

April 4, 2019

Co-Chair Senator Betsy Johnson
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Co-Chair Representative Dan Rayfield
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon Legislature—State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of fully funding the Population Research Center (PRC) at Portland State University (PSU), a university statewide program, in House Bill (HB) 5024.

In my role as Managing Editor of the Oregon Blue Book, I have relied on PRC data for over 20 years to update the city populations, county populations and incorporated city rankings by population for the Oregon Blue Book, Local Governments section.

We also use their birth, death and marriage data along with their population research data to update the Oregon Blue Book Almanac section. To my knowledge, there is no other source for these data.

Since 1965, PRC has conducted demographic research specific to communities across Oregon. The center has also demonstrated a commitment to building collaborative relationships with counties, cities, school districts, and special districts through applied and analytical research. Recently, PRC expanded its statewide reach by supporting learning opportunities for students through the Graduate Certificate in Applied Social Demography. The only such program in Oregon, the graduate certificate trains students to tackle the complex issues and relationships between demographic change and its impact on Oregon's communities.

We strongly encourage you to support full funding of the Population Research Center (PRC) at PSU. Supporting the state's leading census research and training center will ensure that PRC can continue to make demographic information available to Oregonians, conduct demographic research that supports data-driven decision-making, and support PRC's work in ensuring a fair and accurate census enumeration in Oregon for Census 2020.

Sincerely,

Julie Yamaka, Managing Editor
Oregon Blue Book
Oregon Secretary of State, Archives Division
800 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97310