

Our mission

Created under the administrations of three governors, the statutory missions of the Advocacy Commissions have focused on advising policy, growing leadership and building success in Oregon for Asian Pacific, Black and Hispanic Oregonians and for women over our 30+ year history.

Our strategic priorities:

- Education
- Jobs and the Economy
- Healthcare
- Justice, Safety and Policing
- Civic Engagement
- Housing and Stable Families

“The Advocacy Commissions are important because they bring forward and advance the voices of historically disenfranchised and underrepresented communities in our state. They play a critical role in helping the general public, policy makers and governing bodies identify results-oriented solutions in an increasing multi-cultural marketplace.”

— FRANK GARCIA, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR,
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR KITZHABER

Who we are

The four Oregon Advocacy Commissions are each composed of nine eminent community members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate along with two legislators appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House respectively.

“Oregon Advocacy Commissions are making a positive difference in the lives of Oregonians. They work to give underrepresented populations a voice, investing time and energy to conduct important research, analysis and public policy development to make our state stronger and more equitable.”

— COMMISSIONER BRAD AVAKIAN,
BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

What we do

The Commission members work collaboratively to raise awareness regarding and address challenges facing communities of color and women in Oregon. We do this by researching issues, informing, and providing advice for state policy makers and decision makers including the Governor, legislators and departmental leadership on ways to improve the success of all Oregonians.

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) was created to support the work of the four Advocacy Commissions and the 44 Commissioners who serve on them. The Administrator and Executive Assistant staff 70+ meetings of the Commissions and their leadership biennially, coordinate events and work with partners, supervise public policy interns, provide service referrals, maintain the Commission websites, and support budgeting, reporting, and other work.

“Somewhere in America a state needs to be able to demonstrate that we can weather this kind of challenge without losing our sense of community, without losing our commitment to one another, and emerge stronger and more united than where we began. Let’s make that our state. Let’s make that state Oregon.”

— GOVERNOR JOHN KITZHABER, 2011 INAUGURAL SPEECH



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Oregon Advocacy Commissions

Asian and Pacific
Islander Affairs
OCAPIA

Black Affairs
OCBA

Hispanic Affairs
OCHA

Commission for Women
OCFW

Advising policy
Growing leadership
Building success

Our current initiatives

Proposing policy. The Commissions authored and are championing HB 2226 on confidential name change for domestic violence survivors, and an Executive Order on gender parity for Oregon Boards.

Education equity briefs. We're writing a series of key policy briefs with the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) on disproportionate discipline, English Language Learners, and teacher diversity.

Wage equity and status report. In partnership with BOLI we researched new census data for factors influencing wage equity including race, education, and job class. We reported our findings to BOLI's Council on Civil Rights and in the OCFW 2013 Status of Oregon Women Report.

Legislative advocacy. With community partners, the Commissions are talking with legislators and testifying on issues essential for success of all Oregonians.

Strengthening hate crime protections. In collaboration with DOJ Office of Civil Rights, and the Governor's Office we researched Oregon's protections from hate crimes and produced a report that is the basis of Commission support for policy that strengthens all remedies for victims of hate.

Growing tomorrow's leaders

The Advocacy Commissions work to grow the number and influence of leaders of color and women within all branches of state government, its key initiatives, departmental leadership, and policy work. To do that the Commissions reach out to youth, communities of color, and women to instill the desire to serve and create pathways to leadership.

The Oregon Women Firsts poster highlighting Oregon's diverse group of First Women Leaders throughout its history and distributed to every middle school statewide. OCFW in sponsorship with the PSU Center for Women, Politics and Policy

The New American Voters Project: Commissioners and community partners registered over three thousand new voters during naturalization ceremonies and community events. OCHA and OCAPIA working with the Secretary of State's Office.

The Governor's Diversity and Inclusion Kitchen Cabinet: the Advocacy Commission leadership joined the Cabinet of State leaders who plan and direct diversity outreach, recruitment and retention statewide. OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW

Success with community partners

The Advocacy Commissions work collaboratively with community and governmental partners to pursue their missions. Together they plan legislative advocacy, host joint legislative days at the Capitol, conduct voter registration, hold community and business forums, and conduct research.

Our partners include:

- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)
- Urban League of Portland
- Oregon Latino Health Coalition
- Oregon Latino Agenda for Action (OLAA)
- League of Women Voters
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO)
- Governor's Office on Diversity and Inclusion

"I strongly support partnering with the Oregon Advocacy Commissions as well as other government, educational and civic organizations in support of public policy internships. These partnerships leverage collective knowledge and expertise in civil rights and serve to help ensure equality for all Oregonians."

— OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLEN ROSENBLUM

Policy research and analysis

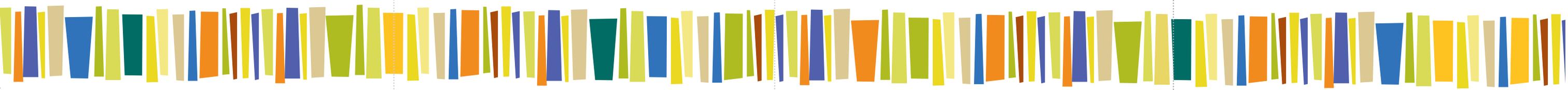
The Advocacy Commissions provide Masters, PhD, and Law students with public policy internships addressing our priority areas. Topics include:

- Hate crime protections
- Minority procurement contracting
- Health outcomes
- Wage equity
- Education gaps
- Fair housing

The internships are conducted jointly with state partners and the Governor's Office to research statistics, best practices, or policies; analyze gaps and trends; produce reports used by the Advocacy Commissions and their partners to inform new policies, strategic approaches and legislation.

"As a law student, the internship on hate crimes was important to me because it helps my goal of creating positive change in society with visible results."

— WESLEY GARCIA, WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW STUDENT, INTERN FOR OCHA AND OCBA



Advocacy

Leadership

Partnership

Internship