



Budget Presentation to Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government

March 9, 2023



The Mission of the Office of the Public Records Advocate

- **Mediate disputes between public records requesters and records custodians**
- **Provide guidance and advice on matters pertaining to public records request processing and the disclosure and applicability of exemptions from disclosure of public records**
- **Train public employees on the requirements and best practices of Oregon's public records**
- **Serve as a voting member, executive director, and employee of the Public Records Advisory Council**



The Goals of the Office of the Public Records Advocate

- Improve communication between public records requesters and custodians
- Provide requesters and custodians alike with a common understanding of the requirements and best practices under the law
- Look for creative solutions
- De-escalate tense or difficult requests to facilitate efficient and fare records disclosure



How the Office of the Public Records Advocate Accomplishes its Mission

Facilitated dispute resolution, aka "Requests for Assistance"

Public employee & public training

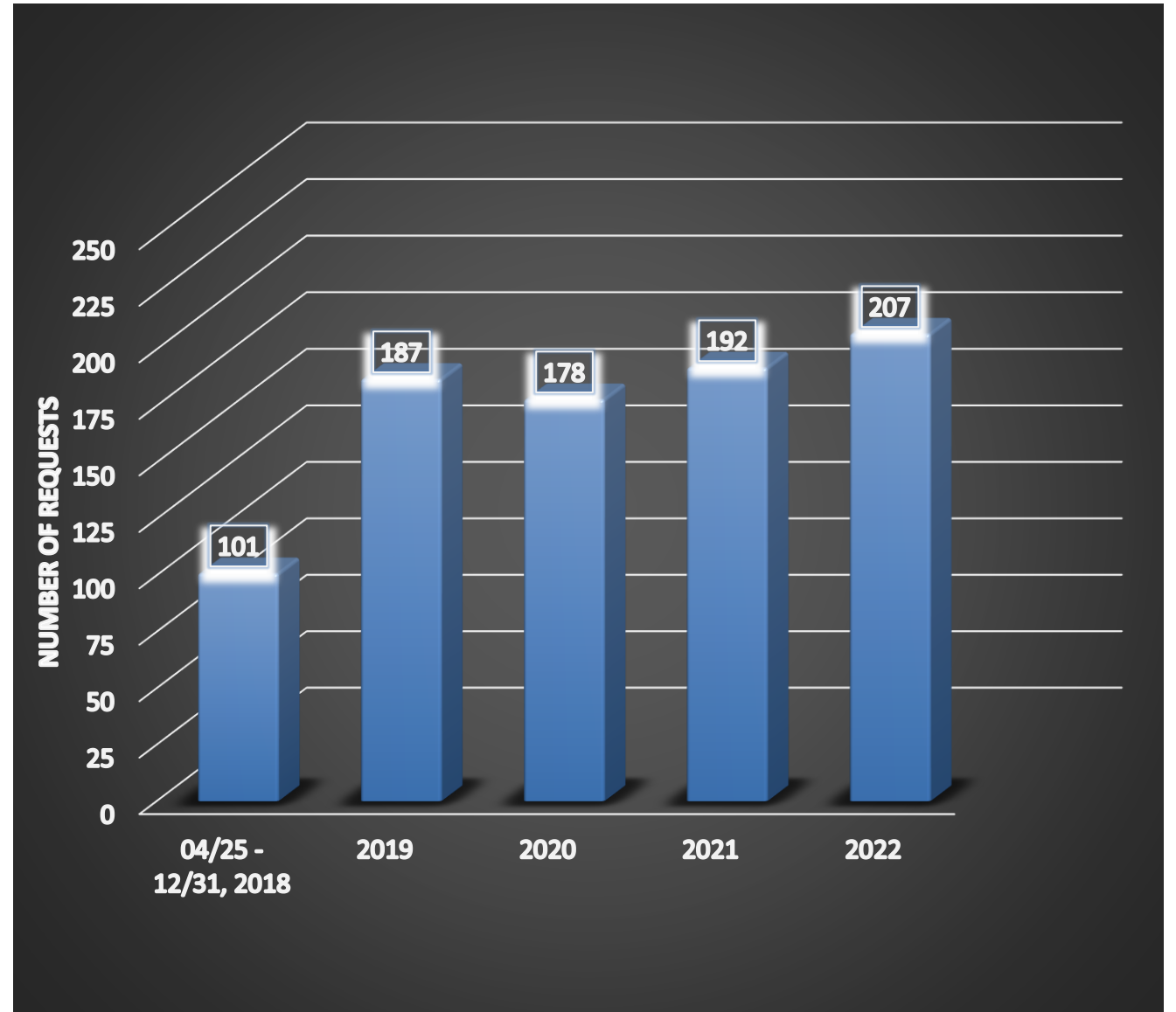
Policy development

Public Records Advisory Council



Requests for Assistance:

April 25, 2018 –
December 31, 2022

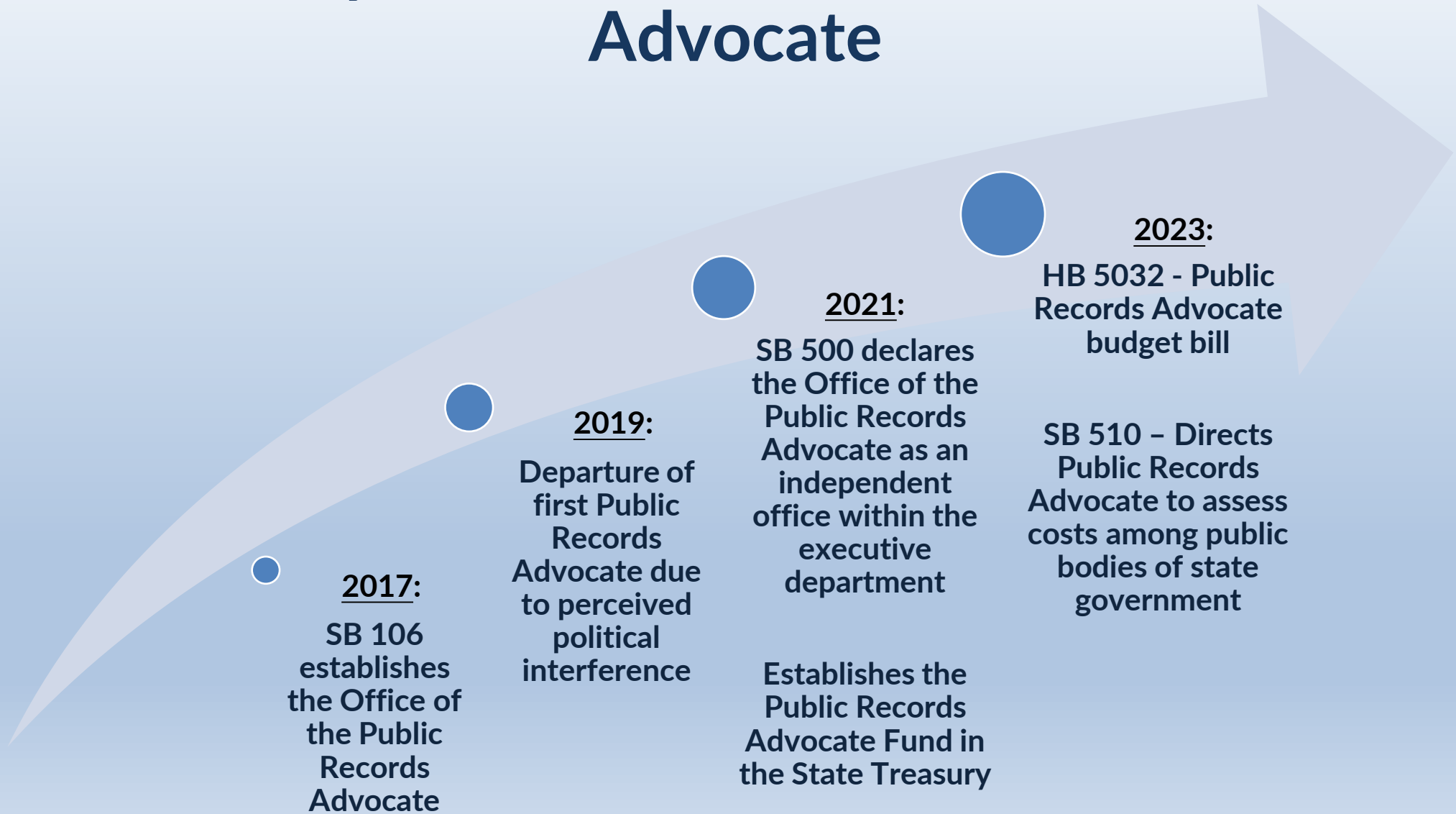


Trainings Conducted or Scheduled

January 2022 –
March 2023

- 1/21/22 Reedsport Police Department
- 1/27/22 State agency open data coordinators w/ Kathryn Helms, Chief Data Officer
- 2/01/22 University of OR undergrad journalism students
- 2/11/22 Special Districts Association of Oregon annual Conference
- 2/24/22 Reynolds and other School Districts
- 3/08/22 Bend PD w/ State Archives
- 7/29/22 Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA)
- 08/08/22 Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) Oregon Utility Records Group
- 08/24/22 University of Oregon's Public Records Roundtable
- 10/20/22 Oregon Code Enforcement Association (OCEA) (in conjunction with State Archives)
- 11/15/22 Association of Oregon Counties – training for new commissioners (short introduction to public records)
- 11/17/22 City of Salem
- 1/13/23 Special District Association of Oregon (SDAO) – Legislative Day
- 1/20/23 Association of Oregon Counties – training for new commissioners
- 3/23/23 Oregon Municipal Judges Association (OMJA)

The History of the Office of the Public Records Advocate



Office of the Public Records Advocate

Organizational Chart



Key Performance Measures to be Established for the Office of the Public Records Advocate

- (1) Timely Respond to Requests for Assistance
- (2) Multi-point Requests for Assistance Tracking
- (3) Increased Outreach to and Training of Affinity Groups
- (4) Creation of Additional Online Resources

Cost savings realized

- (1) Staff are Working Remotely
- (2) Maintain Paperless Office
- (3) Continued Availability of In Person and Online Trainings



District Attorneys' Public Records Orders Database



15% reduction options:

- 5% Reduction 1: \$36,322 - Eliminates in-state and out-of-state travel expenses by limiting all trainings to remote attendance and cutting all personnel training to remote attendance. Also eliminates costs and fees allocated with employee development and leadership training, and publicity and publications, and other S&S.
- 10% Reduction 2: \$72,644 - Reduce Deputy PRA from 1.0FTE to 0.75 FTE.
- 15% - Reduction 3: \$108,966: Reduction 1 and 2 - plus additional cuts to Services and Supplies





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