

Portland Metro People's Bill of Rights and 2018 Policy Platform

Preamble:

We the people, in order to create a Portland Metropolitan region that serves the needs of the many instead of the privileged few, recognize rights that belong to all who reside here without exception.

The Portland Metro People's Bill of Rights aims to ensure that all communities have the right to full, fair and equal access to municipal services, spaces, and the political and electoral process, free of discrimination, displacement, political or social exclusion, systematic targeting by police or any other law-enforcement agencies or municipal entities. Our government should be controlled by and accountable to all who live here, and it should secure social justice and an environmentally sustainable economy that not only meets basic needs but allows all communities to thrive.

1. All Portland metro residents have the right to live in communities free from the fear of physical and mental harm. Portland metro area safety policies will prioritize decriminalization, harm reduction, prevention and care, rather than punishment, exclusion, profiling, threats and retaliation.
2. All Portland metro residents have the right to affordable, accessible, stable and safe housing, free from discrimination.
3. All Portland metro residents have the right to free public education from pre-K through college that is equitably and adequately funded, that focuses on both vocational training and critical thinking, that uses authentic assessments, is culturally inclusive and directly addresses the ongoing history of oppressed communities in terms of access, content, and pedagogy.
4. All Portland metro residents have the right to local government that is transparent, accountable, and participatory, that guarantees equal rights under the law, and is elected by the will of the people, not the will of money.
5. All Portland metro residents have the right to local government that is funded well enough to provide the services our community needs. Households and businesses should be taxed according to their ability to pay: Wealthy individuals and big businesses will pay a higher proportion of their incomes in taxes and fees so lower income people and small business can pay less.
6. All Portland metro residents have the right to live in a community that promotes health, defined as a state of complete physical, mental, social, and cultural and environmental well-being, and not merely the absence of disease.
7. All Portland metro residents have the right to live in a city in which economic policies advance the needs of the many, not the privileged few. Public goods should be expanded and economic development should increase democratic decision-making and participation. The right to collectively bargain should be protected.
8. All Portland metro residents have the right to publicly-owned transportation that is equitable, comprehensive, affordable, accessible, democratic, and guided by the principles of environmental justice.
9. All Portland metro residents have the right to live in a city that is environmentally and socially just and sustainable.