

OSBA Legislative Policy Committee CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Ashley Carson Cottingham

Date: Sept 18, 2024

Address: 755 High Street SE

City/Zip: Salem, OR

Business phone: _____

Residence phone: 202-557-8364

Cell phone: same

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District/ESD/CC: Salem Keizer 24J

Term expires: 2025 Years on board: 3

Region: Marion



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.

Ashley Carson Cottingham

9/18/24

Name

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 am excited to work on robust school funding in the upcoming 2025 session and weigh in (where appropriate) on bills impacting our schools across Oregon. I served on the LPC before and found it very informative & helpful in moving a strong policy-agenda forward for public ed.
2. What leadership skills do you bring to the LPC? Give an example of a situation in which you demonstrated these skills.
I have done legislative advocacy for the majority of my career in the public sector in aging, disability, protective services, health and human services. I've worked for most of my career in DC and in Oregon to pass bipartisan legislation that improves people's day-to-day lives.
3. What do you see as the two most challenging legislative issues faced by OSBA?
1) Coming to consensus on bills where the impacts are varied across the state and/or where political views are different. 2) Working year-after-year for significant funding increases when some may think once is enough to fix all funding issues and challenges for public education.
4. What do you see as the two most challenging legislative issues faced by your region?
1) The funding formula isn't working to meet the needs of children in our district. We have a very high percentage of ELL and SPED students 2) We faced significant lay-offs and our schools will suffer for years if we aren't able to convince the legislature to increase funding in the 25-27 biennium.
5. What is your plan for communicating with boards in your region about legislative issues?
I will reach out to ask for input to each of the boards and also write updates regarding issues of interest leading up to and throughout the legislative session.

Email to OSBAelections@osba.org, or mail to: Oregon School Boards Association, 1201 Court St NE, #400, Salem, OR 97301

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

OSBA Legislative Policy Committee

CANDIDATE PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL RESUME

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

LPC - 1 year 2022-2023

OSBA Board - 1 year 2023-2024

Chair, 1st Vice-Chair and 2nd Vice-Chair of the Salem-Keizer School Board (2021-2024)

Other education board positions held/dates:

N/A

Occupation (Include at least the past five years):

Employers:

State of Oregon, Office of the Long-Term Care
Ombudsman and Department of Human Services
U.S. Senate Committee Staff

Dates:

April 2014- present

2010-2012

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

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

College: University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 1997-2001 and Vermont Law School 2003-2006

Degrees earned: BA, JD

Education honors and/or awards:

Academic Excellence Award, Highest Grade, Vermont Law School – Med/Law Combined
Dartmouth Medical School/Vermont Law Class – Changing Concepts of Reproduction and the
Family

Other applicable training or education:

I've presented to local groups and at state and national conferences on legislative process and
advocacy. I've drafted legislation and negotiated legislation at both the Federal and State levels.

Activities, other state and local community services:

Cherriots Budget Committee (local Transit District) - Dec 2020 - present; Marion Polk Food Share
(food box and pantry volunteer) – throughout 2020; Safeline – Domestic Violence Hotline
Volunteer, Vermont – 2003-2006; CASA of Deschutes County – Summers 2004 and 2006

Hobbies/special interests:

Singing, Travel, Pets, My kids' soccer/basketball/flag football, choir, orchestra, etc. :)

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

National Academy of Social Insurance (Invited Member since 2007)

Advancing States Mentorship Program - Next Gen Leader (2024-present)

Barrister's Book Store Board of Directors - Vermont Law School (2003-2006)

Additional comments:

This 2025 session will be critical to public schools - it would be an honor to serve on the LPC.

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