



Agenda/Notes
Office of Governor Kotek — Racial Justice Council (RJC)
5/18/2023 – Zoom
3:00 p.m.

CHAIR

X	Governor Tina Kotek
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MEMBERS

X	Angela Uherbelau	X	Annie Valtierra-Sanchez	X	Chi Nguyen-Joyner
X	Cynthia Richardson	X	Danny Jacobs		Enna Helms
	Felisa Hagins	X	Jan Mason		Jenny Pool Radway
X	Jesse Beason		Jessica Price		Joth Ricci
X	Khanh Le		Kyshon Nichols-Smith	X	Lamar Wise
	Lauren Nguyen	X	Marcus Mundy	X	Marin Arreola
X	Marisa Zapata	X	Mark Strong		Mical Yohannes
	Michael Alexander		Miriam Vargas Corona		Nkenge Harmon Johnson
	Patsy Richards	X	Reyna Lopez		Sharon Gary-Smith
X	Tiffany Monroe	X	Toc Soneoulay-Gillespie	X	Josie C.
	De'von B.		Willa L. Powless		Yosalin Arenas Alvarez

OTHER ATTENDEES

X	Annaliese Dolph	X	Javier Cervantes	X	Christopher Wilson
X	Pooja Bhatt	X	Becca Uherbelau	X	Taylor Smiley Wolfe
X	Andrea Cooper	X	Karin Power	X	An Do
X	Morgan Gratz-Weiser	X	Melissa Goff	X	Matthew Tschabold
X	Nolan Douglass	X	Katie Coombes		

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Welcome and Introductions		
Governor's Remarks and Discussion	<p>I wanted to wait until we passed the may special election, I want to hear what expectations we have for the SOS's office. I'm hoping that we can talk about how the RJC would like to engage with the SOS's office moving forward, for the next year and a half, and what our expectations are for that office. Feel free to provide feedback for what the values and priorities should be.</p> <p>Question: How can we collect data based on people who register for business in Oregon.</p> <p>Question: What does the Secretary of State do? One of three constitutional officers and while each county has a county clerk that handles election, and the SOS needs to be in contact with them to hold accountability. They do a multitude of tasks, but I'm</p>	<p>Audit calendar</p>

hoping this helps clear it up.

Comment: The next person needs to focus on building trust with Oregonians while expanding and implementing voter registration. The next person needs to be able to bring in communities of color while building trust with the public. The office can't have any more issues with audit integrity or complaints of voter fraud.

Comment: We're looking at a slate of changes in how processes and office function. The SOS needs to lead change and not follow behind by securing technical assistance and positioning the office to not penalize groups but create structures to help groups operate within the system.

Comment: I would love to see an appointment of a secretary that would want to run again and continue the work. In advocating for people of color to secure contracts, I would love to see additional resources be invested in those areas.

Comment: We need to have an audit of our agencies and make sure they are being held accountable.

Question: Why is the SOS pay so low, what is the salary based off of? Better pay for that work should be valued.

- I am unsure what the pay was based off of, but it was written into statute about 15 years ago.

Question: Is there a search committee?

- No there is not. Given the situation, it is impossible to form a search committee for our current ask. We are looking for a democrat, but there is an independence from the Governor's office. The SOS office will be doing their job outside of pressures that are coming from any other office. There needs to be a level of independence that can keep the trust of the people.

Question: What is the vetting process and how serious is it? Is this an opportunity for us to revisit that vetting process?

Question: Does the office deal with complaints with state agencies or processes?

Question: As we do this budget report, will the Secretary of State be audited? I'm curious how much money is being invested and where?

- Regarding the auditing functions, the auditor is independent and puts together an annual calendar of agencies to audit. There is an outcome audit

	<p>and financial audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The audit calendar has been released and we will share it with everyone soon. <p>How does the RJC want to engage with the SOS' office?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be good to have the new SOS engage with this group especially around priorities, opportunities, and threats moving forward. - In terms of elections, to engage the RJC in strategies for communities of color to engage and build trust in maintaining a democratic process. <p>What do you believe should be the focus and priorities for the Secretary of State's office?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building trust and maintaining transparency of elections in Oregon in a way that the average constituent understands it and can engage. - Does our Secretary of State handle professional licensing? 	
Legislative Updates	<p>Housing and Homelessness HB 3414:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishes the housing accountability and production office to ensure state housing laws are implemented to increase housing production at all income levels. - When requested by affordable and market rate housing developers, it requires flexibility in modifying certain local land use regulations. - Bill is currently in the House Rules Committee. <p>Question: The change in equity requirements were changed and the state looking at mezzanine funding, if we have a recession all housing production goals will fail. We can require refinancing in five years or work on a different plan. The state's Oregon Housing Bond looked at homes that were more energy efficient, we could open loans during a recession.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Governor did appoint a housing commission and I will follow-up with you to gather more information on the structure of the Mezzanine funding. <p>Question: Will this office be able to penalize people? I want there to be penalties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support is appreciated as this bill has been controversial. There are consequences in the bill, but we will focus on providing technical assistance. <p>Behavioral Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SB 1043 – Primary policy legislation. It gets overdose reversal medication in the hands of high-risk Oregonians. 	

- SB 1044 – Funding to address the current crisis and invests in the future.
- HB 2757 – Establishes a 9-8-8 trust fund funded by a telecommunications tax of \$.50 per line.

Education:

- HB 3198 – Early literacy, this bill was unanimously referred out of the House Education Committee and awaits the budget process in the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee.
- HB 3005 – Child Care Infrastructure Fund, the Governor’s Recommended Budget proposed a \$100 million investment to expand childcare infrastructure and an addition \$10 million for technical assistance to childcare providers to navigate expansion.
- SB 1045 – Education accountability, improves ODE oversight and accountability of schools and districts.
- SB 1050 – Holocaust and genocide studies educational alignment extends implementation date by one year for studies to align with ethnic studies standards to allow for relevant professional development.

Question: At the national level we’re hearing stories about districts and boards implementing restrictions, are these issues here in Oregon?

- Yes, and they are raised mostly at the school board level regarding accurate teachings of the US as well as LGBTQ rights. What we have seen is a change in the way school board directors run for office. We have seen boards make changes that have been alarming, and changes to those policies can take time, and harm will continue to do harm. This is exactly what we are trying to address.

Question: Are you expanding childcare access for college students? There is no space for children to stay on campus.

- These bills are more for the physical infrastructure. I don’t think universities are disallowed, and I imagine it is applicable.

Comment: I want to lift to the RJC that volunteer advocates are lobbying Ways & Means to add a budget note to ensure that a portion of any new literacy funds are targeted to kids who need most help. BIPOC & rural students are both overrepresented in schools where 75%+ of 3rd-5th graders aren’t reading at grade level. The literacy bill’s voluntary district grant funding mechanism doesn’t prioritize these schools & these kids. We’re also pushing for a budget request for a pilot that would

	<p>specifically help these students.</p> <p>Governor's Other Priority Bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SB 1046 – Network Adequacy directs DBS to evaluate network adequacy and adopt standards to evaluate networks for all covered services. Currently in Ways and Means. - SB 1047 – Equity in Public Procurement raises procurement threshold for public contracts for good and services to improve access by small contractors. This bill is awaiting the Governor's signature. - SB 1048 – ODOT Small Business Assistance creates new small business assistance program to facilitate small businesses in competing for ODOT public improvement contracts. It is currently in Joint Ways and Means. <p>Thank you to all RJC members who supported bill 1047 and allowed it to make its way to the Governor's desk.</p> <p>There will be a \$5.5 billion kicker going back to Oregonians during the next tax season. While there could be a recession on the horizon, it is still a way off and we can take the necessary steps towards preparation and fighting it.</p> <p>Question: How does this translate to more money for smaller communities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When we put our budget together, we were talking about a much smaller group. In talking to legislators, we needed funding for housing (including culturally specific work) and it's expensive but it's necessary. We are also looking for \$1 billion in bonding. Other investments include early literacy, community resiliency, and water quality packages. <p>Comment: Regarding Capital Gains, I think there are racial equity opportunities within.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to be assessing our modeling, a \$5 billion kicker is a lot, and we will be meeting with our forecasters. Our forecast was very different from reality. The law that was implemented requires that savings that are calculated in public safety also get funneled back into the pot. 	
Committee Report Out	<p>Criminal Justice Reform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We had a restorative justice bill that passed last session and has been transformative for counties that have participated however it has not been funded through the CJC budget. - We are continuing to engage the department of 	

corrections. Our DOC subcommittee is allowing adults in custody to testify and help us address harms.

- We are beginning to look at membership and how new voices can bring fuel to our work.
- Our goal is to have folks who are going through RJ stay confidential.

Economic Opportunity:

- We've been hearing from Future Ready Oregon, one of our old subcommittees, continues to update us.
- We continue to focus on contracting and procurement.
- Equity engagement plans bring equity into agencies to ground all work with an equity lens.
- Next month we will be hearing from Business Oregon.
- Our goal is to make sure folks have access to capital and programs.

Health Equity Committee:

- We're building relationships with the Governor's staff and committee members.
- Our focus has been on learning about priority bills and implementing DHS with our committee.
- DHS will be presenting tomorrow at our HEC meeting to introduce ideas for our intersection in work and engagement.
- CBOs need funding.
- We are planning our first in-person meeting in June, and it will be the first RJC committee gathering during this administration.

Data Justice Committee:

- Our committee is starting back up and is looking for more members.
- We will have a liaison and throughline for all committees under the RJC.

Housing and Homelessness Committee:

- We have been having robust conversations on homeless services and housing production.
- We are still developing our workplan for the remainder of the year.
- Our priority is to have equitable funding at the state level for housing and homeless programs.

Environment Equity Committee:

- We have been successful at presenting bills that have made it through the finish line for other sessions.
- We did secure funding for water quality projects.
- Within the last twelve years, we've had the

	<p>Environmental Justice Commission within Oregon, and the first in the nation, and implements an environmental justice mapping tool within the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I'm hoping we can look at the method of creating agendas. - During our meeting this month we have agencies present to us and have community-based organizations present their perspectives and the work that is being done in local communities. <p>Education Recovery Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our committee, like others, is focused on work planning. We looked at historical documents and checked-in with committee members to see what the top-of-mind issues are and what the priorities need to be. - Our highest priorities are with early literacy, preventing bullying, student success plan, and other programs. - Student agency and parent engagement. - There's a feeling that the state can do much more to support students and families and we are hoping to address this. <p>Regarding revenue, I was frustrated with the Co-Chair budget. We're going to be keeping a close eye on the agency budgets, but if we hear things, we will let council members weigh in.</p>	
One Oregon	<p>When weighing in on counties, please remember that this isn't our only visit, this will just be our first. We are going back to have full day conversations as often as possible.</p> <p>We've put together a living document to be updated with any considerations for county visits. The folks that we meet and that council members recommend will become our main contacts for collaboration.</p> <p>Comment: The I-5 corridor dominates the conversation too often so I appreciate that we can have outreach with different communities and counties.</p> <p>Comment: I would love to provide feedback on the North Coast areas. There are a lot of industries that get overlooked but have amazing things to share. Please let me know when Lane County is being visited and we will send colleagues who can share their discussions.</p>	
Close	<p>We will send the RJC Survey for further engagement. The outcomes of the survey will guide the work of the RJC and the agendas of future meetings.</p>	

	<p>In June we will be diving deeper into Health Equity issues with OHA and other agencies. If there are other items for future agendas, please reach out to Governor's staff.</p> <p>We are planning to have an in-person meeting before the end of the year.</p> <p>Comment: In thinking about agency leaders visiting this council, I want us to have a conversation and not just updated. Deeper conversations lead to better work and implementation of changes in their agencies. It's great to get updates, but a two-way conversation is important to our work.</p>	
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Materials	<p>I) Agenda</p> <p>II) Legislative Update Slides</p>	
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[One Oregon - Google Jamboard](#)
[Secretary of State Discussion - Google Jamboard](#)
[RJC Survey](#)
<https://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Documents/2022-04.pdf>