



East Multnomah County

POLICY AGENDA

OUR VALUES

Investing in a more resilient and equitable Portland

Downtown Portland, the core of the State's economy, is in crisis. Urgent actions are needed to return it to its previous status as one of the safest and most attractive downtowns to live, work, and play in the nation. Downtown will not recover if employees do not feel safe going to work, and if retailers are not able to operate successful businesses. We urge elected leaders to invest in basic services, housing development, and livability to build a more resilient economy for Portlanders. We support transitioning Portland's antiquated form of government to a modern structure that meets the needs of a growing, more diverse, population.

Everyone deserves a place to call home

A record number of Portlanders are homeless and in need of outreach, mental health, addiction, transitional shelter, and housing services. We call on elected officials at all levels to urgently implement the new homeless services program and invest in short- and long-term solutions to bring an end to the humanitarian crises. Leaders must adopt policies and practices that encourage housing development. The city must enforce the adopted urban camping policies to maintain and build community trust.

Make Portland safe for everyone

In 2021, Portland witnessed record gun violence and homicides, particularly in historically underserved communities. A rise in car thefts and break-ins are negatively impacting retail businesses across Portland. We urge the city and county to invest in building Portland's police force and district attorney's staff to the national average for communities of our size, along with investments in 311 and Portland Street Response. We reject the false trade-off between having a larger police force and a better, more equitable police culture. Portlanders want and should have both.

Working towards a better climate future

We recognize the critical challenges posed by the growing impacts of climate change. We support policies that promote collaboration with the private sector to innovate and invest in clean technologies that will accelerate reductions in carbon emissions and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Keep Portland moving

To stay competitive and build shared prosperity, our region must not let our transportation infrastructure fall further behind the rest of the country. We support data-driven policies at all levels of government that relieve congestion, reduce emissions, allow the efficient delivery of goods, and support historically underserved neighborhoods and communities.

Policy

PRIORITIES

- 1 Prioritize state and local government investment in East Multnomah County
- 2 Advocate for necessary investments to improve transportation options for East Multnomah County



PORTLAND
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

1 PRIORITIZE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN EAST MULTNOMAH COUNTY

- Provide funding to restore the loss of federal funding to Worksystems, Inc. This includes funding for the WorkSource Portland Metro Gresham (WSPMG) program at Mt. Hood Community College, the only one of its kind in East Multnomah County.
- Support legislation that creates equitable state-funding formulas designed to give special consideration to high-needs geographic areas within high-population counties.
- Continue to support efforts to build a central business district located east of N/SE 82nd Ave. This secondary regional downtown district would anchor economic strategies, bringing new investment and high-wage jobs, and close the pay-equity gap.
- Support specific programs that recruit new and current employers to expand in East Multnomah County.
- Accelerate the implementation of the East Portland Action Plan. We will collaborate with East Multnomah County leaders to hold the city accountable for renewed action and progress.

These policy priorities and values are developed in active collaboration with members and community partners of Portland Business Alliance. Find out more: PortlandAlliance.com/advocacy.

2 ADVOCATE FOR NECESSARY INVESTMENTS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR EAST MULTNOMAH COUNTY

- Encourage regional transportation partners to make service improvements in East Multnomah County a clear priority over the next decade, including:
 - Rapid bus service on main thoroughfares from Gresham to Downtown Portland.
 - Seven-day-a-week bus service with frequencies that reflect the diverse needs of residents and various family-wage shifts.
 - Direct service to Mt. Hood Community College.
 - Fund and develop a dedicated transit terminal at the main Mt. Hood Community College campus.
- Prioritize funding and encourage development of biking, walking, and pedestrian safety projects in East Multnomah County and East Portland.
- Advocate for the State of Oregon to transfer jurisdictional authority of N/SE 82nd Ave. to the City of Portland. This will allow local communities to actively inform the future development of this critical transportation artery.
- Support a region-wide transit youth pass program.
- Prioritize East Multnomah County projects in any regional transportation infrastructure measure referred by Metro.