



OREGON LEGISLATIVE BIPOC CAUCUS

STRONGER TOGETHER:

2025 POLICY AGENDA

About the BIPOC Caucus

The Oregon Legislative Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus is a bicameral body of state legislators, committed to its mission of advancing racial equity initiatives and eliminating systemic oppression and racism in Oregon.

With the largest BIPOC Caucus in state history, the caucus is presented with the greater opportunity to pursue its mission and provide representation to communities that have been historically excluded, underrepresented, and unheard in the Oregon State Capitol.

Since its inception, the BIPOC Caucus has grown significantly in the array of voices, ideas, and lived experiences within the caucus. As such, the policy agenda does not necessarily reflect the views or positions of any individual member, nor does it obligate individual members to support particular bills.



A Message from the Co-Chairs

Oregonians,

We are at a significant crossroads with the most diverse legislature in our state's history, yet we cannot take that moment lightly. We want every Oregonian to know that the BIPOC Caucus is here for you, that we will stand for you, and that we will serve you the best we can here in the halls of the Oregon State Capitol.

This session, we are laser focused on several issues that are top of mind for many Oregonians: standing up for our immigrant, refugee, and indigenous communities; ensuring economic prosperity for all; addressing the educator workforce shortage; and reforming the criminal justice system.

The policies you will see here is not the only work being done by the BIPOC Caucus. Each and every one of us are working hard on legislation that will make a meaningful difference for all Oregonians, especially from communities that have been historically underrepresented and excluded in the Capitol.

Together, the BIPOC Caucus is committed to defending the rights, values, and dignity of Oregonians, but this work cannot be done alone. Let us build a brighter future together.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricki Ruiz'.

Representative Ricki Ruiz

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wlmsley Campos'.

Senator Wlmsley Campos

Indigenous, Immigrant, and Refugee Justice

As the first in the country to become a sanctuary state, we want all Oregonians to know that you belong, especially our vibrant immigrant, refugee, and indigenous communities that call Oregon home. This session, we are committed to making sure that no stone is unturned in ensuring opportunity for all.

SB 599: Fair Housing for All

Currently, prospective homebuyers or renters have to possess a Social Security Number (SSN), a discriminatory practice which excludes immigrants — disproportionately people of color — from securing housing. The bill aims to address this issue by requiring landlords to accept an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or other appropriate forms of identification in lieu of a SSN. To protect families from retaliation or harassment, the bill also prohibits landlords from inquiring about or disclosing one's citizenship status.



SB 611: Food for All Oregonians

Oregon is facing a hunger crisis, and it is only getting worse. Too many families across Oregon are facing the heartbreaking decision between putting food on the table or keeping a roof overhead. These are choices no family should have to make, and yet Oregon's hunger crisis continues not only to persist but to worsen, with visits to food assistance sites increasing 31% in the last year. For families excluded from assistance due to immigration status, these decisions are even harder - often invisible but no less urgent as immigrant and refugee Oregonians are twice as likely than white Oregonians to face hunger. The bill expands SNAP eligibility to Oregonians under 25 and over 55 who would be eligible if not for their immigration status. Access to food is a human

SB 611: Food for All Oregonians (cont.)

right, and this bill is an important step towards creating an Oregon where all people are treated equally.

HB 2543: Universal Representation

Oregonians are Oregonians, no matter where we are born. Immigrants and refugees are our friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Creating a resilient and robust civic society in Oregon requires a universal, statewide, integrated system for welcoming, representing, and integrating immigrant and refugee Oregonians. The system we have collectively created is Universal Representation. Many immigrants and refugees have a lawful pathway to remain in Oregon and the United States, yet there is no way of demonstrating this right without an attorney to represent them. The bill will continue funding for the program, allowing organizations in Oregon to continue providing immigration legal services to those in need.

HB 2976: Indigenous Language Justice

No Oregonian should be turned away from life-saving medical care or essential services because of the lack of quality interpretation, yet this is the reality for thousands of Oregonians. The bill will appropriate funding to develop language proficiency exams for Indigenous languages from present-day Mexico, Central, or South America that are commonly spoken by Oregonians. It will also bolster existing recruitment and retention efforts within the interpreter workforce.



Community Justice

Communities of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system. This session, we are focused on targeted efforts to eliminate those racial disparities, whether it is through reentry services or upstream investments.

SB 477: Justice Reinvestment Equity Program

The criminal justice system in Oregon and in our nation is rife with racial disparities. That is why programs like the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program are so critical. We need to continue direct investments in culturally specific programming focused on reentry, victim/survivor, and upstream investments — all programming designed to prevent Oregonians from being involved in the criminal justice system. The bill will appropriate funding to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission in order to continue the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program into the next biennium.

Education Equity

Diversity should be seen as a strength in our schools – not a weakness. When we have educators of color in the classroom, everyone benefits.

HB 3006: Diversity in School Educators and Staff

Oregon has seen a persistent, wide gap between the diversity of our students and educators. To address this disparity, the bill will be aimed at increasing diversity within the education workforce by providing scholarship funds and using a cultural lens as a guide for Oregonians who aspire to become educators.

Economic Justice

We need to build an economy that works for Oregonians. This session, we will advocate for policies to address the price hikes in energy bills and to ensure basic work protections for the frontline workers who help put food on our tables.

HB 2548: Farmworker Standards Board

Farmers *and* farmworkers feed our communities. Oregon agricultural workers need a process to successfully negotiate industry-wide standards for wages, benefits, and other working conditions without retaliation and with the full protection of the state. This bill creates a farmworker standards board.

HB 3179: FAIR Energy Act

Energy is a basic human need. To ensure access to affordable energy, the interests of consumers must be protected in the rate setting process. Under the FAIR Energy Act, Oregon's Public Utility Commission (PUC) will have to consider the economic impact on residential households when setting energy rates and can determine rate effective dates or rate phase-ins to prevent price shocks. Additionally, a system paid for by customers must be more transparent. The bill requires regular reporting by utilities on their cost categories and any upcoming rate adjustments.

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