

2008 Oregon Black Political Convention Platform and Resolutions April 18-20, 2008

"Recognizing and Using Black Political Action To Make Political Change"

On April 18-20, 2008, the Oregon Black Political Convention (OBPC) met at Embassy Suites Hotel-Washington Square, 9000 SW Washington Square Road, Tigard, Oregon 97223, and the delegates to this Convention adopted the 2008 Oregon Black Political Convention Platform and Resolutions. Below are the planks and resolutions that were adopted.

- I. BLACK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
- II. BLACK YOUTH**
- III. POLITICAL ACTION**
- IV. CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
- V. IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WARS**
- VI. EDUCATION**
- VII. BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- VIII. IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP**
- IX. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**
- X. LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL AND WORLD AFFAIRS**

I. BLACK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that this 2008 election year presents a unique opportunity for members of the Black Community to become engaged in the political processes to promote the interests of all Black people living in the United States of America, and specifically Black Community development in the State of Oregon.

HEREWITH:

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that Black leadership should not be afraid to identify with the Black Community and to render services to it.
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that Black Americans are citizens of the United States of America.
3. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports leadership that is responsible, accountable and productive in rendering judgment and services to the Black Community.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that the experience of being Black in the United States must be used to evolve and enhance the strength and power of Black people as citizens of the United States of America. With this citizenship, there

are civic responsibilities that must be exercised for the good of the Black Community and all citizens.

5. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that leaders within and outside of political systems must be responsible for measurable results that enhance the interest and progress of the Black Community.

II. BLACK YOUTH

The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that the children of the Black Community are the Black Community's investment in the future. The Oregon Black Political Convention acknowledges that the future of the Black Community depends on how successful we are in terms of protecting and preparing our children to actively engage in the Black community and the community at large. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that Black Youth are in a state of crisis, the state of Black Youth is threatened by inadequate systems of education, Black on Black violence, institutional racism, and a discriminatory criminal justice system. **HEREWITH:**

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the Black Community to demand that the early schooling of Black youth teach them how to be a part of the community, what it means to be a part of the community and how to share their identity and humanity with each other and other groups.
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the Black Community to provide constructive activities and healthy relationships that will encourage Black youth to develop and achieve success in their Communities and society.
3. The Oregon Black Political Convention believes: that Black youth must be taught to appreciate and foster their cultural history; that opportunities for leadership development must be provided; and that we must resolve to engage youth in activities that are designed to prepare the youth for current and future challenges.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the Black Community to address the crisis in the state of Black Youth through the development and implementation of an aggressive agenda that affirmatively promotes investment in education, economic development, and reform of the criminal justice system.

III. POLITICAL ACTION

The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that the Democratic Party will not only make history in the United States if a Black man becomes its Presidential candidate, but it will make history if a White woman becomes its candidate for the Presidency of the United States. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that there are Black Republicans and Black Independents in Oregon as well as Black Democrats in Oregon and Black Americans participating in other minor political parties in Oregon. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that Black America must be prepared to work with whoever becomes the US

President to achieve the collective interests of Black America. It is the position of the Oregon Black Political Convention that all publicly elected and appointed officials represent the interests of the Black America, regardless of the official's race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or geographical location. It is the position of the Oregon Black Political Convention that Black America must assert how it wants to be represented and whether the quality of this representation is being achieved. **THEREFORE,**

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges Black Oregonians to participate and vote in the Oregon Primary and General Elections **as well as in the conventions of minor political parties.**
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges Black America to recognize and use its Black Political Action To Make Political Change.
3. The Oregon Black Political Convention encourages Black Oregonians to seek elected and appointed public offices.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges Black Oregonians to be a powerful force within the political system through civic engagement, organization and participation to ensure that political aspirations of the Black Community are achieved.
5. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges Black Oregonians to know and believe that when the interests of the Black America are served, the interests of all Americans are served.
6. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges Black Oregonians to attend and participate in the conventions of their political parties to ensure that the positions of the Black Community are addressed and included in these parties' state and national platforms.
7. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls upon the Oregon Political parties to actively promote greater participation of Black Oregonians in their parties' affairs and to aggressively seek Black involvement at all levels.
8. Because minor **political** party candidates are excluded from the state primary nomination **election ballot because their selection is done at their** party conventions, the Oregon Black Political Convention shall consider endorsement of minor party candidates ~~with ballot access~~ and extend them the same opportunities to participate in the Convention that are offered to major party candidates.

IV. CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that human rights are the basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled and that civil rights are those rights that are granted to the people by the country or state in which they live. The Oregon Black Political Convention acknowledges that the Constitution of the United States and the Oregon Constitution grant certain rights to all the citizens. The Oregon Black Political Convention finds that many rights are being denied to Black Americans. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes

that one cannot protect their rights unless one has access to effective and unbiased legal representation. **HEREWITH:**

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports the passage of legislation that would require Oregon attorneys to provide effective and unbiased legal representation to all clients regardless of their ability to pay or their status in the Oregon society.
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls on all public officials to uphold the human, legal and constitutional rights of Black Oregonians.
3. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges Black Oregonians to be educationally and financially prepared for the day when they will need effective and unbiased legal representation by obtaining a pre-paid legal plan that is reasonable and economical.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports the equal application and equal enforcement of laws.
5. The Oregon Black Political Convention encourages community organizations and leaders to support existing efforts to educate Black citizens, especially Black youth, of their civil rights as well as their human rights.
6. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges all law enforcement agencies to collect and record traffic stop data to document disproportionate enforcements which targets minorities.

V. IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WARS

The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that most Americans have concluded that starting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan was not based on facts. However, the Oregon Black Political Convention acknowledges that the continuing debate over the right or wrong of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars is now a futile exercise. It changes nothing. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that the United States is in two wars; each separate in rationale for going to war but with the common caveats of terrorists and terrorism. The Oregon Black Political Convention believes that all Americans in some way have felt the impact of these wars with the loss and serving of husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, family, friends, neighbors. The Oregon Black Political Convention continues to support our service men and women and their families in these wars, and the Oregon Black Political Convention calls for them to return safely.

HEREWITH:

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the United States government to seek and find a swift and decisive end to these wars without further commitment of troops.
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports the political self-determination of the people of Iraq and Afghanistan and therefore opposes the military intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan by any nation including the United States of America.

3. The Oregon Black Political Convention further urges United States government to begin an even more aggressive troop returns.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention strongly encourage United States government to provide immediate resources for adequate after care for all troops and their family.

VI. EDUCATION

It is the conclusion of the Oregon Black Political Convention that education is key to social change. The Black Community must use education for cultural, intellectual and economic development and growth. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports high quality public education and opposes efforts to deny public education to any child in Oregon or in other states. The OBPC strongly recommends that the Black Community focuses attention and energy on events affecting Black students in both public and private schools, and actively assists those students in preparation to learn and becoming productive citizens. Formal and informal education methodologies are fundamental for the development, enhancement, productivity and survival of Black people. **THEREFORE:**

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges Oregon schools to employ the ERASE initiative of the Applied Research Center. (ERASE = expose racism and advance school excellence.)
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls upon the Oregon Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Oregon Board of Education to vigorously enforce state laws relating to equal and open access to educational opportunities for Black students.
3. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls upon the Oregon NAACP branches, The Urban League, Self-Enhancement Incorporated, the Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators (OABSE), the African American Chamber of Commerce, and the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs (OABA) to host an education summit in conjunction with academic institutions whereby Black educators and Black leaders come together to discuss ways and recommendations to deal with the current status of Black students. The protocols so derived shall be forwarded to the appropriate agents and institutions for action.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention opposes legislation, which would change financial aid from need based aid to merit based aid for higher education.
5. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls upon the PPS Board of Education to publicly recognize that there is racism in the district and take action to resolve it.
6. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the PPS Board of Education to immediately end its racist policies and practices, resulting in discrimination against

Black students, other students of color, other minority and low income students in the choice of course offerings and programs.

7. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the Black parents in the PPS District to hold the PPS Board of Education accountable and responsible for the miss-education of all children.
- 8, The Oregon Black Political Convention supports universal preschool and urges the US Congress and Oregon Legislature to provide more funding for pre-schooling and special education.
9. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls on the United States Secretary of Education to enforce the accountability laws of No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB Act) on the district.

VII. BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Oregon Black Political Convention supports the efforts and activities of Black people to increase their participation in an expanding market economy. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports the right of every Black Oregonian to be free from racial discrimination in employment and to be justly compensated based on the market. However, the Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that the outsourcing of American jobs to other countries has negatively impacted the employment of Black Americans and has contributed to instability of the state and national overall economies. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that home ownership for Black Oregonians remains difficult to achieve. The Oregon Black Political Convention encourages changes that will enhance availability and accessibility of affordable housing to members of the Black Community. **THEREFORE,**

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the Black Community to join in concerted efforts to establish and patronize Black-owned businesses.
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports the development of Green industries that are NOT adverse to the business interest of the Oregon Black Community.
3. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges elected officials and government agencies to provide access to affordable housing that is decent and affordable for Black Oregonians.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention opposes the outsourcing of American jobs to other countries.

VIII. IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

The Oregon Black Political Convention believes that immigration to the United States should lead to citizenship. The Oregon Black Political Convention believes that the citizens of the United States should be safe within its borders. The Oregon Black Political Convention

believes that a backlash is occurring amongst groups because of illegal immigration and, this weighs heavily on the resources of this Country. **THEREFORE,**

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes and supports the desire of individuals to seek a better life in United States through legal immigration that leads to citizenship regardless of race.
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the US Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration law that protects the citizens within this country and those seeking to immigrate here.
3. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges the US President and his administration to enforce the immigration laws.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports the enforcement of immigration laws that prosecute corporations for violating immigration laws and encourages elected officials to pass legislation creating a penalty matrix which will increase fines every time corporations violate the law.
5. The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes that the system of employing undocumented immigrant workers exploits those workers, as well as those legal residents and citizens of the US.
6. The Oregon Black Political Convention shall urge Congress and the President to pass Immigration Reform laws to legalize workers residing in the United States.

IX. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Oregon Black Political Convention recognizes the importance of quality healthcare for all people. The Oregon Black Political Convention has grave concerns about the lack of health care, access, outreach, and educational programs directed towards the Black Community. The Oregon Black Political Convention believes health care is a right, not a privilege for the few. **THEREFORE,**

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports legislation that requires government officials to make healthcare accessible to all who live in the United States.
2. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls upon all public and private sector health care providers to work with the Black Community to respond to health care issues in the Black Community.
3. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports legislation that will establish a comprehensive, universal, health system that will make health care available, affordable and economical.
4. The Oregon Black Political Convention strongly opposes any effort to privatize Social Security or Medicare.

5. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls upon all County Health departments and Providers to address issues of health disparities.

X. LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL & WORLD AFFAIRS

The Oregon Black Political Convention finds that American governmental entities are mandated by their constitutions or charters to represent the interests of ALL citizens including Black Americans. The Oregon Black Political Convention acknowledges that public policies affect how the United States, as a Nation, involves itself in the global economy and international affairs. The Oregon Black Political Convention urges Black Americans to get involved in local, state, national and world affairs. The Oregon Black Political Convention supports the participation of Black Americans in the establishment, control, monitoring, and implementation of public policies that not only engender but also promote Black involvement at the local, state, national and world levels. **THEREFORE,**

1. The Oregon Black Political Convention calls on ALL elected and appointed official to ensure that the Constitution of the United States is being upheld.

2008 OREGON BLACK POLITICAL CONVENTION

April 18-20, 2008

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Aneesah Furqan, 2008 OBPC Recording Secretary
Calvin O. L. Henry, 2008 OBPC Chair