

I'd like to see the requested budgets passed for the OACO. Now more than ever before, Oregon has been forced to look at its ugly past, and in the last year, we've seen its shiny veneer of progressiveness begin to erode. Without proper research and data, underrepresented communities and women will have a difficult uphill battle fighting the systems of oppression the exist woven deep into the fabrics of our states past leadership of white men, whom are not that far removed from the generational white supremacy that came before them. I'm not one to follow politics to any depth, but I have spent over three months covering the protests in Portland. I spent days and nights interviewing, photographing, videotaping, and standing on the frontlines of peaceful protests that turned violent as the PPB & Federal Agents decided that the only way to communicate with the oppressed, was with oppression. What's even more disturbing is how many people support this oppression. I won't be naive though, most of people's beliefs are based on the information that's is put in front of them. My hope is the the OACO can become a support system for the underrepresented groups and provide a connection from the streets to the state house about what they need, and be able articulate those needs into actionable items to creat a more equitable and safe environment for us to live.