



Office of Governor

TINA KOTEK

Racial Justice Council

RJC Legislative Advocacy

About the Racial Justice Council



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- The ***RJC Codification bill HB 2167 (2021) ORS 176.350 was signed by the Governor and approved by the Oregon Legislature in 2021.*** The bill codifies the Racial Justice Council (RJC), by including statute requirements for Governors and state agencies to engage with Black, Indigenous, Latino/a/x, Asian, Pacific Islander and Tribal communities as part of their budget and policy development process.

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- The RJC has been a critical partner and advisor to Governor Kotek, helping to align her priorities and the state's policies and operations with a racial justice and equity framework.
- The RJC and its committees help embed racial justice into how the State of Oregon conducts business and serve Oregonians while ***intentionally building and operationalizing meaningful engagement with communities of color*** throughout the drafting of budgets and legislation, the evaluation and evolution of state policies, practices, and structures, and the development of long-term strategies and future collaborations.

Looking Back...



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- The decision to dissolve the Environmental Equity Committee.
 - There was considerable overlap when trying to recruit new members to each entity (RJC-EEC and EJC).
 - Overlap in bodies of work some areas.
 - At times there was confusion with which group was which, EEC or EJC.
- The RJC & EJC are in a learning process to find a balance that is meaningful and intentional.
 - Assigned as RJC-EJC liaisons:
 - Ana Molina
 - Clara Soh

Past Racial Justice Council Advocacy



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- RJC-Environmental Equity Committee
 - Served as the first point of contact for advocacy.
- EEC engages agencies (ODOE, ODFW, & Forestry)
 - Discussed POPs, ARB, GRB, Racial Equity Impact Statements.
 - Drafted advocacy letters depending on the its priority area.
 - Once drafted it moves to the RJC for formal endorsement.

Past Racial Justice Council Advocacy



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- 2024 Previous Advocacy Included
 - Community Resilience Hubs with the Office of Emergency Management.
 - Water Equity/Clean Drinking Water for Underserved Communities with the Oregon Water Resources Department.
 - Department of Agriculture: Pesticide Certification Education Curriculum in Multiple Languages.
 - Support Oregon Department of Energy incentive program dollars and the Community Navigator Program.

Past Racial Justice Council Advocacy



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- 2025 Advocacy
 - HB 3528 sought a funding allocation of \$4 million for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to be distributed to the University of Oregon and Portland State University for water related research and grants.
 - HB 3170, sought a funding allocation of \$10 million to the Oregon Department of Human Services to provide grants for resilience hubs and resilience networks.
 - HB 3010, sought a funding allocation of \$784,124 for Oregon State University to develop and publicize a program for Spanish language pesticide education.

Proposing



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Proposing a subcommittee of the EJC that includes:

- Ana
- Clara
- EJC member (1)
- RJC members (2)

Racial Justice Council Endorsement Process



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1. Committees Identify Priorities.
2. Committees study related LC's, POPs, Legislation, Rules, Programs (etc.) to identify focus area(s).
3. Advocacy letter is drafted and shared with the committee who then votes to advance letter to the RJC.
4. A 2/3rds majority is needed to advance to RJC for endorsement.
5. Letter reviewed by Governor's Legislative Team, Committee Policy Advisor, and RJC staff for any flags.
6. A 2/3rds majority vote is required to advance for RJC official endorsement.
7. Letters are sent to the appropriate legislators and/or agencies.



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Questions?