

# Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules  
DATE: September 20, 2023  
BY: Leslie Porter, Analyst  
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



**LPRO**  
LEGISLATIVE POLICY  
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

## OREGON TOURISM COMMISSION

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The Governor has appointed the following individuals to the Oregon Tourism Commission subject to Senate confirmation.<sup>1</sup>

### New Appointees

Travis Hill of Roseburg  
Harish Patel of Portland

### Reappointees

Lucinda DiNovo of Coos Bay  
William Willitts of Sisters

### Terms

New appointees: October 5, 2023 – June 30, 2027  
Reappointees: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2027

### Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 284.107 \(2021\)](#)

### Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>

Not required.

### Composition<sup>3</sup>

The commission consists of nine members, including:<sup>4</sup>

- three representatives engaged in promoting tourism (**HILL**, **PENILTON**, **PONZI**);
- one public member (**GREMMELS**);
- five representatives of the lodging industry (**DINOVO**, **PATEL**, **STEPHENSON**, **WILLITTS**, **YOUNGBLOOD**).

Members serve four-year terms and until a successor is qualified, limited to two full terms. The Governor may remove a member for cause. The commission selects its chair and vice chair. A majority constitutes a quorum.

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<sup>1</sup> [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2021\)](#), [ORS 171.565 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [ORS 244.050 \(2021\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> [ORS 182.100 \(2021\)](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115 \(2021\)](#) for diversity criteria.

<sup>4</sup> [ORS 284.107 \(2021\)](#).

## Duties<sup>5</sup>

The commission, known as Travel Oregon, promotes tourism in Oregon and aims to strengthen the economic impacts of the tourism industry.

The commission must:

- subject to the approval of the Governor, appoint an executive director;
- advise the Governor on all matters pertaining to tourism;
- prepare and maintain a comprehensive marketing plan;
- develop and adopt a biennial budget;
- seek and receive input about tourism promotion programs;
- prepare and adopt administrative rules;
- cooperate with educational institutions to support the tourism industry;
- advise local communities with respect to tourism;
- adopt personnel policies and contracting and purchasing procedures;
- administer specified funds and grant programs and make financial reports; and
- maintain tourist information centers.

The commission may:

- enter into agreements and execute all instruments to carry out its duties;
- manage property of any kind, or any interest in that property;
- appoint officers, consultants, agents, or advisors, and prescribe their duties;
- appear before any entity of local, state, or federal government;
- procure insurance;
- accept all manner of funds;
- partner with others in the conduct of conferences and tours;
- provide and pay for advisory services and technical assistance; and
- charge for products or services and receive revenue from any source used to advance tourism.

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<sup>5</sup> [ORS 284.111 to 284.148 \(2019\)](#).



## Tourism Commission, Oregon

Agency: **Travel Oregon**

Authorization: **ORS 284.107**

Min Members: **9** Max Members: **9**

Term Length: **4** Term Limit: **2**

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Policy Area: **Arts & Culture**

Board Admin: **Sarah Watson**

Address:

**530 Center Street, Suite 200**

**Salem, OR 97301**

**503-967-1568**

**sarah@traveloregon.com**

## Current Appointments

**Ms Sheppard, Mia F**

Term(s): **7/1/2019 - 6/30/2023**

Tourism Promotion

Position Number: **1**

**Hill, Travis**

Term(s): **10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027**

Tourism Industry Rep

Position Number: **1**

**Ms Ponzi , Anna Maria**

Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026**

Tourism Promotion

**7/1/2018 - 6/30/2022**

Position Number: **2**

**Mr Willitts, William "Greg" G**

Term(s): **7/1/2023 - 6/30/2027**

Lodging

**7/1/2019 - 6/30/2023**

Position Number: **3**

**Ms Stephenson, Erin E**

Term(s): **11/19/2021 - 6/30/2025**

Lodging

Position Number: **4**

**Mr Penilton, David**

Term(s): **11/19/2021 - 6/30/2025**

Tourism Promotion

Position Number: **5**

**Mr. Gremmels, David L**

Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026**

Public Member

Position Number: **6**

**Mr Boyles, Richard D**

Term(s): **7/1/2019 - 6/30/2023**

Lodging

**9/26/2016 - 6/30/2019**

Position Number: **7**

<b>Patel, Harish</b>	Term(s):	<b>10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027</b>
Lodging Rep		
Position Number: <b>7</b>		
<b>Ms DiNovo, Lucinda M</b>	Term(s):	<b>7/1/2023 - 6/30/2027</b>
Lodging		<b>7/1/2019 - 6/30/2023</b>
Position Number: <b>8</b>		
<b>Mr Youngblood, Scott B</b>	Term(s):	<b>7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025</b>
Lodging		<b>7/1/2016 - 6/30/2020</b>
Position Number: <b>9</b>		<b>5/22/2015 - 6/30/2016</b>

## Vacant Positions