

*Janelle Bynum is a vocal critic of Oregon police officers and a supporter of the Defund the Police movement. In the wake of deadly riots, Bynum worked to prohibit the police from arresting criminals, including burglars. Local police then blamed Bynum's legislation for preventing their response to deadly riots.*

## **CRITICAL OF OREGON POLICE**

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**In June 2020, Bynum Wrote A Letter To *The Oregonian* Saying Since She Came To The Legislature “We Passed Historic Racial Equity Legislation, Most Notably A Bill To Track And Hold Police Accountable For Racial Profiling.”** “Historically, the Oregon Legislature has been overwhelmingly white. That dynamic began to shift in 2017, when the Oregon State Legislature ushered in its largest class of freshman legislators of color in history. There were six of us joining a team of two established African American lawmakers. Reps. Teresa Alonso Leon, Diego Hernandez, Janelle Bynum, Mark Meek and Tawna Sanchez landed in the House. Sen. James Manning, Jr. joined Sens. Jackie Winters and Lew Frederick in the Senate. Full of hope and optimism, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. We passed historic racial equity legislation, most notably a bill to track and hold police accountable for racial profiling.” (Janelle Bynum, Lew Frederick and Akasha Lawrence Spence, “Not A Reset, But A New Beginning For Oregon,” *The Oregonian*, 6/21/20)

**In The 2020 Session, Lawmakers Of Colors Said It Felt “Historic” To Act On Anti-Racist Police Reforms, With Bynum Saying “We Were...Uninterested In The ‘Least Worst’ Option” On Police Reform.** “But lawmakers of color said it felt historic for the Legislature to act on anti-racist police reforms period, particularly given the bipartisan unity with which it did so. And they said it will be important to take the time to develop legislation that will achieve deeper and more meaningful changes in policing. A House-Senate committee will soon begin developing those proposals for the Legislature to take up in 2021. ‘We were ... uninterested in the ‘least worst’ option,’ Rep. Janelle Bynum said last week, explaining why the People of Color caucus chose to drop a proposal to put the state attorney general, rather than local districts attorneys, in charge of investigating police use-of-force cases. ‘We want a quality framework for moving forward that won’t backfire on us years down the road.’” (Hillary Borrud, “After Success With Police Bills, Leaders Look To Budget Legislative Session,” *The Oregonian*, 6/28/20)

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**Janelle Bynum**  
July 29, 2020 · 🌐

I'm so glad yesterday is over because today is filled with promise. My husband always draws the curtains at night and opens them in the morning to remind himself of this.

Today is an opportunity to hear the first of the 6 new police transparency bills. I am eager to hear if we came close to addressing public concerns or if we completely missed the mark. I'm ok with solid feedback. What I'm not ok with is the people who are trying to stymie progress. The foot dragging. The analysis paralysis. The fear that sets in when new voices are at the table. I'm seeing that and I'm getting the sense that once again, higher powers are going to ask us to wait for justice. Must be nice to be so comfortable.

Nevertheless, I will continue to show up, do the work, and attempt to be the best person I can be. Not perfect- but genuine and driven.

I hope today brings each of you something special. Happy Hump Day!

PS. Thank you to everyone who sent a kind message of encouragement yesterday. I couldn't respond to all of them yet, but I want to thank you for helping me get through a rough patch. We need each other.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/.../new-polling-shows-most...>



OREGONLIVE.COM  
New polling shows most Oregonians support Black Lives Matter, many don't approve of the job their local police are doing

(Janelle Bynum, [Facebook](#), 7/29/20)

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**SUPPORTED BILLS THAT FUNDED DEFUND-THE-POLICE IDEAS**

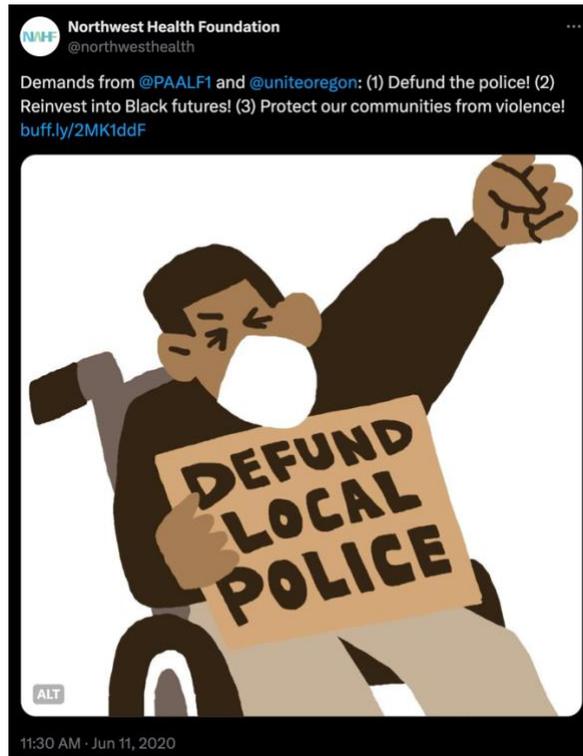
**In 2021, Bynum Sponsored And Voted For H.B. 2002.** (H.B. 2002, Bynum Voted Yes On Passage Through Judiciary Committee, 4/13/21, [Oregon State Legislature](#). Accessed 5/14/24)

- **H.B. 2002 Included Appropriating “\$1,500,000, For Distribution To The Northwest Health Foundation Fund II For Deposit Into The Reimagine Safety Fund.”** “In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$1,500,000, for distribution to the Northwest Health Foundation Fund II for deposit into the Reimagine Safety Fund.” (H.B. 2002, “Engrossed Text,” [Oregon State Legislature](#), Accessed 5/14/24)

**In 2021, Bynum Voted For H.B. 5006.** (H.B. 5006, Bynum Voted Yes, 6/26/21, [Oregon State Legislature](#), Accessed 5/14/24)

- **H.B. 5006 Allocated \$1,500,000, For Distribution To The Northwest Health Foundation Fund II For Researching Ways To Ensure Equitable Outcomes In Public Safety, Educating Impacted Communities About The Current Public Safety System And Providing A Community-Driven Process To Produce Recommendations To The Legislative Assembly For Public Safety Reform.** “SECTION 153. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$1,500,000, for distribution to the Northwest Health Foundation Fund II for researching ways to ensure equitable outcomes in public safety, educating impacted communities about the current public safety system and providing a community-driven process to produce recommendations to the Legislative Assembly for public safety reform.” (H.B. 5006 Enrolled Text, [Oregon State Legislature](#), Accessed 5/22/24)
  - **According To Fair Shot For All Oregon, H.B. 5006 Allocated “\$1.5 million To The Reimagine Safety Fund, A Black Community-led Workgroup That Will Develop Community Safety Alternatives.”** “Thanks to legislative leaders like Speaker of the House Tina Kotek, Rep. Janelle Bynum, and members of Oregon's BIPOC Caucus, we were able to secure the following funding and policy changes in HB 2002 through other avenues: ... HB 5006 also allocates \$1.5 million to the Reimagine Safety Fund, a Black community-led workgroup that will develop community safety alternatives.” (“Transforming Justice,” [Fair Shot For All](#), Accessed 5/17/24)
  - **According To The Preliminary Budget Report And Measure Summary Of H.B. 5006, The \$1.5 Million Allocation For The Northwest Health Foundation II, Was For Public Safety Reform Activities.** “The Subcommittee approved various one-time General Fund appropriations to the Department of Administrative Services to make grants for the following purposes: ... \$1,500,000 for disbursement to the Northwest Health Foundation II for public safety reform activities.” (Joint Committee On Ways And Means, “H.B. 5006 BUDGET REPORT and MEASURE SUMMARY,” [Oregon State Legislature](#), Accessed 5/22/24)

**The Northwest Health Foundation Posted A Tweet Promoting The Defund The Police Movement.** “Demands from @PAALF1 and @uniteoregon (1) Defund the police! (2) Reinvest into Black futures! (3) Protect our communities from violence!” (Northwest Health Foundation, [Twitter](#), 6/11/20)



(Northwest Health Foundation, [Twitter](#), 6/11/20)

- **The Northwest Health Foundation Posted A Tweet Promoting Helping Portland To “Rethink Police Accountability.”** (Northwest Health Foundation, [Twitter](#), 3/20/21)



(Northwest Health Foundation, [Twitter](#), 3/20/21)

## SUPPORTED BILLS THAT INHIBIT POLICE OFFICERS

**In 2021, Bynum Sponsored And Voted In Support Of Legislation Prohibiting Police Officers From Stopping Drivers For Minor Traffic Violations And Prohibited Arrests For Crimes Including Trespass And Theft. The Bill Was Praised By Defund The Police Groups And Caused Police To Question The Implications Of The Bill Creating “Real Safety Risks” For Oregonians**

**In 2021, Bynum Sponsored And Voted In Support Of Legislation Prohibiting Police Officers From Stopping Drivers For Minor Traffic Violations.** (HB2002, Bynum Voted Yes “[Oregon State Legislature](#),” Accessed 5/14/24)

**In May 2021, The Oregon Legislature Considered A Bill To Restrict Police From Stopping Motorists For A Broken Light And Require Officers To Cite A Reason For A Traffic Stop.** “A bill gaining traction in the Legislature goes even further to reform police work than

a bipartisan legislative package that already has won approval. It would restrict police from stopping motorists for a broken light and require officers to identify themselves to motorists and cite a reason for a traffic stop, among other changes. Backed by leading Black lawmakers and criminal justice change advocates, House Bill 2002 is the latest proposal this session that would make significant changes to policing.” (Noelle Crombie, “Black Lawmakers Push For Bill To Limit Arrests, Traffic Stops,” *The Oregonian*, 5/2/21)

- **Bynum Was Noted As Sponsoring The Police Legislation, Which Would Also Prohibit Arrests For Crimes Including Criminal Trespassing, And Second/Third Degree Theft.** “Among its other provisions: Police would be prohibited from making arrests for about 20 misdemeanor crimes, including criminal trespassing, second and third-degree theft and interfering with public transportation. The bill has the support of House Speaker Tina Kotek, as well the Black, Indigenous and People of Color caucus in the Legislature. A number of community organizations whose missions target racial inequality in Oregon, such as the Coalition of Communities of Color and Red Lodge Transition Services, also endorse the bill. Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Clackamas, chair of the House Judiciary Committee and a chief sponsor of the legislation, said that groundswell of grassroots support sets the bill apart. ‘One of the criticisms I often have is progressives, while well-meaning, have control of the conversation and have been willing to make trade-offs or kill policies that were very important to us and now we are seeing the conversation being led by us and pushed by us and supported by our colleagues,’ she said.” (Noelle Crombie, “Black Lawmakers Push For Bill To Limit Arrests, Traffic Stops,” *The Oregonian*, 5/2/21)

**FOX NEWS HEADLINE: “Dem House Candidate Introduced ‘Soft-On-Crime’ Bill Backed By Defund-Police Groups: ‘Slap In The Face’”** (Andrew Miller, “Dem House Candidate Introduced ‘Soft-On-Crime’ Bill Backed By Defund-Police Groups: ‘Slap In The Face,’” [Fox News](#), 5/23/24)

- **The Soft On Crime Legislation Was Backed By Defund The Police Groups.** “The bill was put forward ‘at the request of’ progressive groups who called for police defunding that included Partnership for Safety and Justice, Latino Network, Coalition of Communities of Color, Central City Concern, Red Lodge Transition Services, Bridges to Change, Sponsors, Inc, OCDLA, and ACLU of Oregon. Several of these groups have openly advocated for defunding the police, including the Latino Network, whose executive director has previously said, ‘We stand in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters, and individuals on the call to defund the police and for the increased investment in black communities.’ ‘DEFUND THE POLICE!’ Imagine Black, another group that supported the bill, previously stated, adding, ‘we have concluded that nothing short of police and prison abolition is sufficient.’” (Andrew Miller, “Dem House Candidate Introduced ‘Soft-On-Crime’ Bill Backed By Defund-Police Groups: ‘Slap In The Face,’” [Fox News](#), 5/23/24)

**This Legislation Was Questioned By Police, Sheriffs And Prosecutors About The Implications To Create “Real Safety Risks” For Oregonians.** “But Police, sheriffs and prosecutors have raised questions about the bill's implications for public safety. In a joint letter to lawmakers this month, they said the bill ‘makes sweeping changes to the public safety system from initial stop, to arrest, to the sentence and to probation ... all without, in our opinion, the thoughtful exchange necessary to ensure these reform driven measures don't result in unintended impacts and real safety risks to Oregonians.’” (Noelle Crombie, “Black Lawmakers Push For Bill To Limit Arrests, Traffic Stops,” *The Oregonian*, 5/2/21)

**CBS HEADLINE (VIDEO): “Portland Police Blame Police Legislation For Protest Damage”** (CBS News, “Portland Police Blame Police Legislation For Protest Damage,” [YouTube](#), 10/21/21)

**In June 2020, The Oregon Legislature Passed Legislation Strengthening Police Accountability And Limiting The Use Of Chokeholds And Tear Gas**

**In June 2020, The Oregon Legislature Passed Legislation Strengthening Police Accountability And Limiting The Use Of Chokeholds And Tear Gas.** “After just three days of work, however, they went home Friday having passed six bills to strengthen police accountability and limit the use of chokeholds and tear gas. They also approved 16 other policy and housekeeping

bills, many of which also contained provisions aimed at improving equity. Many lawmakers acknowledged the police bills were just a start and much more work is needed to promote racial justice and nonviolent policing. Some of the legislation will merely bring state law in line with policies or practices already in place at some law enforcement agencies, including the Portland Police Bureau.” (Hillary Borrud, “After Success With Police Bills, Leaders Look To Budget Legislative Session,” *The Oregonian*, 6/28/20)

### **In 2021, Bynum Sponsored And Voted In Support Of Legislation Prohibiting Police Officers From Stopping Drivers For Minor Traffic Violations**

**In 2021, Bynum Sponsored And Voted In Support Of Police Reform Legislation, Regulating The Use Of Tools By Law Enforcement Agencies.** (HB 2928, Bynum Voted Yes “[Oregon State Legislature](#),” Accessed 5/14/24)

- **“House Bill 2928 Would Further Regulate The Use Of Tear Gas, Pepper Spray, Less-Lethal Munitions And Sound Devices In Crowd Control Situations.”** “House Bill 2928 would further regulate the use of tear gas, pepper spray, less-lethal munitions and sound devices in crowd control situations. This builds off bills passed during special legislative sessions last year. The bill would also remove immunity for law enforcement agencies arising out of riot situations, allowing the public to sue if they received injuries resulting from improper use of regulated crowd-control devices.” (Connor “House Panel Focuses On Police Accountability; New Subcommittee Created For 2021 Session,” *Statesman Journal*, 2/24/21)

### **In October 2021, Portland Police Cited The Legislation Limiting Tear Gas Usage As Preventing Them From Responding From Riots In Portland, Leading To An Estimated \$500,000 In Damages**

**In October 2021, Portland Police Cited The Legislation Passed In April 2021 As Preventing Them From Responding From Riots In Portland, Leading To An Estimated \$500,000 In Damages.** “After a group of 100 vandals smashed windows and left graffiti on dozens of buildings in downtown Portland on Tuesday, causing an estimated \$500,000 in repairs, a Portland police lieutenant told Pearl District residents a new state law prevents them from intervening in these instances. Officers were called to respond citywide, and all but the highest priority life safety 911 calls were left to hold so officers could be dispatched, according to PPB. Portland Police Lt. Jake Jensen told residents in the Pearl District during a neighborhood meeting on Thursday evening that a new police reform law in Oregon — HB 2928 — dramatically limits their options to intervene during protests and declared unlawful assemblies and riots.” (“PPB: New State Law Has ‘Potential Implications’ With Protest Intervention,” [KOIN 6](#), 10/15/21)

- **Portland Police Association Executive Director Daryl Turner: “When Officers Can't Use Chemical, Impact And Sound Devices For Crowd Control, Portland Police Officers ‘Can't Do Our Job.’”** “When asked about what transpired on Tuesday night, Portland Police Association Executive Director Daryl Turner told KOIN 6 News there has been no clear communication from the City of Portland in regards to how officers should respond as a result of the legislation. When officers can’t use chemical, impact and sound devices for crowd control, Portland police officers ‘can’t do our job,’ Turner told KOIN 6 News. ‘And then we get blamed for not doing our job correctly when things don’t work out the way they should work out.’ Bynum told KOIN 6 News if the City of Portland has an urgent problem with the law, they need to say so, but at this point, they have not.” (“PPB: New State Law Has ‘Potential Implications’ With Protest Intervention,” [KOIN 6](#), 10/15/21)