



April 29, 2021

Oregon School Board Candidates,

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL  
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Congratulations on your decision to run for a school board position! Board service is a commitment that requires time and dedication. School boards play a vital role in the education of our students around our state. Board members represent the largest elected body in the state of Oregon.

Boards set policies, hire, supervise, and evaluate superintendents and create the climate within their districts for improving student achievement. They provide the structure for public accountability and a way for local communities to participate in and influence important issues affecting student learning.

Earlier this year, OSBA, through its continuing Get on Board campaign, got the message out about board service and responsibilities. The campaign provides resources and information on the requirements and process to run for a school board position. <https://getonboardoregon.org/>

As we approach the upcoming May 18 special election, we want to provide resources as you run your election campaigns, launch online campaign events and meet with community members. In today's polarized political climate we want to be sure that school board candidates can share their message in their communities safely and effectively.

OSBA is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and its staff is dedicated to giving you the support and training you need in your new role, including:

New board member resources:

<http://www.osba.org/nbm>

Board development resources:

<http://www.osba.org/Programs/BoardDevelopment.aspx>

School News:

<http://www.osba.org/News-Center/Announcements.aspx>

Legislative Highlights:

[http://www.osba.org/News-Center/Newsletters/Legislative\\_Highlights.aspx](http://www.osba.org/News-Center/Newsletters/Legislative_Highlights.aspx)

Virtual Meeting Resources:

[http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Board\\_Operations/Virtual-Meeting-Resources.aspx](http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Board_Operations/Virtual-Meeting-Resources.aspx)

We also want to respond to recent racial attacks on BIPOC school board candidates around the state. The leadership of the Oregon School Board Members of Color Caucus and Oregon School Boards Association want to assure you that we denounce any acts of discrimination or racism.

We want to encourage candidates experiencing this type of racist attack to take any and all safety precautions and please report incidents to local authorities so that they are recorded. You can report a hate or bias incident to the Justice Department at [StandAgainstHate.Oregon.Gov](http://StandAgainstHate.Oregon.Gov) or by calling 1-844-924-BIAS (2427).

You are not alone and the leadership of the OSBMCC is here to be a resource and means of support. Feel free to reach out to the leadership team if you have questions or concerns.

We again want to thank you for your decision to run for a seat on your local school board! Board service is an opportunity to create positive, impactful change in the lives of students and our communities around the state.

Sincerely,

OSBMCC Executive Officers

