

Overview

This race will be decided based on who Democratic primary voters believe will be the best candidate to stop MAGA Republicans from taking away our rights and freedoms, and deliver for Oregon families. Janelle Bynum has served in the State House since 2017 and has twice defeated Republican incumbent Lori Chavez-DeRemer. Now, Janelle is running for Congress to protect our fundamental freedoms and stop MAGA Republicans' dangerous and extreme agenda, including their assault on abortion rights.

This race will be decided based on who Democratic primary voters believe will be the best candidate to stop MAGA Republicans from taking away our rights and freedoms, and deliver for Oregon families.

Rhetoric

Janelle Bynum has served in the State House since 2017 and has twice defeated Republican incumbent Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

January 2017: Bynum Was The First African American Woman To Represent Oregon's 51st House District. "Last November, Democrat candidate Janelle Bynum made history when she took a seat in the Oregon House of Representatives as the first African American to represent House District 51. In a narrow race that broke records as Oregon's most expensive House campaign, Bynum defeated Happy Valley mayor, Republican Lori Chavez-DeRemer." [The Skanner, [1/12/17](#)]

2016: Bynum Defeated Chavez-DeRemer With 51% Of The Vote. [Oregon Secretary of State, Election Results, [11/8/16](#)]

2016 Oregon House of Representatives District 51 General Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Janelle Bynum (D)	14,310	51%
Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R)	13,746	49%

[Oregon Secretary of State, Election Results, [11/8/16](#)]

2018: Bynum Defeated Chavez-DeRemer With 54% Of The Vote. [Oregon Secretary of State, Election Results, [11/6/18](#)]

2018 Oregon House of Representatives District 51 General Election Results		
Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Janelle Bynum (D)	14,843	54%
Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R)	12,620	46%

[Oregon Secretary of State, Election Results, [11/6/18](#)]

Now, Janelle is running for Congress to protect our fundamental freedoms and stop MAGA Republicans' dangerous and extreme agenda, including their assault on abortion rights.

Rhetoric

Message #1

Starting **IMMEDIATELY**, Democrats in the Portland and Bend media markets **NEED** to see TV ads about Jamie McLeod-Skinner:

- *First, Jamie McLeod-Skinner was fired as city manager of Phoenix, Oregon, after being accused of creating a toxic work environment. Then, multiple staffers from her 2022 campaign for Congress spoke out about her creating a hostile atmosphere, and now she's accused of punching her driver. These aren't Oregon values - Jamie is not fit to represent us in Congress.*

First, Jamie McLeod-Skinner was fired as city manager of Phoenix, Oregon, after being accused of creating a toxic work environment.

East Oregonian: In 2016, McLeod-Skinner Was Hired As The City Manager Of The Southern Oregon City Of Phoenix But Was Fired After Four Months. “In 2016, she was hired as the city manager of the Southern Oregon city of Phoenix, but was fired after four months amid circumstances that are disputed.” [East Oregonian, [4/25/20](#)]

Bay Area Reporter: “After Moving To Oregon, [McLeod-Skinner] Had Been Hired As The City Manager Of Phoenix But Was Fired After A Local Election Brought New Leadership To The Town's City Council.”

“After moving to Oregon, she had been hired as the city manager of Phoenix but was fired after a local election brought new leadership to the town's City Council. In July 2019 she was elected to an at-large seat on the Jefferson County Education Service District.” [Bay Area Reporter, [11/8/21](#)]

McLeod-Skinner Requested In Writing To The Phoenix Mayor And Council To Have An Open Public Hearing For Her Employee Evaluation Rather Than An Executive Session. [City of Phoenix, Special City Council Meeting Minutes, 3/8/17] (Page 34 of 72 of packet_2017-04-03)

**City of Phoenix
Special City Council Meeting
Public Works Office
1000 S. “B” Street
Wednesday, March 8, 2017**

DRAFT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chris Luz called the special meeting of the City Council to order on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 4:31 p.m. in the Public Works Office.

Prior to this meeting taking place, the City Manager requested in writing to the Mayor and Council to have an open public hearing rather than an executive session for her employee evaluation.

[City of Phoenix, Special City Council Meeting Minutes, 3/8/17] (Page 34 of 72 of packet_2017-04-03)

Phoenix Police Chief Derek Bowker Told The Council That The Atmosphere At City Hall Had Become So “Toxic” That He Asked His Records Clerk Not To Go There “Unless You Absolutely Have To.” “Police Chief Derek Bowker is recorded telling the council that the atmosphere at city hall had become so ‘toxic’ that he asked his records clerk not to go there ‘unless you absolutely have to.’ ‘When I see the negativity that’s going on in the city right now, it saddens me,’ said Bowker.” [Dalles Chronicle, [9/12/18](#)]

The Phoenix Police Chief Said There Was A “Toxic Environment” In City Hall And Criticized McLeod-Skinner’s Leadership Style. [City of Phoenix, Special City Council Meeting Minutes, 3/8/17] (Page 36 of 72 of packet_2017-04-03)

Mayor Luz thanked the Finance Director for her comments and introduced Chief Bowker, who has worked with the city since 2005. The Mayor asked Chief Bowker to describe the work environment he experiences and the leadership style of the City Manager. Chief Bowker stated he believes the work environment at the Police Department is fine, but that there is a toxic environment at the City Hall. He described the toxic environment as personal issues between a couple of individuals that trickle down to the rest of the staff, which has begun to affect his personnel. Chief Bowker has also asked his records clerk to not go to City Hall unless she absolutely has to in order to not put her into a negative environment. Some officers have expressed their concerns about the change in attitude of staff members. He has done everything he can to shield the Police Department from anything going on at City Hall or Public Works. He noted it is not in his position to tell or ask the City Manager what leadership style he or she should have. The City Manager will run the city the way they see fit. He will, however, speak up when anything starts affecting his department, though the impact has been minimized. The Police Chief believes there is a trust issue between the staff and City Manager. Chief Bowker emphasized he has told his officers he doesn’t want to hear people talk poorly about supervisors or staff in other departments. He stated when he hears of things the City Manager has said negatively towards department heads, it is upsetting. The Finance Director has mentioned concern for her job, but the Police Chief is not in fear of losing his job. The current negativity in the city saddens him.

[City of Phoenix, Special City Council Meeting Minutes, 3/8/17] (Page 36 of 72 of packet_2017-04-03)

Then, multiple staffers from her 2022 campaign for Congress spoke out about her creating a hostile atmosphere, and now she’s accused of punching her driver.

Oregon Capital Chronicle: “Former Campaign Staff Blast McLeod-Skinner’s Management Style As She Gears Up For A Rerun” “But former staff who worked closely with McLeod-Skinner say her public persona and the labor-friendly policies she espouses as a candidate clash with her workplace behavior. Five former employees and a consultant who spoke to the Capital Chronicle about their experiences described her as a nightmarish boss, who yelled at and berated her staff, corralled them into frequent hours-long meetings, texted them in the middle of the night and retaliated against those who stood up to her.” [Oregon Capital Chronicle, [10/11/23](#)]

McLeod-Skinner Was Accused Of Punching Her Driver During The 2022 Campaign. “Three former campaign workers for U.S. congressional candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner have come forward to allege that, during her last bid for office, the candidate twice made physical contact with her campaign driver. The three allege the situation got so bad that the driver expressed fear of McLeod-Skinner, leading senior campaign staff and advisers to remove the driver from a home where he and McLeod-Skinner were staying Nov. 3, 2022. In text messages reviewed by WW, the driver, who has asked for anonymity and declined to speak on the record but confirmed the physical contact, wrote to a senior campaign staffer on the afternoon of Nov. 2, 2022: ‘I’m scared she’s gonna hit me.’ ‘She’s punched me a few times like while I was driving and it wasn’t in malice just to like alert me to a car or something but now it’s different,’ the driver added. Chris Pair, then a senior adviser to McLeod-Skinner, now tells WW: ‘It doesn’t matter what precipitated a physical threat. The mere fact that someone would ever be made to feel that way by a candidate disqualifies them to represent anyone as an elected official.’” [Willamette Week, [1/10/24](#)]

These aren’t Oregon values - Jamie is not fit to represent us in Congress.

Rhetoric

Message #2

Democrats **MUST** continue seeing mail about Janelle Bynum:

- *Janelle Bynum believes a woman's health decisions are between herself, her family, and her doctor. She voted to require Oregon insurers to provide coverage for abortions and contraceptives, and to restore the rights of Oregon women after Roe versus Wade was overturned. In Congress, she will fight to restore the right to abortion nationally and protect access to IVF.*
- *Janelle Bynum is a champion for Oregon families in the state legislature. She understands that tough times call for strong and effective leadership. That's why she took on drug companies to crack down on price gouging and cap the cost of insulin, expanded access to affordable housing in Oregon, and sponsored Oregon's child tax credit.*

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Rhetoric

She voted to require Oregon insurers to provide coverage for abortions and contraceptives, and to restore the rights of Oregon women after Roe versus Wade was overturned.

Bynum Voted To Require Insurance Coverage For Abortion And Contraceptives. In July 2017, Bynum voted for HB3391 which, "Requires health benefit plan coverage of specified health care services, drugs, devices, products and procedures related to reproductive health. Allows exemption for plans sold to religious employers. Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to implement a program to reimburse the costs of the services, drugs, devices, products and procedures relating to reproductive health provided to the individuals who can become pregnant and who would be eligible for medical assistance if not for certain federal requirements. Clarifies pharmacy claims reimbursement; aligns current statute to federal regulations and requires Health Evidence Review Commission to review the services provided in Section 2 and submit a report no later than November 1 of even-numbered years. Prohibits discrimination in provisions of health care coverage. Prohibits interference by public body in a consenting female's choice to terminate pregnancy. Prohibits public body's interference with health care provider terminating or assisting in termination of pregnancy of health care provider's patient, if the health care provider is acting within the scope of the provider's license. Declares emergency, effective on passage." The bill passed the House 33-23. [Oregon Legislature, HB 3391, [7/1/17](#)]

HB 3391 Requires Health Plans Sold In Oregon To Provide Coverage For A Suite Of Reproductive Health Care Services At No Out-Of-Pocket Cost To The Insured. "The new law requires that health plans sold in Oregon 'must provide coverage' for a suite of reproductive health care services at no out-of-pocket cost to the insured. Services covered include: Screenings for pregnancy, sexually-transmitted infections, breast and cervical cancers, genetic cancer risk factors and other health problems; counseling for tobacco use, STIs, breast cancer treatment and domestic violence; breastfeeding support; contraceptive drugs and devices, including insertion and counseling; voluntary sterilization and abortion." [Oregonian, [8/30/17](#)]

In Congress, she will fight to restore the right to abortion nationally and protect access to IVF.

Bynum Said She Supported IVF And Criticized Chavez-DeRemer For Failing To Protect Access To Reproductive Freedom. [Janelle Bynum, Twitter, [3/1/24](#)]



Janelle Bynum
@bynum4thewin



IVF has helped so many Oregonians expand their families. It's now under attack because Republican anti-choice politicians like my opponent, Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, would rather posture for political points than actually protect our access to reproductive freedoms.

3:44 PM · Mar 1, 2024 · 3,336 Views

[Janelle Bynum, Twitter, [3/1/24](#)]

Legislation Introduced By Democrat Susan Wild To Protect IVF Had Over 90 Co-Sponsors. “Today, Congresswoman Susan Wild joined members of the Democratic Women’s Caucus (DWC) to call on Congress to pass the Access to Family Building Act, which would protect in-vitro fertilization (IVF) access nationwide. This comes on the heels of the Alabama State Supreme Court decision to classify frozen embryos as ‘children,’ a ruling that has left the future of IVF in the state uncertain. ‘Let me be clear: [the Alabama State Supreme Court] ruling, and any barriers to assisted reproductive technology, are unacceptable and cruel,’ said Rep. Wild. ‘It’s why Congress must pass my bill, the Access to Family Building Act, immediately, to send a message to the entire country that we are fighting for their right to make decisions about their own bodies, their own journey through parenthood, and to start their families however they see fit.’ Since the Alabama ruling, Rep. Wild’s bill, the Access to Family Building Act, added over 90 new cosponsors and has been endorsed by numerous prominent health care groups.” [Congresswoman Susan Wild, Press Release, [2/29/24](#)]

Janelle Bynum is a champion for Oregon families in the state legislature. She understands that tough times call for strong and effective leadership.

Rhetoric

That's why she took on drug companies to crack down on price gouging and cap the cost of insulin, ...

Bynum Voted For Senate Bill 1508 Which Caps Out-Of-Pocket Costs For Insulin At \$35 For A 30-Day Supply. Bynum Voted For Senate Bill 1508 which, “prohibits the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) from relying upon any quality of life (QALY) measure in determining coverage of services by the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). It caps out-of-pocket costs for insulin at \$35 for a 30-day supply and \$105 for a 90-day supply.” The bill passed both chambers and was signed into law. [Oregon Legislature, HB 1508, [3/25/24](#)]

... and expanded access to affordable housing in Oregon, and sponsored Oregon's child tax credit.

Oregon SB 5505 Funded The LIFT Program That Created New Affordable Housing Units. “The budget bills fund an increase in supply of safe, stable, and affordable housing, as well as permanent supportive housing across Oregon. S.B. 5505 allocates \$410 million in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds over FY22 and FY23 for the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) program and permanent supportive housing. The LIFT program creates many new affordable housing units – both rental and homeownership – to serve low-income Oregonians and historically underserved communities.” [National Low Income Housing Coalition, [7/12/21](#)]

- **Bynum Voted For Oregon SB 5505.** In July 2023, Bynum voted for SB 5505 which passed 56-0. [Oregon Legislature, [SB 5505](#), 6/26/21]

Oregon HB 4007 Would Increase The Document Recording Fee To Generate Revenue For Affordable Housing. “Everyone in Oregon should be able to access opportunity, which starts with having a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. In rural and urban counties across the state, far too many of our neighbors and community members are struggling to make ends meet and must choose between paying rent and paying for food, medicine, and transportation for their families. More than 22,500 school children experienced homelessness at some point during the last school year. Our state must invest more in housing opportunity—and we can expand our investment through an increase to the document recording fee. The document recording fee is a fee paid when recording real property documents, and provides dedicated, ongoing funding for affordable housing. Since its inception in 2009, the fee has generated \$91 million in resources to help more Oregonians afford a safe, stable place to call home. In 2018, the Oregon Housing Alliance is asking the Legislature to pass HB 4007, which would expand the document recording fee to \$75 to help address this housing crisis. The document recording fee creates critical resources for investment in housing opportunity to benefit Oregonians statewide, and a \$75 fee would generate a total of \$105 million per biennium. Funds from the document recording fee address the entire spectrum of housing needs: preventing and ending homelessness, building new affordable housing, and creating affordable homeownership opportunities. One out of every four dollars from the document recording fee is dedicated to serving veterans.” [Oregon Housing Alliance, accessed [4/2/24](#)]

- **In 2018, Bynum Voted For HB 4007.** [Oregon Legislature, HB 4007, [3/3/18](#)]

In 2023, Bynum Sponsored And Voted In Favor Of A Bill To Create The “Oregon Kid’s Credit”, A Refundable Tax Credit Available To Oregon Families With Dependents Under Six Years Of Age. Bynum sponsored and voted for HB 3235 which, “Creates refundable income tax credit for resident with qualifying dependent children under age six of \$1,200 per dependent. Limits claims to five dependents per tax return. Limits eligibility to taxpayers with federal adjusted gross income under \$50,000 for joint return or \$30,000 otherwise. Prescribes formula for reducing credit amount for taxpayers with adjusted gross income over \$40,000 for joint return or \$20,000 otherwise. Directs Department of Revenue to annually adjust credit amounts and phaseout thresholds for inflation. Allows amount of credit to be prorated according to changes in taxpayer status or taxable year. Provides that credit is not subject to judicial execution of judgment or garnishment. Applies to tax years between 2024 and 2030. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.” The bill passed 51-1 and was signed into law. [Oregon Legislature, HB 3235, [6/22/23](#)]