

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

OSBA Legislative Policy Committee

Name: _____ Ashley Carson Cottingham _____ Region: _____ Marion _____

District/ESD/CC: _____ Salem-Keizer 24J _____ Position #: _____ 12 _____

I certify that if elected I will faithfully serve as a member of the OSBA Legislative Policy Committee. My nomination form has been submitted to OSBA (or is attached to this document) as evidence.



Name

9-29-21

Date

Be brief; please limit your responses to 50 words per question.

1. What do you want to accomplish by serving on the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC)?

I want to ensure that our public schools and their school boards are getting the maximum support needed from the Oregon State Legislature. This is critical to the wellbeing and success of our students and our educators with everything that has occurred due to COVID-19. I welcome the opportunity to build relationships with key legislators as well as utilize my existing relationships with others. I truly enjoy the processes related to policymaking and want to bring a voice from the Marion region and back to my colleagues about the work the committee is doing.

2. What leadership skills do you bring to the LPC? Give an example of a situation in which you demonstrated these skills.

In my professional life, I worked on Capitol Hill as a Committee Staffer for two different U.S. Senators leading work on Elder Justice, Health Care, Poverty, Oral Health and economic security. In Oregon I have worked as a leader in divisions of state government here in Oregon. In these roles, I have worked closely with the Oregon legislature to put forth legislative concepts on important issues and to ensure our budgets were well understood and our priorities were in alignment with their expectations. In each of these positions, I remained focused on doing the right thing to better-serve the vulnerable populations of Oregonians we served. Additionally, in my short time on the Salem-Keizer School Board we have made our meetings more accessible to the deaf and hard of hearing community by having ASL interpretation at all of our public meetings.

3. What do you see as the two most challenging legislative issues faced by OSBA?

Right now school boards are more politicized and polarized than they have been before, this will be challenging to navigate with tensions running high. It will be important to focus on our roles as school board directors and the good we can do for kids and educators. We must center equity, ensure we are providing the social and emotional supports needed and making sure our students with disabilities have all of the tools they need to thrive. Second, I think funding for schools is always contentious. With the way things ended in this last full session, there will need to be even stronger advocacy to ensure we can make up ground in the next full session - especially additional and focused funding dedicated to mental health support for students and educators.

4. What do you see as the two most challenging legislative issues faced by your region?

Our region is politically polarized, therefore I think it will be hard to reach consensus amongst the legislators across the Marion region on key policy priorities for schools and school boards. Second, I think ensuring each of the school districts have the resources needed, their voices heard, and their interests raised with such a large diversity of school districts (size and make-up) will be challenging.

5. What is your plan for communicating with boards in your region about legislative issues?

I will meet with various Directors across the Marion region and get to know them so that I can best represent the varied interests across the Marion region. I will also work to share info, action items and opportunities for advocacy as often as I can.

Deadline: October 1, 2021, 5 p.m.

Materials submitted by the candidate on this form may be subject to a public information request under ORS Chapter 192.

CANDIDATE PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL RESUME

OSBA Legislative Policy Committee

Name: Ashley Carson Cottingham Date: 9-27-21

Address: 755 High St. SE

City / ZIP: Salem, OR

Business phone: 971-209-2709

Residence phone: _____

Cell phone: 202-557-8364

E-mail: carsoncottingham_ashley@salkeiz.k12.or.us

District/ESD/CC: Salem-Keizer 24J

Term expires: July 2025 Years on board: LESS THAN 1

Deadline: October 1, 2021, 5 pm

Please send your picture (head shot). A high-resolution digital photo is preferred but a print is acceptable. Email to OSBAelections@osba.org, or mail to: Oregon School Boards Association, 1201 Court St NE, #400, Salem, OR 97301

Work or service performed for OSBA or local district (include committee name and if you were chair):

I am brand new to the Salem-Keizer School Board and I currently serve as the Vice-Chair.

Other education board positions held/dates:

N/A

Occupation (Include at least the past five years):

Employers:

Dates:

The State of Oregon:

Oregon Employment Department

March 2021- present

Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

October 2019- March 2021

Department of Human Services

April 2014 - October 2019

Compassion & Choices

Sept. 2012 - April 2014

U.S. Senate

Sept. 2010 - Sept. 2012

OWL - The Voice of Midlife and Older Women

January 2007 - Sept. 2010

Schools attended (Include official name of school, where and when):

High school: Mountain View High, Bend, OR 1993-1997

College: University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 1997-2001

Law School: Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT, 2003-2006

Degrees earned: BA and a JD

Education honors and/or awards:

- Academic Excellence Award, Highest Grade: Vermont Law School/Dartmouth Medical School - MedLaw Seminar: Changing Concepts of Reproduction and the Family
- Co-Chair ('05-'06), Public Relations Chair ('04-'05) Women's Law Group

Other applicable training or education:

Activities, other state and local community services:

- **Cherriots' Budget Committee**, Public Member, December 2020 - present
- **Marion-Polk Food Share**, Salem, Gervais, Woodburn, OR, Food pantry and Food box Volunteer, Spring of 2020 - present
- **Vermont Legal Aid – Long-Term Care Ombudsman Project**, Burlington, VT, *Law Clerk*, Summer 2005
- **CASA of Deschutes County**, Bend, OR, *Law Clerk*, Summer 2004 and Summer of 2006
- **Safeline – Domestic Violence Hotline**, South Royalton, VT, Fall of 2003 – Spring of 2006
- **Barrister's Bookshop, Board of Directors**, Public Relations Chair ('05-'06), Vice-President ('04-'05) Board of Directors

Hobbies/special interests:

Kids' soccer games, playing music with friends, camping and biking

Business/professional/civic group memberships; offices held and dates:

- **National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)**, Member (invited) 2007 - present

Additional comments:

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