

Recreational marijuana use is legal in Oregon beginning July 1.

WHAT'S LEGAL?

Educate Before You Recreate

Learn more about the limits of the new law and educate before you recreate: whatslegaloregon.com

County Budget Fights Disparities

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith is applauding passage of a new county budget that increases support for families in crisis and fights economic disparities.



Loretta Smith

The fiscal year 2016 budget was approved last week and represents the county's most aggressive interventions against poverty and socioeconomic disparities, Smith said. Citing the leadership of Chair Deborah Kafoury, she added "Your beliefs and care for the people of Multnomah County are boldly enshrined in this budget."

Smith won a budget amendment to fund a Promise Neighborhoods Initiative for \$2 million, a \$1 million increase for a new and unprecedented investment in youth and families in crisis with an assortment of wraparound services in an effort to create stronger, sustainable communities.

"We can't be timid in addressing epidemics that are leaving families destitute and hopeless," said Smith, "especially in communities where those disparities are sometimes two and three fold."

Smith also cited approval of \$500,000 to support a Portland Development Commission initia-

tive that will launch an inclusive start-up fund focused on mentoring and access to early-stage capital for Portland based firms with diverse founding teams; \$250,000 to support individuals experiencing mental health crises and the expansion of affordable housing units; and \$75,000 expansion of a senior hunger initiative at culturally specific meal sites to provide meals five days a week

"We've accomplished some great things here today to help individuals and families in need. This is the reason I get up every morning - to advocate and assist the residents of Multnomah County," said Smith.

Where passion meets hiring.



At Brooks, hiring is our passion. We're experts in finding the best match for your staffing need: the candidate with the right skill set, who complements your company culture and accomplishes your short-term and long-term goals.



Let our passion serve your purpose. Contact us at sales@sbrooks.com or 503.284.7930

We are members of these organizations:



RESPONSIVE

COLLABORATIVE

DIVERSE

Relevant Experience

- Light Industrial
- Manufacturing
- Administrative Support
- Project Management Support
- Accounting
- Professional
- Non-profit, public and private sectors

Firm Est. 1981 | Principals

Samuel Brooks, Chief Executive Officer
Simone Brooks, President
Margaret Brooks, Executive Vice President

1130 NE Alberta, Portland, OR 97211 | O: 503.284.7930 F: 503.284.7977 | sbrooks.com



Rep. Lew Frederick of Portland and other supporters of a new minority contracting law join Oregon Gov. Kate Brown for a signing ceremony in the governor's office.

Minority Contracting Bill Signed

Oregon has two new laws to protect the integrity of programs that provide access to public contracts for minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small businesses.

Gov. Kate Brown signed House Bill 2716 last week requiring a firm that uses MWESB certification as part of an application for a contract to maintain that certification for the entire term of the contract. The bill was spon-

sored by Rep. Lew Frederick of Portland.

The second law, Senate Bill 584 allows agencies that detect fraud in using these programs to take enforcement actions.

"Minority contractors are just looking for an opportunity to grow their businesses by landing and performing work," Frederick said. "These bills give us some tools to make sure these programs do what they were meant to do."

Advertise with diversity in The Portland Observer
 Call 503-288-0033 or email ads@portlandobserver.com