

## PTU Organizing Committee Candidacy form

The Organizing Committee oversees the agenda of the Tenants Union, advises on campaigns that advance tenant advocacy in line with PTU's Points of Unity, and tends to the organization's bylaws, policies, and finances. OC members are expected to be directly involved in some other aspect of PTU's organizational work; whether administrative, financial, or organizing. Involvement typically includes weekly participation. Please read through the [Organizing Committee Charter](#) and the [Organizing Committee Member Responsibilities](#) to learn more about serving on the Organizing Committee

Eligibility: Must register as a PTU member at least two weeks prior to Election day.

Strong qualities for Organizing Committee Candidates include

- Knowledge or explicit willingness to learn landlord–tenant law
- Commitment to racial justice, equity, and experience addressing systems of oppression that harm many communities including People of Color, people with lower income, people with disabilities, people who are queer, trans, or otherwise identify as LGBTQIA+, among others.
- General leadership and communication skills
- A desire to engage with, learn from and execute the will of PTU General Membership.
- Able to participate and engage consistently over time, and follow through on tasks

When formulating your candidacy statement, please consider [PTU's Mission and Points of Unity](#).

### Positions

The following Organizing Committee positions are open for election:

**Organizing Coordinator:** Coordinates OC meetings and helps support other OC members in their work.

**Secretary:** Coordinates note taking and online file management.

**Treasurer:** Coordinates PTU finances and tax filing.

**Office Manager:** Responsible for PTU paperwork and office space, and for directing incoming inquiries

**Working Group chair:** Coordinates meetings and actions for the Working Group and acts as liaison for the Working Group and the Organizing Committee. The Working Groups are:

- Membership Engagement
- Direct Tenant Organizing
- Communications
- Outreach, Advocacy and Coalitions

**Member At-large**

**Which position are you running for?:**

**Candidate Information**

Full Name::

Email:

Job, organization, or other affiliation (optional)

**Candidate Experience:**

Please list below any board or committees that you have served on, other leadership roles, community oriented volunteer roles, roles related to policy making or electoral politics, experience with finances and fundraising, and any other experience you think makes you qualified to be a member of the Organizing Committee. These will be listed in your candidate statement.

**Candidate statement:**

Please include a statement that answers the following questions:

1. Why are you passionate about tenants rights in Portland, or within Oregon? What is your vision for PTU as it advocates, lobbies, and acts directly on matters important to the General Membership?
2. How will you advance equity in the context of both organizing campaigns and internal work and structures within a union?
3. Depending on your knowledge of PTU's campaigns, initiatives and communication with General Membership so far, what changes can you recommend, and how will you help to implement these changes?
4. Anything else you would like to add.

**Please send** a document with the candidate statement and answers to the question on this sheet to [elections@pdxtu.org](mailto:elections@pdxtu.org).

**Due Tuesday 9/8/20!**

**Elections will be open September 10th-15th**

## **Portland Tenants United Organizing Committee Charter**

2/16/2020

The PTU Organizing Committee exists in order to maintain the basic functions of the organization, provide consistency, develop positions and messaging, steer strategic decisions and vision, and engage with the membership.

### **The PTU Organizing Committee maintains the basic functions of the organization by**

- Watching over and dealing with administrative tasks and paperwork.
- Monitoring the financial situation and making appropriate financial decisions.
- Remaining committed to the PTU points of unity and supporting working groups.
- Developing organizational policy as needed.

### **The PTU Organizing Committee provides consistency by**

- Encouraging committed members to join the Organizing Committee.
- Fulfilling the responsibilities of Organizing Committee members.
- Providing historical context to Organizing Committee and PTU members.
- Developing the leadership capacity of Organizing Committee and PTU members.

### **The PTU Organizing Committee develops positions and messaging by**

- Establishing PTU's stance on current events, legislation, and political races.
- Approving official endorsements.
- Supporting media outreach efforts.

### **The PTU Organizing Committee steers strategic decisions and visions by**

- Deciding PTU priorities, goals, and long term strategy.
- Prioritizing energy and resources.
- Setting PTUs scope of work and influence.
- Responding to membership needs.
- Ensuring the work centers those most impacted.

### **The PTU Organizing Committee engages the membership by**

- Responding to correspondence.
- Regularly hosting General Assemblies
- Engaging in Working Groups.

The PTU Organizing Committee maintains the trust of the membership by ensuring all Organizing Committee members are committed to the work and the points of unity, are not landowners or landlords in any function, regularly attend meetings and working groups, support organizational decisions, act as ambassadors for PTU and tenants rights, and do not associate PTU with personal opinions and positions.

## **Responsibilities of PTU Organizing Committee Members**

2/16/20

### **Engage with Organizing Committee by**

- Regularly attending meetings.
- Reviewing and offering items for discussion for upcoming agendas.
- Remaining responsive to PTU communication - responding to a basecamp tag or an email within 48 hours.

### **Support Working Groups by**

- Participating as a core member in at least one working group.
- Attending working groups events when possible.
- Signal boosting working group efforts.

### **Act as ambassadors for PTU by**

- Staying familiar with PTU's Points of Unity and current work and feeling comfortable talking about PTU.
- Actively recruiting new members and organizers.
- Sharing positive messaging about PTU and PTU's work.

### **Adhere to policies and bylaws by**

- Staying familiar with PTU's policies and bylaws.
- Maintaining status as a tenant member of PTU.
- Not acting as a landowner or landlord in any capacity.

### **Get an Organizing Committee onboarding in order to**

- Learn historical context.
- Learn about communication systems and culture.
- Support basic PTU functions.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Portland Tenants United is to build power and solidarity among the tenant class throughout the Portland metro region as a member-driven tenant union. Through organizing, direct action, coalition building, and civic engagement, Portland Tenants United fights to keep people in their homes, and to achieve dignity and security for all tenants.

## POINTS OF UNITY

- 1** Housing is a human right. We all have a right to a safe, secure, and habitable home. Fulfilling this basic human need is critical to maintaining healthy communities and a just and equitable society.
- 2** Tenants have the right to rent available housing in their communities without discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or gender expression, domestic violence victim/survivor status, political ideology, lifestyle, age, family status, marital status, source of income, disability, non-violent criminal record, health history, rental history, credit score, or subjective assessments by housing providers.
- 3** Tenants have the right to stability, predictability, transparency, and accountability with regard to all contractually bound housing expenditures.
- 4** Housing providers supply a critical public service that should serve primarily as an investment into the health and welfare of the community, not as a vehicle of personal wealth. As such, they must prioritize the stability, welfare, and dignity of their tenants over the profitability of their property.
- 5** Tenants have the right to a remedy, and to remain; they will not be displaced without cause, or without recourse and relief from the burden of displacement.
- 6** Tenants have the right to advocate for their rights as tenants and citizens, and to assert their beliefs and opinions, without risk of retaliatory action that could adversely impact current or future tenancy.
- 7** Tenants have the power, the right, and the agency to organize for mutual aid and protection, and to determine the rules and conditions of their tenancy through collective bargaining and other means.
- 8** In order to challenge the exploitation of tenants by housing providers and moneyed interests and to dismantle the current landlord-tenant paradigm, tenants must organize for alternative housing models such as public housing, supportive housing, collective ownership/management models, and cooperative living.