

# Espousal Strategies Welcomes New Director

Shannon Singleton, Interim Director of the Joint Office of Housing Services today announced she is joining Espousal Strategies, a Black-Owned government, community and public affairs firm with a focus on equity, inclusion, issue lobbying and coalition building. She will be the firm's Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy. Singleton chose not to pursue the Joint Office director position full-time; her last day is Nov. 25.

Espousal Strategies Founder/President Johnell Bell said, "I am thrilled that Shannon will be joining us to lead our community engagement practice and building upon our successful work of authentically engaging the community on complex projects."

Singleton has led the Joint Office for the past six months, resulting in rehousing and ending homelessness for 4,560 people, adding villages and motels to a shelter system that served more than 6,000 people, and extending the reach of outreach and navigation teams.

Singleton has a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Social Work,



Shannon Singleton Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy

and more than 20 years of public service dedicated to racial justice and equity. Before serving as Interim Director, she was Gov. Kate Brown's Director of Equity and Racial Justice. She has also served as the chief executive of several human service nonprofits, worked for a government agency ensuring the effective use of millions of federal and local dollars for housing and homelessness.

# Oregon's New Governor



Kotek was backed by President Joe Biden

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

senator who ran as an unaffiliated candidate and who conceded Tuesday night. The Drazan campaign had said it hoped as more ballots were counted the results would cut into Kotek's lead. Tuesday was the last day for election officials to receive valid postmarked ballots by mail. There could be tens of thousands of uncounted ballots still in the mail in a state with 3 million registered voters.

Oregon was the first state to institute vote-by-mail but the 2022 election is different because a 2021 law passed by the Legislature allows ballots to be counted if they were postmarked by 8 p.m. on election day. Previously, votes needed to be received by Election Day. Like other GOP

lawmakers, Drazan was opposed to the 2021 postmark bill when it went through the Legislature. "Deadlines are deadlines," she said in a House committee back then. "I think that it is going to create some challenges, and I think it's going to create some legal complexity when it comes to some of these elections with close turnout."

Kotek was the longest serving Oregon House speaker. Drazan is a former leader of the Republican minority in the House. Democrats were so worried that they could lose the governorship that President Joe Biden came to Portland to boost Kotek's chances. Democrats warned that a Drazan victory could threaten abortion rights, environmental protections and democratically run elections in the state.

# Black & Gold New Year's Eve 2022 Celebration

**HOLIDAY INN - COLUMBIA RIVERFRONT**  
909 N. Hayden Island, PDX, OR 97217  
*(previously Red Lion Hotel - Jantzen Beach)*

**SATURDAY, DEC. 31, 2022 | 8PM - 2AM**

**Entry by Ticket only**  
\$50 General Admission | \$100 VIP  
For tickets, go to [tickettomato.com](https://www.tickettomato.com)

VIP Package Includes:  
Dinner Service | Private Bar | Bottle of Champagne



Performance by  
**SUGA FREE**



**It's Ya DJ  
MICHAEL  
MORRIS**



**21+**  
DRESS TO IMPRESS