



Parks & Public Safety

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 access to public spaces for all residents and visitors
- 2 Ensure safety improvements are done in a timely manner
- 3 Maintain and create healthy and safe spaces that allow people to thrive



PORTLAND
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

1 PRIORITIZE ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACES FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

- Prioritize maintenance, safety, and cleanliness of Portland Parks & Recreation assets until a more sustainable funding model is developed.
- Increase funding and coordination with the City of Portland for park rangers to promote and enhance safety in all Portland parks.
- Adopt and enforce positive activation in public spaces, specifically food-cart pods and permitted events in parks.
- Advocate for Portland Bureau of Transportation and Portland Parks & Recreation to accelerate construction, demolition, and other efforts to reopen O'Bryant Square in Downtown Portland.

2 ENSURE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ARE DONE IN A TIMELY MANNER

- Support Unreinforced Masonry retrofit investment with technical and financial assistance. Seismic policy should be forward-looking when implemented and not trigger upgrades retroactively.
- Prioritize seismic upgrades along Oregon Department of Transportation thruways and bridges.
- Support seismic upgrades for fuel terminals and the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub.

3 MAINTAIN AND CREATE HEALTHY AND SAFE SPACES THAT ALLOW PEOPLE TO THRIVE

- Restore past cuts and increase funding to the Multnomah County District Attorney office and community corrections.
- Increase funding for Portland Police Bureau staffing, including increased walking-beat assignments in Downtown Portland.
- Support investments in technology for the most efficient use and deployment of Portland police officers and resources to maintain public safety.
- Oppose arbitrary bans on technology, especially those offering benefit to public safety and accountability. Ensure technology is used for the good of the community. Avoid duplication and misalignment with potential changes to state law when looking at technology regulations.
- Advocate for partnerships between the public and private sectors to establish best practices for the collection and sharing of data by public agencies, specifically balancing public interest with public benefit.

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.