



MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: Oregon State Senate
Date: April 27, 2021
By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst
Re: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments

LPRO: LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICE

OREGON HOUSING STABILITY COUNCIL

The Governor has appointed the following individual to the Oregon Housing Stability Council subject to Senate confirmation.¹

Appointees

Javier Mena of Portland; New Appointment

Term

May 14, 2020 – June 30, 2022

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 456.567 \(2019\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Not required.

Statutory Requirements³

The council consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate (DIFUNTORUM, FERRELL, HALL, HIGINBOTHAM, JAMISON, LI, **MENA**, SANDOVAL, WILHOITE).⁴ In appointing members, the Governor must seek to appoint persons from all geographic regions of the state who have expertise in providing housing programs and services to persons experiencing poverty. Members serve four-year terms at the pleasure of the Governor and are eligible for reappointment. The Governor appoints the chairperson of the council. The Director of the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department provides clerical and other necessary support services to the council.

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 and 171.565 \(2019\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2019\)](#).

³ [ORS 182.100 \(2019\)](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115 \(2019\)](#) for diversity criteria.

⁴ [ORS 456.567 \(2019\)](#).

Duties and Authority

The council provides leadership in, and reviews and sets policy for, the development and financing of affordable housing throughout the state of Oregon.⁵ The council must:⁶

- cooperate with and assist local housing authorities to obtain federal approval to use and distribute federal rent subsidy and assistance payments;
- with the department, adopt criteria for approval of projects proposed by qualified housing sponsors to finance multifamily housing for specified populations;
- with the advice of the director, set policy and approve or disapprove rules and standards for housing programs;
- approve or disapprove loans, grants, and other funding award proposals;
- provide policy direction and oversight to the department regarding the department's financial planning and biennial budget proposal;
- with the advice of the director, develop policies to aid in stimulating and increasing the supply of housing for persons and families of lower income, address geographic and racial disparities, and ensure funds distributed by OHCS contribute to addressing other state priorities;
- make special effort to respond to both private and public actions that may raise the cost of the housing supply in the open market, as the open market is the source of housing for the preponderance of lower income households;
- study, comment upon, and advise the department, Governor, Legislative Assembly, other state agencies, and local governments concerning local, state, and federal legislation or rules that affect the cost and supply of housing, both before and after the legislation and rules are enacted;
- exercise the responsibilities and powers of the council in a manner that expedites the acquisition, construction, improvement, or rehabilitation of housing;
- with respect to the Community Development Incentive Project Fund, develop program guidelines including specific project criteria and financing mechanisms, review applications seeking funding from the fund, make recommendations for funding approval to the director, and review proposals for cooperative agreements or joint projects between the department and other state agencies to facilitate the goals of the fund;
- in conjunction with the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, advise and assist the department with rules, policies, and programs regarding low income home energy assistance;
- in conjunction with the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, ensure the coordination of state agency homelessness relief efforts; and
- review and provide input to the department on the state housing plan prior to the development, annual updating, and implementation of the state housing plan.

⁵ Oregon Housing and Community Services, *Oregon Housing Stability Council*, <<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/hsc/Pages/index.aspx>> (last visited November 19, 2020).

⁶ [ORS 456.395 to 456.690 \(2019\)](#).

The council may:⁷

- with the approval of the Governor, initiate legal proceedings in the name of the council to further the council's purposes; and
- consult generally with the Department of Human Services and such other persons as the council considers appropriate concerning project applications for housing for disabled households.

⁷ [ORS 456.541 and 456.571 \(2019\)](#).

Executive Appointments Board Roster

Housing Stability Council, Oregon

Agency: Housing & Community Services

Authorization: ORS 456.567; HB 2442

Members: Min: 9 Max: 9

Term Length: 4 years Limit: 2

Senate confirmation required? Yes

Policy Area: Human Services

Board Contact:

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Current Appointments:

Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)

Sami Jo Difuntorum

Position Number: 1

Term(s): 11-25-2019 - 06-30-2023

Mary D Ferrell

Position Number: 8

Term(s): 10-01-2020 - 06-30-2024

Claire E Hall, Chair

Position Number: 3

Term(s): 07-01-2018 - 06-30-2022

Barb Higinbotham

Position Number: 7

Term(s): 09-23-2019 - 06-30-2023

Candace D Jamison

Position Number: 6

Term(s): 10-01-2020 - 06-30-2024

Mary Li

Position Number: 5

Term(s): 07-01-2018 - 06-30-2022

Javier Mena

Position Number: 4

Term(s): 05-14-2021 - 06-30-2022

Gerard F Sandoval, PhD

Position Number: 2

Term(s): 07-01-2020 - 06-30-2024
05-03-2017 - 06-30-2020

Charles A Wilhoite

Position Number: 9

Term(s): 09-25-2017 - 06-30-2021