of a changing climate. My opponent believes that climate change is a myth and we should, "Burn the coal fields," because we would benefit from the increase in carbon dioxide.

My opponent believes chronic radiation is good for your health.

I don't.

ROBINSON: The main difference between Mr. DeFazio and myself, as I have said, is his lack of real-world experience

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and the fact that he doesn't really want to solve problems, he wants to benefit from them.

He believes that big government can solve every problem by creating another tax. He has been more concerned with getting re-elected than in addressing the issues that Oregonians care about. He did nothing to save our timber industry when he had the chance.

He got money for the counties and did nothing to keep the industry alive. He did not solve the problem, he figured out how to benefit from the problem. Every election he has given speeches to fix the V.A. He has someone at his office take calls from vets needing help and he helps those individuals that call his office.

The problems our VA Department has could be fixed simply by issuing a medical card for all veterans. That card could be used at any medical facility, anywhere in the country. But he hasn't done that because he doesn't want to fix the problem, he just wants to get votes.

Please share anything else you feel is important for our readers to know about this election.

DEFAZIO: This is the most important election of our lifetime. I hope I have earned your

vote for U.S. Representative to return to Congress and continue fighting for our shared priorities and values.

ROBINSON: We need to elect someone that has a fresh perspective on the problems that we face. It is also important to build on the positive steps made by President Trump and send individuals to the House of Representatives that will work with the President to implement his reform agenda, and I just want to say two words that are very popular across the country, "Term limits."

There is a point where a congressman becomes unproductive, ineffective and complacent and I believe that Mr. DeFazio has reached that point.

Both Robinson and DeFazio are firm supporters of a strong educational component in the communities they serve. Robinson believes in school choice and home schooling as alternatives to the traditional government centered education program.

DeFazio has taken a different course, embracing the University system by channeling approved congressional pay raises into a scholarship fund for his constituents.

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