



PRESS RELEASE

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Rep. Maxine Dexter Sworn Into Office

PORTLAND, Ore. – Rep. Maxine Dexter (D-Portland) was sworn into office earlier today in a private outdoor ceremony officiated by Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne Nelson.

“I am humbled and honored by this opportunity to serve my community, and I am grateful to the voters and precinct committee people of HD33, as well as the Washington and Multnomah County Commissioners who put their trust in me to serve them well,” Rep. Dexter said. “I follow an icon in the House who served the people of HD33 for 17 years with fearless dedication to advancing the public’s health and the idea that health care is a human right. I will absolutely be dedicated to making this a reality for all Oregonians.

“These are gut-wrenching times to be in public office - in the midst of a pandemic, reckoning with the impacts of 400 years of institutional racism, and the overhanging challenge of a massive, and sudden budget crisis. I am up to the task.

“I understand, and believe to my core, that our ability to keep people healthy must be by investing in overhauling our systems that drive income and social inequities - we must apply a justice-focused lens to reversing the impacts of structural racism on things like education, housing and law enforcement.

“There is tremendous work to be done. The ways and strategies of the past are unacceptable to perpetuate. In this crisis, there is incredible opportunity, a mandate, for change. I will be a fierce advocate for equity, guided by my core values of compassion and courage while serving the people of Oregon.”

Rep. Dexter is a pulmonologist and critical care physician at Kaiser Permanente and will continue to practice with their Northwest Permanente physician group. She served for six years on the Northwest Permanente Board of Directors, more than two of those years as the first woman to be chair of the board, is a trustee on the Tualatin Hills Park Foundation, and a graduate of the Emerge Oregon program. Rep. Dexter’s husband, Robert, is a primary care physician in the Gateway area of Portland, and they are the parents of two teenagers.

To download photos of the swearing in or a headshot of Rep. Dexter, [click here](#).

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