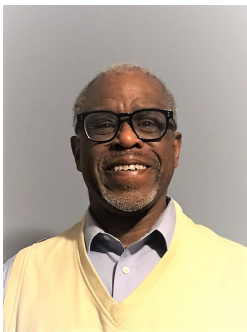




May 7, 2020 Portland Mayoral Debate: Meet the Panelists Who Will Hold the Candidates Accountable



Tony Jones
Coalition of Black Men



Andrea Valderrama
Coalition of
Communities of Color



Rosa Martinez
LatinoBuilt



Andrew Colas
NAMC-Oregon



James Alan Parker
Native American Chamber



Joe McFerrin II
POIC + RAHS

Organization Statements

May 7, 2020 Mayoral Debate

Andrew Colas, NAMC-OR: "This debate is a unique opportunity for candidates to lay out their plans to promote economic prosperity for businesses owned by people of color (POC). Companies of all sizes drive our economy, but the diversity that is documented throughout levels of management and the support shown to other small businesses by businesses owned by people of color outpaces that of majority-owned firms. That leadership is vital, and a Mayor who understands and can effectively collaborate with us will lead to better outcomes for all our communities."

James Parker, ONAC: "Public policy played a major role in creating the inequities that make POC communities and businesses more vulnerable to our current crisis, public policy must now play a role in correcting those injustices."

Marcus Mundy, Coalition of Communities of Color: "The Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) supports a cross cultural racial justice effort to improve outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color through policy analysis and advocacy, environmental justice, culturally-appropriate data and research, and leadership development. We envision our communities obtaining self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity. Selecting a Mayor for Portland who embraces these same values, and meaningfully engages BIPOC communities, is essential for fulfilling our mission. Leadership matters."

Rosa Martinez, LatinoBuilt: "Latinos make up a large/sizable percentage of the contractor workforce and play a crucial role across many trades associated with the building/construction/industry. This debate is essential to the progress of our Latino contractors as well as the entire contractor community at large. So we are very interested in learning what each candidate's plans are concerning the following areas: 1) Construction Contractor Equity, 2) Workforce Training and Hiring Policies, and 3) Empower and Support the voices of Latinos."

Joe McFerrin II, POIC: "Given the Covid-19 crisis, this debate will be an opportunity to hear what will be done to address the reality that when a catastrophe hits, the data historically indicates that African Americans suffer disproportionately to any other group. I'm eager to hear the candidates' plans on how they'll work with CBOs and agencies on the front lines to mitigate what this pandemic has brought, specifically around public safety, violence prevention, and recreation."

Tony Jones, Coalition of Black Men: "Political engagement is critical for Black communities. We must understand how our prospective elected officials' strategies align with our vision. Participation in the election process and ongoing, meaningful integration in policy development is the most important and impactful thing we can do for our communities."