

FACTS ABOUT 2024 INITIATIVE PETITIONS FILED BY PORTLAND POLICE ASSOCIATION (PPA)

What is the Portland Police Association?

The Portland Police Association is the union representing police officers in the Portland Police Bureau. It has been one of the most powerful interest groups in the state for decades. Data shows that when the Portland police union fights disciplinary actions imposed on an officer, the union rarely loses. The Portland police union blocks disciplinary actions more successfully than many other police unions.

www.wweek.com/news/2023/02/08/when-the-portland-police-union-fights-disciplinary-action-against-a-cop-it-rarely-loses/

What would the police union's initiative petitions do?

The first initiative petition, PDX24OL-02, would create detox centers and increase the Portland Police Bureau's number of patrol officers and related social workers. Importantly, the petition only promotes social workers who work directly with police, thereby excluding non-police public safety teams like Portland Street Response.

The second initiative petition, PDX24OL-03, attempts to roll back the civilian-led Community Board for Police Accountability established by 82% of Portland voters via Ballot Measure 26-217. The petition seeks to revoke the essential authority and resources the oversight board needs to implement meaningful consequences for police officers who break the law or unjustly harm or kill people.

www.portland.gov/elections/2024-november-general-election-petition-and-measure-log

Why did ACLU of Oregon file a title challenge to PPA's initiative petition to roll back the civilian-led Community Board for Police Accountability?

Portland police have long underperformed in solving violent crimes, especially where the victims are Black or Latine, and have a lengthy history of racially disparate and harmful actions against Black and brown people. A sobering statistic: Portland police kill Black people at 3 times the rate of White people.

In 2020, 82% of Portland voters supported the creation of the civilian-led Community Board for Police Accountability in order to create necessary accountability for Portland police, which the City has been unable to accomplish for decades.

With PDX24OL-03, the police union is attempting to strip the oversight board of its ability to implement meaningful consequences for police officers who break the law or unjustly harm or kill people.

We are asking the court to ensure that the title of the ballot measure is fair and accurate. We believe that with fairness and accuracy, Portland voters will reject this initiative petition at the ballot box.

FACTS ABOUT 2024 INITIATIVE PETITIONS FILED BY PORTLAND POLICE ASSOCIATION (PPA)

Why did ACLU of Oregon file legal challenges to the police union's initiative petition to increase patrol officers and social workers, etc.?

With petition PDX24OL-02, the police union seeks to increase their sway and involvement in non-criminal community matters by increasing the number of patrol officers and increasing funding and hiring for social workers, but only those who work with police, thereby excluding non-police public safety teams like Portland Street Response (PSR).

Many Portlanders strongly support proven solutions to public safety, including detox centers as the initiative addresses and non-police safety programs like PSR, which the initiative appears to address at first glance but actually does not. PPA's political strategy appears to involve leveraging the popularity of non-police programs to mislead voters into supporting the interests of the union and its police members. Oregonians deserve proven public safety solutions, not political tricks.

We are asking the court to ensure a ballot title that fully and fairly informs the voters about the choices before them and to protect the public's right to make each of those choices – about police investments and public health investments – independently as the Oregon Constitution requires: one subject, one vote.

DATA ABOUT PORTLAND POLICE FROM 2013-2021

- Overall unsolved homicide rate was almost 58%.
- For homicides involving White victims, unsolved rate was 27%; for Black victims, 37%; for Latine victims, 42%.
- Year after year, more likely to stop & search Black and Latine drivers compared to White drivers.
- Killed Black people at 3 times the rate of White people.
- Arrested Black people for low-level offenses 4.3 times more than White people.

<https://policescorecard.org/or/police-department/portland-bureau#>

JUSTICE FOR IMMANUEAL "MANNY" CLARK

- On Nov. 19, 2022, Portland officer Christopher Sathoff fired an AR-15 three times, shooting Clark in the back as he was running away.
- When Sathoff shot Clark, police were looking for White burglary suspects. Clark was Black and unarmed.
- Police left Clark on a concrete parking lot, writhing in pain and bleeding out, for 26 minutes before providing any medical attention.
- Clark, a beloved son and brother, died of his gunshot wounds.

www.opb.org/article/2024/03/07/portland-oregon-police-lawsuit-deadly-shooting-force-guns-unarmed-immanueal-manny-clark/