

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 Expand access to technology in schools
- 2 Create equitable access to education throughout the region
- 3 Increase funding for all levels of education

1 EXPAND ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

- Support investments to ensure universal access to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at all levels of education, especially full funding for Measure 98.
- Ensure that career pathway programs include digital literacy for all students and provide technology options such as coding, engineering, and computer science.

2 CREATE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE REGION

- Support Multnomah County and other local governments' work to make preschool available for all families.
- Partner with local school districts to connect businesses with students for real-world learning opportunities with CTE and STEAM programs.
- Support and continue strategies to reduce disparities in exclusionary discipline and increase attendance in public schools.

3 INCREASE FUNDING FOR ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION

- Advocate for the transparent and accountable implementation of Oregon's Student Success Act. Advocate for our region's school districts to work with the business community to develop their community-needs analysis and implementation plans.
- Advocate for increased funding for higher education to freeze or lower the cost of tuition.
- Support the renewed effort to secure passage of a facilities bond for Mt. Hood Community College.

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](https://portlandalliance.com/advocacy).

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