

Housing/ Homelessness

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 Jumpstart housing development of all types throughout the region
- 2 Adopt policies that will reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness and improve livability throughout the region



PORTLAND
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

1 JUMPSTART HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OF ALL TYPES THROUGHOUT THE REGION

- Advance policies to increase density zoning in the Portland region, specifically near transit centers and fixed-rail transit.
- Review new regulations through a housing lens to fully understand their impacts on the production of new housing.
- Review and update permitting fees and reform the design-review process to align with other jurisdictions, remove unnecessary requirements and ensure these processes are not a barrier to development.
- Streamline the City of Portland permitting process for increased transparency and efficiency.
- Audit System Development Charges to ensure that individual assessments are clearly used in mitigating the impact caused by a project.
- Improve zoning requirements, including reforms to inclusionary zoning that facilitate development of larger and new mixed-income housing projects.

2 ADOPT POLICIES THAT WILL REDUCE HOMELESSNESS AND IMPROVE LIVABILITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION

- Support a comprehensive approach to ensure everyone has a safe and warm place to sleep, especially supportive housing that provides mental health and addiction services.
- Support the Here Together Coalition policy framework to reduce number of people experiencing homelessness and help those at risk from becoming homeless.
- Increase funding for Portland Street Response and other professional street outreach programs to effectively and efficiently help people in crises access the services they need.
- Increase number of and access to shelter beds throughout the region.
- Continue funding for the City of Portland's camp cleanup program.
- Evaluate rental regulations that force landlords to leave the market, further restricting available and affordable rental units in Portland.

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.

CONTACT:

Government Affairs

503-224-8684

feedback@portlandalliance.com