

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

OCBA

2015–17 Report
to the Governor
and Legislature

SUMMARY



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

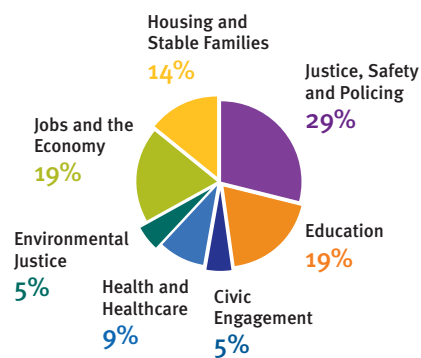
Advocacy

OCBA supported 21 bills with testimony or letters of support of which 75% passed.

Of those that did not pass, the OCBA continues to champion the underlying issues, supporting future bills on those subjects.

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) gives underrepresented populations within Black and African American communities statewide a voice in policymaking. We maintain an independent voice within state government, collaborating with the Governor, legislators and community partners on key equity issues and lifting lesser known but important policy areas into prominence with our advocacy.

OCBA Testimony by Strategic Area 2015–16 Sessions



OCBA's top policy priorities are Justice, Education and Jobs/Economy

Biggest successes: OCBA's focus on reduction of law enforcement profiling as a driver of disproportionate incarceration rates of African Americans is making a difference. OCBA Commissioner Jama led the effort to pass HB 4003 that developed a legislative work group to recommend improvements to law enforcement stops and inform new profiling bills, and OCBA lodged a complaint with the Oregon State Bar regarding the profiling comments of the Washington County Assistant District Attorney, opening an important discussion.

Emerging area of policy interest: Workforce inclusion. OCBA has worked tirelessly through research and advocacy to expand the number of African Americans working successfully in the building trades and for immigrants working in their internationally credentialed fields.

OCBA's 21 supported bills in the 2015-16 Legislative sessions



Education

2016

HB 4033, Educators' equity act ✓

2015

SB 187A, Student data protection ✓ *

SB 215, OEIB sunset ✓ *

HB 3308A, HECC group on disparities ✓ *



Environmental Justice

2016

HB 4036, Clean energy and community solar panels ✓ *



Housing and Stable Families

2016

SB 1533A, Inclusionary zoning ✓ *

HB 4001, Tenant protections

2015

SB 939, Programs for children of incarcerated parents **



Health and Healthcare

2016

HB 4017, OHA Basic Health Plan ✓ *

HB 4071, COFA premium assistance ✓ *



Jobs and the Economy

2016

SB 1532, Raising the minimum wage – 2016 ✓ *

2015

SB 454A, Employer sick time benefits ✓ *

HB 2005, Employer sick time benefits *

HB 2734, Brownfield contamination remediation ✓ *



Civic Engagement

2015

HB 2177, Motor Voter ✓



Justice, Safety and Policing

2016

HB 4003, Extend law enforcement profiling workgroup ✓

HB 4123, Relief from court fees

HB 4128, Immigration consultant fraud ✓ *

2015

SB 822, Recording of grand jury proceedings *

HB 2002, CJC for profiling complaints ✓ *

HB 2704, Recording of police officers ✓

✓ passed * OAC joint support

** accomplished through budget note

Public Policy Research

The OCBA provides Masters, PhD, and Law students with for-credit public policy internships addressing our strategic priorities. The research is conducted jointly with state partners and the Governor's Office to study data, best practices, effective policies, literature review, analyze gaps, suggest remedies and produce reports used by the Advocacy Commissions and their partners to inform new policies, develop strategic approaches and craft bills that improve the success of African American and Black communities statewide.

Leadership

Growing leadership for Black and African American Oregonians

The OCBA works to grow the number and influence of Black and African American Oregonians within all branches of state government.

■ In 2015, based on OCBA's nomination of her, Gwendolyn Trice was selected as one of four OCFW Women of Achievement, honored by the Governor and acknowledged before the Senate for her work in preserving at the Maxville Heritage Center the contributions of black loggers to the pioneer lumber industry in Oregon.

■ The OCBA regularly works with the Governor's Executive Appointments Office to help find Oregonians of color in varying professions to serve on state boards or to share state job listings.

OCBA 2015–17 Policy research projects

Integrating immigrant's professional credentials into the Oregon workforce.

Research on immigrant re-credentialing. **Partners:** OCAPIA/Partners in Diversity/Oregon Workforce Investment Board/Governor's Office/OCBA

Effective Restorative Justice practices that reduce conflict and disproportionate discipline for students of color.

Partners: Oregon Department of Education (ODE)/OSDAC/Governor's Office/OCBA

Partnerships

2015–16 Joint Legislative Days with Urban League

The OCBA joined its community partner Urban League of Portland for a joint Legislative Day at the Capitol in 2015 and 2016. OCBA Commissioners joined the other attendees including community and faith leaders, college students, Urban League, and NAACP members from around the state. The participants were welcomed in the Capitol with presentations from legislators and other leaders.

2016–17 Policy Research Partnerships

As part of its policy research work on Apprentices of Color in the Trades, and Disproportionate Discipline in pre-k – 12 Education, OCBA built a partnership with the BOLI Apprenticeship Division, Oregon Department of Education, and the Governor's Office on Equity and Inclusion to analyze best practices and data, and make policy recommendations to improve outcomes.

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

The mission of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA) is to work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal and political equality for Oregon's African American and Black populations.

Read OCBA's full report at:
www.oregon.gov/OCBA/pdfs/2015-17_Biennial_Report.pdf

OCBA Commissioners

James I. Manning Jr.—Past Chair
Eugene

Robin Morris Collin*—Vice Chair
Salem

Mariotta Gary-Smith*
Portland

Kayse Jama*
Portland

Lawanda Manning*
Eugene

James Morris*—Chair
Portland

Musse Olol*
Portland

Nicole Rowe*
Portland

Gwendolyn Trice*
Enterprise

Senator Rod Monroe*
Portland

Representative Lew Frederick
Portland

Representative Janelle Bynum*
Clackamas

* current commissioner

Principles and Values

Equity for Black Oregonians in jobs and the economy, education, health, safety, family stability, environment, and civic engagement.

Equal treatment and protection against discrimination.

Access to helpful information on services and available resources.

Working in partnership on research and policy analysis of longstanding issues and barriers to success within the Black community statewide.

Inclusion of viewpoints of the Black community in policy making at the state level.

Celebration of and education about the contributions and achievements of Black Oregonians.

Goals and Activities

Advocate for equitable policies assuring the success of African American and Black Oregonians at the state level.

Engage community and state partners to promote equity for Black Oregonians statewide.

Study and analyze issues affecting the Black community statewide and recommend policy remedies to state policy makers.

Grow and develop leaders among the Black community at the state level in all branches.

Increase the viability and visibility of the contributions and achievements of Black Oregonians statewide.



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

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