

..... EDUCATE YOURSELF .....

1. Educate yourself and others about the justice system with special focus on historically marginalized groups, crimmigration and LGBTQ history. Read books such as *Just Mercy* and *The New Jim Crow* and learn from documentaries such as *13<sup>th</sup>*. Subscribe to The Marshall Project's email news roundup to get daily updates on criminal justice issues.



2. Stay informed about local policies, ordinances, changes to the charter, budget appropriations, upcoming hearings and bargaining around the police union contract.

3. Attend conferences and events that have been sponsored by community partners. Learn about and support intersectionality to build power as well as avoid making progress at the expense of another group.

4. Support investigative journalism. Seek out alternative analysis behind fearmongering use of statistics. Track issues, read up on why it is important to reform the entire system of over-incarceration, not just the so-called "nons" (non violent/non serious/non sexual offenses.)

5. Know your rights. When an officer contacts you ask, "Am I free to go?" When police ask to pat you down, look in the trunk of your car, or question you, do not consent without a lawyer.



..... PARTICIPATE .....

6. Register and vote. Vote on down-ballot races. Read up on the powers and platforms of local candidates. Seek ballot measure information from a nonprofit organization you trust before voting. Many Oregonians now regret voting in favor of mandatory minimum sentencing ballot measures.



7. Run for office. Enroll in a candidate training program to prepare yourself. Here in Oregon, several programs exist, including those provided by Emerge Oregon, the Oregon Labor Candidate School, The Bus Project, and Amplify.



8. Show up informed for jury duty. Educate yourself on forensic science advances before you do.



9. Dismantle white supremacy and hate speech. Check your privilege. Intervene if you witness bullying or intimidation. Ensure those most impacted are front-and-center in decision making.

10. Vote your pocket book by supporting companies and financial institutions that share your values. The purchasing decisions you make every day do impact the issues you care about.



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# actions you can take now

## ..... BUILD COMMUNITY .....

11. Get involved and join local criminal justice reform organizations (see the resource list on page 23) and find out which campaigns you can plug into. Offer your skill sets. Mobilize a group around a specific criminal justice reform issue at the local level.

13. Stop calling the police. Find alternative dispute resolution techniques where possible for non-emergencies.

14. Donate to criminal justice reform organizations. If you believe that mass incarceration is wrong, show your much-needed support for those who are working to end it.



15. Examine your philosophies around parenting and punishment. Develop your conflict resolution skills. Get involved at local schools and help to establish or expand restorative justice programs.

12. Learn about trauma and acknowledge that people deserve to be given second chances. Don't judge someone solely on the worst thing they ever did in life. Write to an incarcerated person. Visit someone. Hire a formerly incarcerated person. Rent to a formerly incarcerated person.



Photo by Flickr user drburtoni



## ..... SPEAK OUT .....



16. Contact your local elected officials regularly and identify yourself as a constituent, request a meeting, attend and speak out at hearings, town halls, and constituent coffee events.

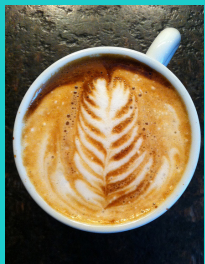


Photo by Flickr user Alison and Fil

17. Record and report unfair treatment by police and immigration officials. Download the ACLU's Mobile Justice app to your phone so you are ready.

19. Protest and speak out, organize, write, retweet, share, repost social media posts, sign petitions, write op-eds and letters to the editor, comment on articles published online.



18. Stop using words such as "felon" or "convict" which carry lifelong negative connotations. Instead, use "people-first" terms such as "formerly incarcerated person". Language matters.

20. Follow your tax dollars. Take an assessment of how many diversion opportunities and community supports exist in your neighborhood. Bring the number up when attending budget hearings. Join oversight committees, budget advisory committees and public watchdog groups.