

# PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICING

*“All Oregonians, regardless of race or income, deserve to feel safe and secure in their neighborhoods, schools, downtown areas and city streets. There is a direct link between defunding the police and rising crime rates.”* — **Jessica Gomez**

1

**Public safety as a priority:** Oregon needs a governor who will not defund the police—one who takes public safety seriously. Homicides, vandalism and car thefts have all reached record levels.

Oregon must implement a statewide crime reduction task force that reviews all components of the criminal justice system and reports directly to the governor.

2

**Community engagement, community policing and transparency:** Law enforcement agencies must prioritize bolstering their non-enforcement presence in communities and working with

community residents to identify problems and collaborate on implementing solutions. Encourage transparency to include information about stops, arrests, use of force, reported crime, and complaints. Deploy body cameras.

*“When a governor sets a strong tone for public safety and policing, this state will regain its reputation as an attractive place for businesses to locate and for people to work, live and play. Crime and vandalism have tarnished our state’s reputation. We have to support police and other first responders fully.”*

— **Jessica Gomez**

3

**Professional development:** Develop and provide resources for programs focused on crisis management and mental health, leadership skills, and de-escalation techniques. Establish statewide training

and education standards for all first responders. We must have a system where appropriate first responders are deployed and the correct response is professionally executed for every public safety situation.

4

**Support for smaller agencies:**

Funding and technical assistance for small police agencies to give them access to a wider variety of training, equipment and technology. This approach will provide much-needed opportunities to collaborate.

*“Law enforcement is an essential service to our communities. Jessica understands the frustration on both sides, but angry rhetoric must give way to proactive solutions. Training, support, accountability, and transparency will lead to better outcomes, restoring confidence and trust in our officers.”*

— **Gregory A. Costanzo, 25-year police officer and military veteran**

5

**Recruitment, retention and officer wellness:**

Collaboration between higher education and workforce development partners to promote clearly defined career pathways for those interested in law enforcement. Establish programs focused on building a positive culture in organizations. Implement programs for managing stress and fostering an appreciation for officers on the job and in the community.



**Strength in Differences. Together for Solutions.**  
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