



80<sup>th</sup> OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
TASK FORCE ADDRESSING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HOME OWNERSHIP

## TASK FORCE OUTCOME GOAL RECOMMENDATION

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At the September 2019 meeting, staff asked the Task Force to consider setting a goal that would help identify needed resources and allow the tracking of progress towards addressing homeownership disparities. The Task Force discussed setting a percentage attainment or narrative goal for closing the gap and requested more information about homeownership rates and available data on different communities of color.

This document describes current homeownership data and proposes a goal for the Task Force's consideration on November 21, 2019.

### SUMMARY

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The proposed goal is that by 2040, households of color will have the same homeownership rates as white, non-Hispanic households.

### CURRENT HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES

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Homeownership rates gathered by the American Community Survey (ACS) show that rates are lower for communities of color in Oregon than for whites, as shown in Table 1. Based on the same ACS data, eliminating the gap in homeownership rates will require that an additional 63,842 households of color become homeowners. Currently there are approximately 1.6 million households in Oregon.

**Table 1. Oregon Homeownership Rates**

	Rate
American Indian / Alaskan Native	44.8%
Asian	59.4%
Black or African American	32.2%
Hispanic or Latino	40.8%
Native Hawaiian or Another Pacific Islander	33.4%
Other Races	40.6%
Two or More Races	46.4%
White, Not Hispanic or Latino	65.1%
Overall State Rate	61.1%

Source: LPRO with data from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey five-year estimates.

## Census and American Community Survey Data

Every ten years, the U.S. Constitution mandates the census be taken for the purpose of reapportionment within the House of Representatives. Between this decennial census, the U.S. Census Bureau also conducts the ACS. Data for the ACS is collected annually from different regions around the country. These data are compiled into the one- and five-year estimates. Data collected includes occupation, educational attainment, whether people rent or own the homes they live in, and other topics. This data is also used to promote equal employment opportunities and assess racial disparities.<sup>1</sup> Like the decennial census, responding truthfully is required by law.<sup>2</sup>

With both the decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS), the U.S. Census Bureau aggregates all persons into one of seven self-identified racial categories: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, Other, and Two or More Races. These categories are collected according to U.S. Office of Management and Budget guidelines.<sup>3</sup> As discussed previously by the Task Force, the Task Force's use of these racial categories is not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically, but reflect a social definition of race in this country. Like race, the U.S. Census Bureau also collects self-identified information on ethnicity.

The ACS five-year estimates aggregate information collected over five years to produce results the Census Bureau considers reliable for communities with populations of less than 20,000. While the ACS does oversample small communities, including reservation areas, there are concerns that certain populations, including American Indian or Alaska Native have been undercounted.<sup>4</sup>

*This document has been prepared by the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) for the Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Home Ownership. LPRO provides centralized, professional, and nonpartisan research, issue analysis, and committee management services for the Legislative Assembly.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>

<sup>2</sup> Title 18 U.S.C Section 3571 and 3559

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race.html>

<sup>4</sup> Norm DeWeaver. February 19, 2013. American Community Survey Data On the American Indian/Alaska Native Population: A Look behind the Numbers.