



Oregon Black Political Convention

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2018 OBPC PLATFORM & RESOLUTION April 6-8, 2018

On April 6-8, 2018, the Oregon Black Political Convention (OBPC) met at the Crowne Plaza Portland Convention Center, 1441 HE 2nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232. On April 8, 2018, the delegate to this convention adopted the 2018 Oregon Black Political Convention Platform and Resolutions with a Preamble. The theme of this Convention was “**A Relentless Season of Political Change**” Below are the Preamble, planks and resolutions that were adopted.

PREAMBLE

The Oregon Black Political Convention believes in the empowerment of Black Americans. Its Platform & Resolutions are a call to action to move the Black Community forward in political involvement. It is a call to all Americans to make Oregon and the United States a more perfect society.

I. STATE SANCTIONED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BLACK AMERICANS

The 2018 Oregon Black Political Convention (OBPC) finds that people of the United States of America (USA) are reluctant to recognize and admit that **State Sanctioned Discrimination Against Black Americans** is a reason that the USA is not fully recognized as the greatest country in the world. The 2018 OBPC recognizes that “**State Sanctioned Discrimination against Black Americans in the USA** is discrimination established by laws, actions and activities of the federal, state and local governments to deny opportunities, rights and citizenship to Black Americans.” Also the 2018 OBPC recognizes that tremendous actions and information have been used to drive wedges between Black citizens and White citizens of the United States of America. **THEREFORE**

1. The 2018 OBPC urges citizens of the United States of America (USA) to recognize that **Racism and State Sanctioned Discrimination against Black American** are the phenomenon that is driving the United States Congress to not do its duty to protect people from harm.
2. The 2018 OBPC urges ALL citizens of the United States of America (USA) to recognize that the BlackLivesMatters Movement in USA must be viewed as helping ALL to understand how they have benefited or are benefitting from **Racism and State Sanctioned Discrimination against Black Americans**.

3. The 2018 OBPC urges Black Americans across the United States to recognize that **Racism** and **State Sanctioned Discrimination against Black Americans** are the phenomenon that is driving the unequal treatment of Black Americans throughout the United States.
4. The 2018 OBPC urges ALL USA institutions to recognize the negative impact of **Racism** and **State Sanctioned Discrimination against Black Americans** on the mental health and well being of ALL USA Citizens.
5. The 2018 OBPC calls for action at all levels of government to identify specific actions designed to correct and eliminate **Racism** and **State Sanctioned Discrimination against Black Americans** and ensure equal protection and application of the law for all.
6. The 2018 OBPC calls on the different religious communities to assist in creating the understanding that all people are created equal.

II. UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

The 2018 OBPC finds that the current US Constitution was adopted on September 17, 1787, and it has been amended 27 times, which still does not meet the full intention for which it was designed, when 274 of 289 Republican members of the US Congress sign a pledge to vote “NO” and agree to act as ONE to not faithfully discharge the duties of their office on any proposal by the 44th US President who is a Black American; **THEREFORE, the 2018 OBPC**

1. Calls on the people of the United States of America to recognize that they should urge their US Senators and US Representatives to protect US government and its institutions from being subverted;
2. Calls on the people of the United States of America to recognize **Racism** and **State Sanctioned Discrimination Against Black Americans** and to prevent this phenomenon from destroying the constitutional form of USA government; and
3. Calls upon the people of the United States of America to actively fight efforts to subvert the will of the people and defend the constitutional amendment of a two-term limit for the presidency

III. RIGHT TO VOTE /POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The 2018 OBPC recognizes the inherent rights of Blacks as United States Citizens, which includes the right to vote and participate in the political process. Additionally, the 2018 OBPC acknowledges that the Voting Right Act, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on August 6, 1965, aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevent Blacks from exercising their right to vote under the 15th Amendment (1870) to the Constitution of the United States. The OBPC finds through our current elections that Blacks voters have faced voter challenges, intimidation, restricted and limited polling place options, complicated voting processes, and gerrymandering in reapportionment that limits meaningful voting, reflective of their communities. **Therefore, the 2018 OBPC**

1. Calls upon the United States Department of Justice to ensure the rights of Blacks are not disenfranchised by political systems and processes that restrict their right to vote and participation, as US Citizens;
2. Calls upon all sectors of state and local governments to work to enhance Black voter participation, and eliminate barriers that would inhibit such participation;
3. Calls upon all Black organizations to critically examine and implement election processes to insure the spirit and intent of the Voting Rights Act Law is carried out in good faith;

4. Calls upon all Political Parties and political action committees to create opportunities for Black participation in all areas of the party operational structure and for black participants have a meaningful voice in their policy directions;
5. Urges the three branches of government to act against any and all procedures that would restrict Black voting and participation, at both the federal and state levels, including reapportionment; and
6. Urges all US colleges and universities to provide opportunities for Black college students to learn, use, understand and participate in Politics and Process (2Ps) that would benefit themselves, their community, their college or University and society-at-large.

IV. **DIVERSITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, EQUITY AND DISPARITIES**

The 2018 OBPC recognizes that all federal, state and local governments regulate and set policies in order to ensure that the “COMMON GOOD” deal with long-term racism. The OBPC finds that [~~mandates around~~] correcting disparities, implementing affirmative action plan with personnel and accountabilities are not being carried out as mandated, and diversity and equity actions have not changed environmental and workplace conditions for Blacks. **Therefore, the 2018 OBPC**

1. Calls upon all governmental entities to have written affirmative action/equal opportunity plans that contain all required data to evaluate hiring, probation, promotions and termination actions;
2. Urges that responsible officials and their management teams be held accountable for evidenced based performance in correcting workplace inequities and reducing discriminatory practices and treatment in their work places;
3. Calls upon all governmental entities to hold public meetings that present their performance around equity matters, and to seek out public input on these matters;
4. Calls upon all governmental entities to examine their Boards and Commission to insure equity of participation, and where deficiencies exist, conduct recruitment strategies that improves participatory outcomes; and
5. Calls upon all governmental entities to put in place “fair” and “objective” complaint system to address inequities and disparities.

V. **CIVIL SOCIETY**

Civil society represents the guardian of culture and impacts the morality and ethics of the people. They represent the media, foundations, educational bodies, churches, religious institutions, legal entities, loose associations, neighborhood groups, and collective of citizens in a community. The 2018 OBPC finds that the conditions that make for community have deteriorated for Blacks in Oregon; they are racially profiled, locked out of group participation, and discriminated against in opportunities. **Therefore, the OBPC**

1. Calls upon all civil entities to work to insure Black participation and opportunities within their operations;
2. Calls upon the media to do fair and objective reporting on Black issues and concerns, and to increase Black representation on their staff;
3. Calls upon Oregon’s foundation community to examine their funding decisions and allocation to insure Black issues and concerns are being addressed and funded;
4. Urges Neighborhood Associations to reach out to Black organizations and groups to assure Black input and participation in public matters;
5. Calls upon all civic/religious institutions to address barriers toward Black participation; and

6. Calls upon all citizens to stand together against groups seeded in racism.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL DISCRIMINATION

The 2018 OBPC recognizes that discrimination exist in many forms: individual, institutional, and structural. Structural discrimination refers to policies embedded practices and procedures neutral in intent but which have a differential and/or harmful effect. The OBPC finds that institutional and structural racism exists and is detrimental to the life and work of Blacks. **Therefore, the 2018 OBPC**

1. Calls upon all leaders to acknowledge and work to eliminate structural and institutional barriers blocking Black progress;
2. Calls upon all leaders to determine the causes and effect of systems and structures contributing to discriminatory practices impacting Black people;
3. Urges leaders to consult annually with Black and other employees to identify practice, on their face, which appear neutral, yet produce discriminatory results; and
4. Encourage institutions outside compliant avenues for fair and objective, none intimidating, complaint processes.
5. Encourages institutions to have fair, objective, and non-intimidating independent complaint processes.

VII. HOUSING

Urban development needs to find creative ways to include more diversity into all aspects of the housing stock. Historically Blacks have been displaced by gentrification and patterns of housing discrimination. Furthermore it is understand that homelessness and housing insecurity disproportionately affects Black people. **Therefore, the 2018 OBPC**

1. Calls upon the City of Portland and other local governmental entities to identify and eradicate discriminatory housing practices that prevent Blacks from obtaining equitable housing choices;
2. Calls upon the lending industry and its regulatory bodies to conduct independent examinations to identify practices that have a discrimination impact on Black housing options and create institutional changes that open and create more housing options;
3. Urges the coming together of governmental units of cities, private and non-profit sectors to find solutions to the income gap and housing costs that results in disparities;
4. Urge the continued support of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) that is designed to combat the states growing affordable housing crisis.
5. Urge our congressional delegation to continue supporting Private Activity Bonds (PABs) as a tool for funding affordable housing projects.

VII. HEALTHCARE

The 2018 OBPC recognizes that the medical establishment has long legacy of discriminating and exploiting Black Americans. Many Black Americans do not trust their healthcare providers to act in their best interests, as it is a major factor in health disparities. The medical community should care about the collective sense of Black distrust in medicine, as it is a major factor in health disparities. The OBPC finds that the medical community must address the real sense of suspicion, distrust, and cynicism that exist among Blacks in relation to their experiences with the medical community. Additionally, the OBPC finds that despite significant advances in civil rights, race remains a significant factor determining whether an individual receives high quality care to improve health outcomes by eliminating racial health disparities.

Therefore, the 2018 OBPC:

1. **Calls** upon US Congress not to eliminate, but to improve the Affordable Care Act by mandating all states to accept Medicaid expansion so that everyone can access affordable, high-quality health care;

2. Calls upon health care providers to examine their professional workforce for Black participation and ensure appropriate levels of training on cross-cultural differences to improve service delivery to the Black community;
3. Calls upon governmental officials to monitor structure, process and outcomes of services for evidence based interventions and outcomes that will eliminate racial health disparities and improve services; and
4. Calls upon governmental leaders to acknowledge that gaps in health care disparities for Blacks is the result of numerous social policy determinants, such as poor education, lack of employment in jobs with fully paid health plans, poor housing, and resources that promote healthy eating habits.

VIII. EDUCATION

Despite Government Initiatives, Blacks continue to experience significant disadvantages to access a quality and affordable education to excel within the education system. Whereas access to quality education is a right, the OBPC finds that structural and systemic discrimination, the school-to-prison pipeline, biased teachers and administrative attitudes, targeted codes of conduct, and lack of Black educators creates educational disparities for Black students. **Therefore, the 2018 OBPC:**

1. Calls upon school superintendents and local school boards to monitor, evaluate and interpret educational results and outcomes for Black students;
2. Calls upon responsible school officials to meet with Black educators to identify barriers to educational achievement and to explore options for closing the achievement gap;
3. Calls upon the state to equitably fund programmatic services in all school districts recognizing that neighborhoods of color are underfunded and underserved;
4. Calls upon Black parents and Black community leaders to meet regularly with school superintendents and school officials to discuss the structural discrimination that is creating educational disparities for Black students; and
5. Calls upon educational leaders to evaluate its equity policies, identify gaps in culturally responsive practices and set in place additional actions to drive these behaviors out of the education system.

IX. BLACK YOUTH

Black youth, today, face challenges of racial profiling, the school to prison pipeline, lack of career choices and guidance, and a multitude of problems that should serve as a serious wake up call for the Black Community, the public and private sectors, and non-profits for appropriate interventions. The OBPC finds that a silent catastrophe is engulfing Black youth, devastating to making progress, and designed to establish a permanent underclass, largely made up of Black youth. **Therefore, the 2018 OBPC**

1. Calls upon all public, private, and non-profit sector leaders to seek out solutions to problems of Black youth, involving the Black Community, Black families and individual Black youth themselves;
2. Calls upon all public, private, and non-profit sector leaders to promote Black youth engagement activities that promote civic responsibility; and
3. Calls upon Black parent and the public sectors leaders to understand how much “**State sanctioned discrimination against Black Americans**“ has affected Black and White youth;
4. Calls upon educators and parents to encourage black youth to pursue post high school education, to include apprenticeships, trade schools, community colleges and four year universities

X. **JUSTICE**

The 2018 OBPC recognizes that many Black Oregonians still experience multiple barriers to receiving justice. The 2018 OBPC supports reformation of our criminal justice system which is burdened by a history of a “war on drugs”, perverse incentives to mass incarceration, punishment instead of rehabilitation and restoration, militarization of police, discrimination based on income, race, and nationality, and by lack of government funding and the will to correct the systems failings and prevent its negative disproportionate outcomes. **Therefore, the 2018 OBPC**

1. Calls upon the Oregon Governor, Oregon Attorney General, members of Oregon Legislative Assembly , Oregon Supreme Court and judges at all levels, Oregon District Attorneys, Oregon County governments and city governments to work to ensure that Black Oregonians are receiving justice in Oregon.

2018 OREGON BLACK POLITICAL CONVENTION http://www.oaba.us oaba@peak.org	
2018 OBPC Platform & Resolution Moderator	Robert Philips
2018 OBPC Recorder	C. Rashad Henry
2018 OBPC Chair	Heidi Izunagbara
OABA President	Calvin O. L. Henry, PhD

HISTORY OF THE OREGON BLACK POLITICAL CONVENTIONS - 2018

DATE	SITE	THEME
April 6-8, 2018	Crowne Plaza Portland CC Portland, OR 97232	"A Relentless Season of Political Change"
April 22-24, 2016	Crowne Plaza Portland CC Portland, OR 97232	"Empowering People Thru Political Process"
April 11-13, 2014	Crowne Plaza Portland CC, Portland, OR 97232	"Building Influence and Mobilizing Our Voices"
April 13-15, 2012	Crowne Plaza Portland Convention Center, Portland, OR 97232	"2012 Election Politics-OBPC: Citizens Engaged and Making a Difference for All Oregonians!"
April 16-18, 2010	Crowne Plaza Portland Convention Center, Portland, OR 97232	"During The Administration Of President Obama: Black Political Action For Institutional Transformations And For Removing Barriers, Bias, Discrimination And Ineffective Legal Representation"
April 18-20, 2008	Embassy Suites Hotel-Portland Washington Square, Tigard, OR	"Recognizing and Using Black Political Action To Make Political Change"
April 28-30, 2006	Holiday Inn-Portland Downtown, Portland, OR	Black Oregonians Exercising Their Power for Political and Economic Outcomes
April 16-18, 2004	Holiday Inn-Portland Downtown, Portland, OR	"Moving the Agenda: Exercising Black Political Power"
April 6-7, 2002	Radisson Hotel Portland, Portland, OR	"OBPC Developing Political Strengths: Black Oregonians Working For The Long Run"
April 7-9, 2000	Radisson Hotel Portland, Portland, OR	"Challenge of the Century: Growth and Expansion of Black Political Power in Oregon"
March 21-22, 1998	Quality Inn, Salem, OR	"Building The Future By Acknowledging And Using Past Successes"
April 27-28, 1996	Quality Inn, Salem, OR	"Liberal? Conservative? Independent? The Black Vote Is Not Monolithic!"
April 9-10, 1994	Quality Inn, Salem, OR	"Now is the time: Black Political Action"
April 10-12, 1992	Howard Johnson Plaza-Hotel Lake Oswego, OR	Today's Leaders Preparing Leaders For Tomorrow
April 11, 1990	CHUMAREE Hotel & Comfortel CC, Salem, OR	"A Decade For Political Risk Taking"
April 8-10, 1988	Viscount Hotel, Portland, OR	"Voting '88: Exercising Black Political Power"
April 12-13, 1986	CHUMAREE Comfortel Salem, OR	"Crisis: Time for Black Perspective, Persuasion, and Productivity"
April 7-8, 1984	Holiday Inn at the Coliseum, Portland, OR	"In Politics, Blacks Can Make A Difference"
April 17-18, 1982	Willamette Center Portland, OR	"For the Black Community--Politics Is The Answer"
April 11-13, 1980	Holiday Inn At Airport Portland, OR	
April 7-9, 1978	Benson Hotel, Portland, OR	

1/1/2018