



ECR ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

East Multnomah County residents have been historically disengaged and underrepresented in local elections. In the aftermath of the 2016 Presidential election there was a widespread sentiment among community members that there must be an organizing body to cultivate the power of the people in order to stand up for our values and our communities. **For far too long, our community has been underrepresented in the halls of power.**

East County Rising was created to provide community and electoral organizing opportunities for residents to partake in issue-based electoral and campaign work. Our goal is to transform east county. We are achieving that goal by educating and mobilizing voters, training progressive candidates, and working with elected officials to pass meaningful policy that improves east county. We've made some great strides in a short time.

BACKGROUND:

East County Rising began in Spring 2018 with the purpose of elevating the values and priorities of residents in east county. We are comprised of over **500+ dues paying members** that believe in the power of collective organizing.

We ran exciting and successful Gresham City Council races last November for Eddy Morales and Councilor Mario Palmero. In six weeks, we were able to mobilize thousands of first-time and inactive voters who felt inspired and excited to see younger and diverse voices.

Below are our accomplishments from July 2018 to today.

- **2018 Midterm Election**
 - Knocked on over 15,000 doors
 - Texted over 17,000 voters
 - Called over 4,000 voters
 - Mobilized a **historic number of voters** in east county, resulting in higher voter turnout than even President Obama's election in 2008
 - Coordinated two successful Gresham City Council campaigns:

- Councilor Eddy Morales (which included a ballot chase that secured a win for Eddy in an incredibly close race)
 - Councilor Mario Palmero
- Assisted eight other candidates in their campaign efforts:
 - Congressman Earl Blumenauer
 - Oregon Governor Kate Brown
 - State Representative Chris Gorsek
 - State Representative Carla Piluso
 - State Representative Anna Williams
 - State Representative Janelle Bynum
 - State Representative Diego Hernandez
 - Crissy Reitz for State Senate
- Ran five successful ballot measure initiatives
 - Yes on 102 for affordable housing
 - No on 103 which would have put a permanent loophole in our constitution for special interests
 - No on 104, which would have amended our state constitution to create permanent legislative gridlock
 - No on 105 to protect Oregon's anti-racial profiling law
 - No on 106 to prevent a backdoor abortion ban

In our efforts to keep the momentum, we set our sights on school board races for Gresham-Barlow, Reynolds, Centennial, David Douglas, and Mt. Hood Community College in the 2019 May Special election. We believe school board races are an opportunity to continue engaging our electorate and effectively transforming the face of leadership at a local level. We primarily support candidates of color, young candidates, and women, by providing the tools and technical support to run a successful campaign.

- **2019 Special Election for School Boards**

- Assisted 11 candidates in 5 districts (10 of whom won!) to run for office
 - Ana Gonzalez Munoz, Reynolds School Board
 - Ricki Ruiz, Reynolds School Board
 - Yesenia Delgado, Reynolds School Board
 - Sumitra Chhetri, Centennial School Board
 - Sahar Yarjani Muranovic, David Douglas School Board
 - Dr. Mayra Gomez, Gresham-Barlow School Board
 - Amanda Orozco-Beach, Gresham-Barlow School Board
 - Courtney Helstein, Mt. Hood Community College
 - Dr. LaVerne Lewis, Mt. Hood Community College
 - Kenney Polson, Mt. Hood Community College
 - Andrew Speer, Mt. Hood Community College

- To support the candidates we endorsed, East County Rising:
 - Provided a two-day training sessions where candidates can increase their knowledge about the campaign process and meet other like-minded candidates
 - Collaborated with Andie Petkus to provide free headshots for each candidate
 - Provided technical assistance, troubleshooting and advising throughout the election cycle
 - Supported candidates in creating their print and online media
 - Assisted candidates in hosting fundraising events, canvassing efforts, endorsements, funds, and insights on field
 - Hosted ECR-coordinated canvasses where the candidates could come and speak to volunteers and build partnerships with other candidates
- Collectively we helped these candidates:
 - Send out over 17,000 mailers and postcards with the help of Congressman **Earl Blumenauer** and **Nasty Women Get Shit Done PDX**
 - Knock on over 3,000 doors in order to talk with the families, students, staff, and teachers
 - Form a collaborative & supportive bond with the other candidates, ensuring that they are able to support each other across school boards to enact progressive, student- and staff-centered change

LOOKING AHEAD:

2020 Elections

- We're excited to carry the momentum forward into the next election cycle! We will be endorsing and supporting progressive candidates (local, state, and federal) who share our values and are invested in making transformational change for the residents of east county.
 - We're particularly focused on several Gresham City Council seats which are up for re-election and are currently held by conservative individuals who are not representative of the diversity of our community.

ECR 501(c)(3) & Civic Engagement

After the 2018 midterm election, we quickly realized that some of our civic engagement work would be better pursued through a 501(c)(3) than through a PAC. In January 2019, we launched East County Rising Community Projects under the auspices of East Metro Arts & Culture Council (EMACC).

MISSION:

East County Rising Community Projects is building power through community organizing that centers underrepresented people.

VISION:

A vibrant, sustainable community with equitable opportunities and access to power.

SUCSESSES:

Rockwood 10

In early 2019, we collaborated with Community Development Partners and Hacienda CDC to host a series of community sessions to inform East County residents about a proposed **224-unit affordable housing development in Rockwood** and to receive their input.

To raise awareness and support, we conducted a full engagement campaign where we collected over 100 letters of support, knocked on hundreds of doors, and worked with a diverse network of community partners to gather support for the Design Commission hearing at Gresham City Hall. At that meeting, the Commission ultimately decided to approve the permit for the Rockwood 10/South Rockwood Park housing development.

Transportation Forum

We held the first of a series of transportation forums at the Rosewood Initiative in May 2019. **Congressman Earl Blumenauer, TriMet General Manager Doug Kelsey, Commissioner Lori Stegmann, and Gresham City Councilor Eddy Morales** spoke on issues related to transportation concerns and took questions from the audience. This event was in conjunction with a community fair with representatives from the following local organizations: PBOT, TriMet, Safe Routes to School, Getting There Together Coalition, Bus Riders Unite, and Oregon Walks.

Gresham City Council Committee & Commission Info Session

After raising concerns that appointments to Gresham City Council Citizen Advisory Committees were monolithic and failed to represent the community they serve, Councilors Eddy Morales and Mario Palmero coordinated with East County Rising to host a community info session to help people understand how to get involved in city

committees and commissions at the Rockwood Library on July 14, 2019. Twenty members of the community attended, and we have plans to hold similar events going forward when seats are going to be open.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Heather Booth: Changing the World Film Screening

- Changemaker panel facilitated by Portland Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, including Heather Booth, Representative Tawna Sanchez, APANO executive director Chi Nguyen, and Oregon Working Families Party State Director Sydney Scout
- *Heather Booth: Changing the World Film Screening*
- Q & A with Heather after the screening
- Date: September 28
- Learn more [here](#).

Organizer training summit facilitated by Midwest Academy

- The organizing summit is a collaborative effort between organizational partners (like OPAL, APANO, PCUN, Planned Parenthood, NARAL, Oregon Working Families Party, and others, with a focus on POC organizers & organizations).
- Date: December 2019, specific dates TBD soon

2020 Census

- East County Rising is part of a people of color-led and emerging table of organizational leaders who want to build the political power of communities of color. Along with 15+ organizations, we were tasked with working on the Oregon Census 2020 Equity Project to ensure that communities of color and geographically-isolated communities are counted. The community we are seeking to serve is the vulnerable, “hard to count” that are at higher risk of being undercounted.
- Dates: Feb 2020 - September 2020.

Parks & Recreation

- We've partnered with EMACC, Friends of Nadaka, and other local organizations to ensure that there is ongoing support and funding for parks and recreation in East County. We are hosting a series of stakeholders convenings, the first of which were held on August 22nd and August 25th, to gather input to better convey the narrative of how better park investment can benefit residents and community partners alike.
- The first phase of this project is working in a coalition of organizations to help spread the word and gain support for renewing the Nature for All Metro bond in November 2019.

- Leveraging this engagement, we'll launch a campaign to have Gresham City Council fund a feasibility study assessing the possibility of establishing a parks district in east Multnomah County (including neighboring cities such as Fairview & Wood Village.)
- Dates: August 2019-November 2020

Affordable Housing

- We will be supporting ongoing engagement around Rockwood 10/South Rockwood Park groundbreaking, including community efforts to solicit local input regarding art for the building, deciding on a name of the project, and identifying potential tenants.
- Dates: August 2019 - December 2019

2020 Census

- East County Rising is part of a People of Color-led and emerging (c)(4) table of organizational leaders who want to build the political power of communities of color.
- Along with 15+ organizations, we were tasked with working on the statewide #WeCountOregon campaign to ensure that communities of color and geographically-isolated communities are counted.

Help us continue doing this work to **engage, energize and elevate** our diverse community in east county!

Support Our Elections Work

You can help us elect leaders that reflect the residents who live here and share our values by funding our campaign efforts, such as door-knocking, phone banking, and more!

<https://secure.c-esystems.com/eastcountyrising/donation.aspx>

Support Our 501(c)(3) Community Engagement Work

Help east county rise by donating to our efforts around housing, parks & recreation, transportation, training & leadership development, and a complete, equitable 2020 Census count.

Please contact Kaj Jensen, our Membership & Donor Director: kaj@eastcountyrising.com for more details on how to give.