



POLICY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL APPLICATION FORM

Welcome to the Nonprofit Association of Oregon’s Policy Leadership Council! Please read over carefully the following materials. Thank you for your interest in public policies that advance the nonprofit sector!

The Policy Leadership Council guides the public policy activities of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon. This work is done in consultation with and under the guidance of the NAO Public Policy Committee.

Building the voices of Oregon nonprofit sector. NAO is committed to expanding the voices of nonprofits in public policy. By creating the Policy Leadership Council, NAO policy goals can benefit from key nonprofit voices in the policy-making process and advocacy engagement at local, state, and federal levels.

The Nonprofit Association of Oregon’s Board of Directors, guided by its theory of change and commitment to strengthen the nonprofit sector designates the Policy Leadership Council to be the sounding-board for all NAO’s public policy activities, principles, and guidelines. The public policy principles and guidelines are values-based statements and policy goals that assist NAO to seek positive sector change through equitable and inclusive approaches. The biennial Agenda is approved by the NAO Board of Directors.

Role of the Policy Leadership Council

The role of the Policy Leadership Council, as a body of leaders with direct professional or volunteer experience in the nonprofit sector, is to provide a platform that:

- Identifies relevant policy and resource challenges the nonprofit sector faces;
- Develops policy solutions on a range of challenges that face nonprofits;
- Advocates for those policy solutions; and
- Provides strategic guidance on policy options where there are potential trade-offs and/or costs and benefits.

Composition of Policy Leadership Council

Policy Leadership Council will be comprised of:

- NAO Public Policy Committee members;
- Up to 25 Nonprofit leaders (501c3 organizations domiciled in Oregon to include foundations) that represent diverse constituencies across different nonprofit fields, cultural focus, and geography.



Management of the Policy Leadership Council

The NAO Board Public Policy Committee and staff manage the Policy Leadership Council. The Policy Leadership Council is chaired by NAO Public Policy Committee Chair and Director of Public Policy Director. The Co-chairs make appointments of council members and may also appoint subgroups such as sub-committees or policy labs to research and develop policy concepts to advance the policy work of NAO.

Meetings of the Policy Leadership Council

The Council will meet quarterly, virtually for no more than two hours or as predetermined.

Terms of the Policy Leadership Council

Members of the council that do not serve on the NAO Public Policy Committee may serve two-year terms beginning on the calendar year on the even numbered year that parallels NAO's biennial legislative agenda.

Qualifications of Policy Leadership Council

NAO encourages any interested nonprofit leaders to become a part of the Policy Leadership Council. Qualifications are:

- Nonprofit organizational member of NAO;
- Agreement with NAO's public policy principles and guidelines (see attached);
- Regular attendance of Policy Leadership Council during the two-year term; and
- Experience working for a nonprofit as an employee, board member, or volunteer.

Application Process

Interested individuals are to send an email with a brief bio and your answers to the questionnaire to NAO's Public Policy Director Phillip Kennedy-Wong at pkennedywong@nonprofitoregon.org. A virtual or in-person informal interview will be scheduled if necessary.



Nonprofit Association of Oregon
4800 S Macadam Ave. Ste 325
Portland, OR 97239
www.nonprofitoregon.org

POLICY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL APPLICATION

Name:	
Title:	
Organization:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Nonprofit Experience:	
Brief Biography (One Paragraph):	
I agree in good faith to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observe NAO's Public Policy Principles and Public Policy Action Areas.• Attend to the best of my ability the Policy Leadership Council meetings as scheduled.• Serve my two-year term upon appointment to the Policy Leadership Council.• Maintain NAO membership through a nonprofit organization.	
Please note any questions or share any disclosures:	
Signature:	Date:



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APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Why are you interested in serving in NAO's Policy Leadership Council and what experience do you have in nonprofit public policy activities?
2. Which public policies issues important to the health of the nonprofit sector are you the most interested in? *For example: grant and contracting reform, nonprofit wages, political activities, charitable deduction, etc.*
3. How would you handle a situation if recommendations from the Council to NAO were different from your personal recommendations?



NAO PUBLIC POLICY PRINCIPLES

GOALS

The Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO) prioritizes an ethical, accountable, and fair nonprofit sector. NAO strives to enhance the ability of Oregon's charitable nonprofits¹ to serve their missions, the people of Oregon, and our communities. We advocate with policy makers for the role of these nonprofits as drivers of thriving communities and the shared prosperity for our state. We support the ability of nonprofits to engage in advocacy and lobbying to the fullest extent allowed by law. We recognize the importance of the "Third Sector's" independence and the unique perspectives our sector brings to policy discussions.

PRINCIPLES

We believe that lives are enriched, and society thrives when all people have an opportunity to prosper. We believe that policy decisions should increase prosperity and result in greater equity.

- It is critical that state and federal spending policies prioritize programs that are demonstrating their promise and effectiveness in increasing economic mobility for all. We must safeguard and prioritize programs and services that increase equitable outcomes, increase health and stability and breakdown barriers to individual and community wellbeing.

We believe we should live in a society that upholds the rights of every individual and community.

- All people have the potential to be agents of renewal and innovation in their own lives, families, and community. As the state association for nonprofits, we are accountable to these individuals and communities. Federal, state and local government spending policies must help all to realize their potential, regardless of their ability or background.

We believe in the importance our communities place in private action for public good. We recognize the opportunity charitable giving and volunteering present for all.

- NAO advocates for policies that protects, strengthens, and encourages all those able to contribute to the charitable organizations of their choice by providing tax incentives for their gifts and volunteer service, removing tax obstacles to charitable gifts, and maximizing gifts from private foundations.

¹ When we refer to "nonprofits" we mean organizations that are exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We do not advocate on issues related to the agendas of various nonprofit subsectors. However, we do facilitate forums in which nonprofit organizations can engage each other in collaboration and discussion on issues important to subsectors.



We believe in the power of the partnership between government, private sector businesses and the charitable sector.

- A cornerstone strategy of our policy work is partnerships. We collaborate with and represent our members as well as a network of statewide, regional and national advocates, which include our private and public sector allies. Thoughtful and strategic collaboration across sectors is critical to advancing the common good and scaling important social change. Rigorous and respectful dialogue, with all voices represented and heard, must be a priority as policy decisions are made.

We believe that communities thrive when all people have a voice and an opportunity to be accurately and equitably included in discussions, forums and data that drive policy.

- Demographic and socioeconomic data from key governmental collection mechanisms should drive informed, inclusive, and effective decision-making. When the process and data themselves are representative of communities, they can assist nonprofits and other institutions in defining how to prioritize services, resources and investments.



PUBLIC POLICY ACTION AREAS

The Nonprofit Association of Oregon is a clear and consistent voice on a body of public policy positions. As the state association, NAO has advanced the understanding of emerging and critical issues that impact the nonprofit sector. NAO's expertise, credibility, membership support, timing and impact makes a difference for the charitable nonprofit sector and the missions they serve.

The following issues are public policy action areas where NAO will act at federal, state, and local levels, as well as with philanthropy and national organizations creating change:

1. Seek or support tax policies that strengthen and protect nonprofits legally and financially to enhance the ability to meet their mission while minimizing risks and liabilities.
2. Seek or support policies and administrative changes to improve the systems in which the government works with nonprofits to ensure better outcomes for all stakeholders. This includes procurements, contracts, grants, and federal or state-mandated audits as well as addressing conflicting statutes and regulations, specifically those that impact charitable nonprofits.
3. Seek or support policies that protect the decision-making autonomy, self-governance, and independence of nonprofits including the legal right to engage in advocacy and lobbying.
4. Seek or support policies and administrative changes that reduce barriers to entry for the nonprofit sector, especially for emerging organizations from culturally specific, underrepresented and/or underserved communities. This includes improving communication and coordination between government and nonprofit services and activities.
5. Seek or support meaningful public and private investments in the nonprofit sector. This includes resources for capacity building and technical assistance and encourages philanthropic contributions including but not limited to charitable giving and volunteerism.
6. Seek or support meaningful public investments that improve the lives of Oregonians served by both government and nonprofit sectors especially those from culturally specific and underrepresented and/or underserved communities.
7. Seek or support policies that strengthen and support the nonprofit workforce including but not limited to compensation, benefits, recruitment, and retention.
8. Seek or support policies that encourage collaboration and coordination among private, public and nonprofit sectors to improve the lives of all Oregonians including but not limited to responding to emergencies such as natural disasters, public health threats, civil unrest, and economic downturns.

TENTATIVE 2026 POLICY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 12

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 18

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday,
September 17

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, December 3