



Although considered by many as a liberal and progressive state, Oregon has an extremely racist past. At its inception, Oregon's laws forbid Black people from living within its borders, entering contracts, or owning property. Black individuals attempting to stay within the state were whipped every six months until they left, known as "Peter Burnett's Lash Law." One hundred and forty-five years later after the enactment of the clause and 38 years after the Civil Rights act of 1964, Oregonians removed the exclusion law language from the Constitution by popular vote in 2002. Approximately 29 percent of voters, 352,027 people, favored keeping the exclusion law language.

The violence inflicted by the state of Oregon and the federal government against Black bodies has, and continues to, isolate the Black community. Many members of the Black community feel unsafe calling the police or other government services they may need, fearing a lack of understanding from law enforcement and the risk of facing excessive violence or death. Moreover, services provided by the government are inadequate and unequally distributed - education, welfare, health care, and public housing - to the Black community.

To ensure that the Black community has equitable and safe access to the services they need, the Southern Oregon Racial Equity Liaison and Committee will act as an intermediary between the Black community and government entities, including local law enforcement and school districts. The Liaison will also monitor complaints of racially biased policing and school policies; create training programs to promote more equal policing practices; publicize social services and policing statistics; and report discrepancies within policing statistics.

By signing this petition, you acknowledge the need for the Southern Oregon Racial Equality Liaison and voice support for its establishment and operation to protect Black individuals and families in Southern Oregon.

***\*Sign electronically on the [baseoregon.org](http://baseoregon.org) website***

### **B.A.S.E Oregon**

Black Alliance & Social Empowerment

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*"A thriving community is when it feels good to be home!" -BASE*