



# Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Susan V. Myers  
Executive Director



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) is to impartially and effectively administer and enforce Oregon's Government Ethics Laws for the benefit of Oregon's citizens. OGEC emphasizes education in achieving its mission.

# Agency Summary

## Established in 1974

- ▶ Post-Watergate Era
- ▶ Safeguard Public Trust
- ▶ Statewide Ballot Measure
  - ▶ Supported by > 70% of voters

## Jurisdiction

- ▶ ORS 244 – Ethics Law
- ▶ ORS 192.610-192.705 – Public Meetings Law
- ▶ ORS 171.725-171.785 – Lobby Law

# Agency Summary

## Funded by Assessment

### Revenue

- ▶ LAB 2023-2025
  - ▶ \$5,352,395
- ▶ ARB 2025-2027
  - ▶ \$7,005,742
- ▶ GRB 2025-2027
  - ▶ \$7,005,742

## Legislative Concepts

- ▶ House Bill 2923
  - ▶ SEI Updates
- ▶ House Bill 2927
  - ▶ Investigation Extension
- ▶ House Bill 2928
  - ▶ Gift Offer Language
- ▶ House Bill 2930
  - ▶ COI – Member of Household
- ▶ House Bill 2932
  - ▶ Use of Office – Education

# Agency Funding

**100% Other Fund Using Assessment Model**

## **State Agencies**

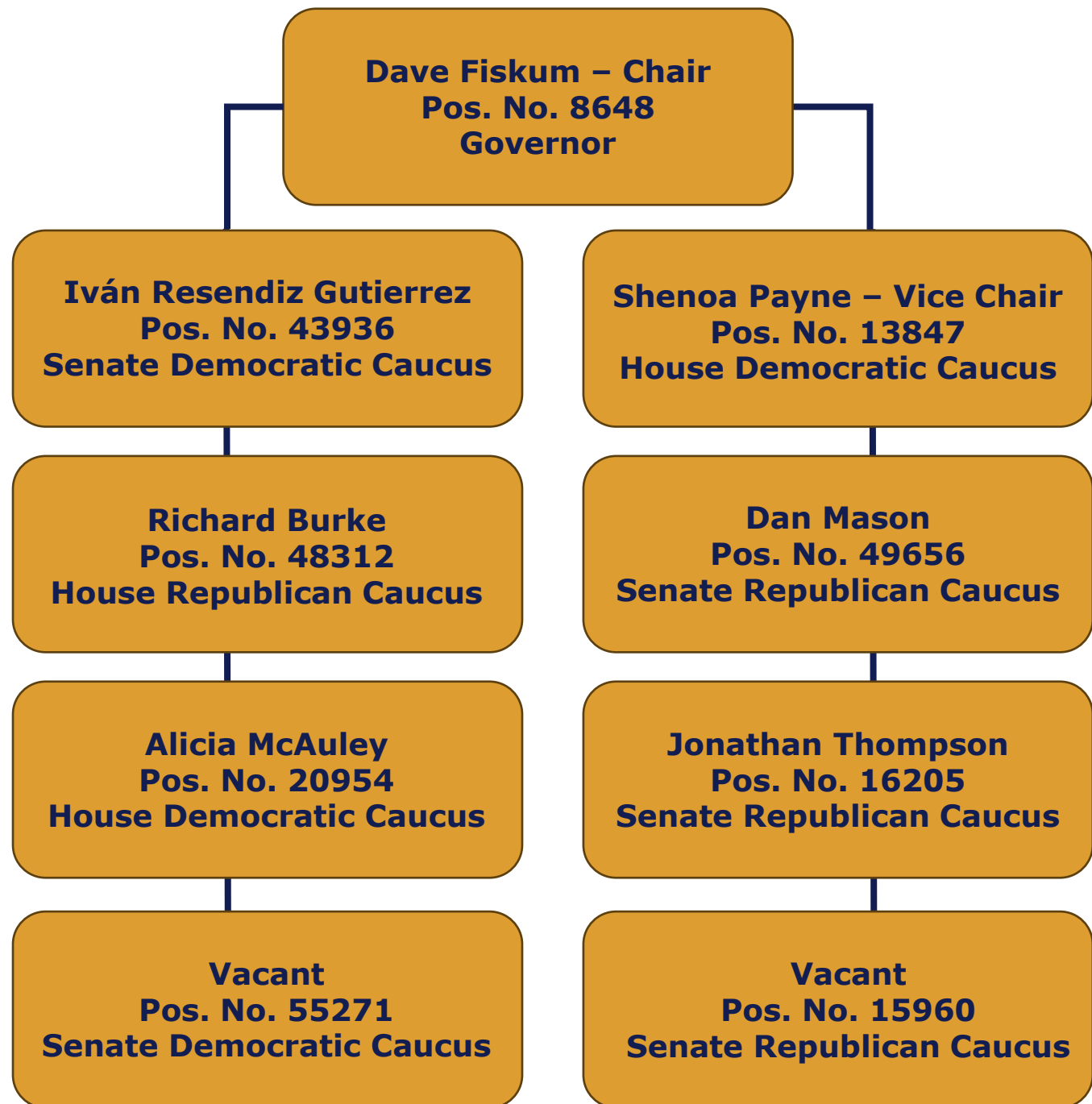
- ▶ 50% of Budget
- ▶ Based on Full-Time Employees (FTE)

## **Local Governments**

- ▶ 50% of Budget
- ▶ Based on Municipal Audit Fee

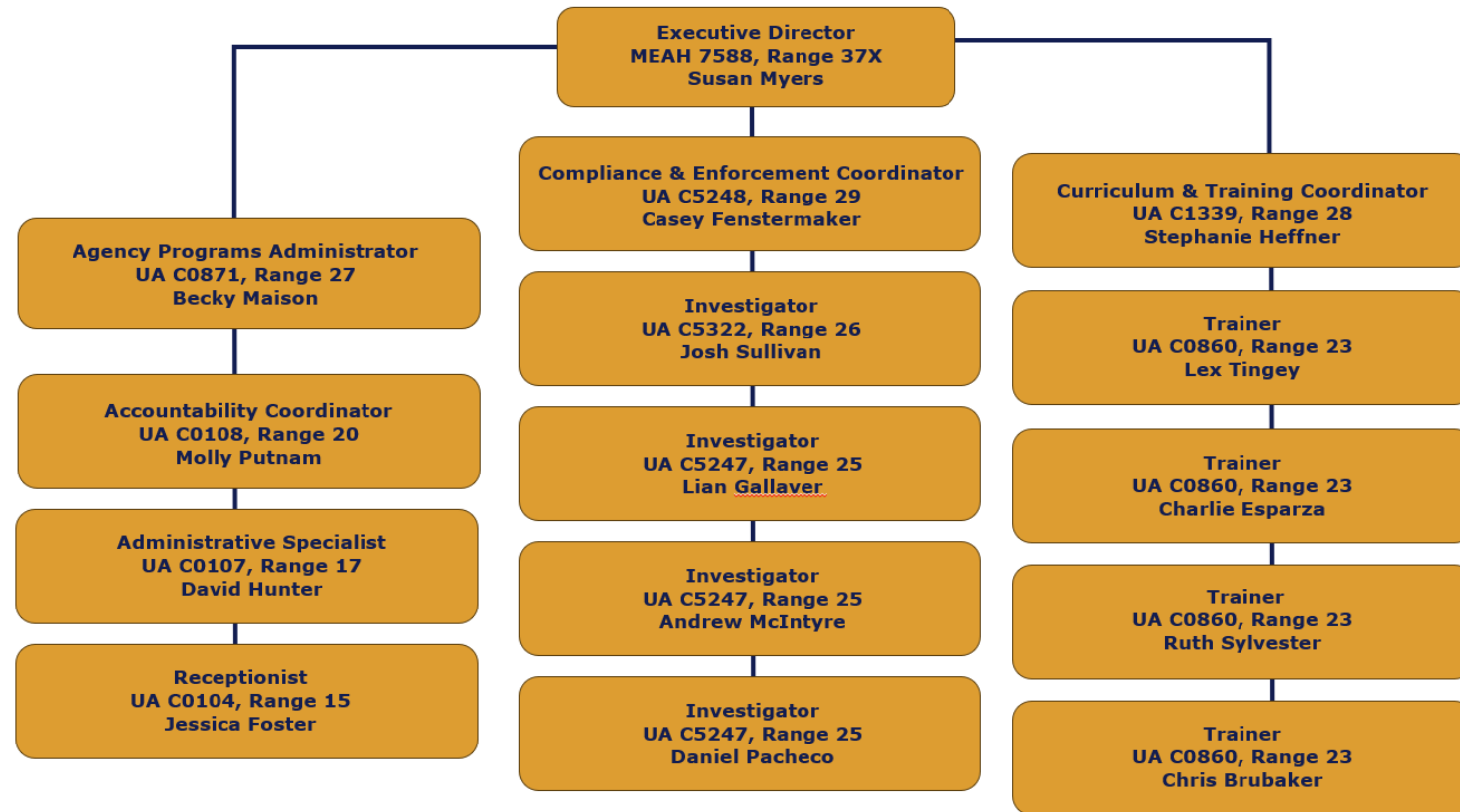
# Commission Composition

- ▶ 9 Senate confirmed
  - ▶ Governor nominates 1
  - ▶ Caucuses nominate 8
- ▶ No more than 3 from same political party
- ▶ Up to two 4-year terms



# Staff Composition

- ▶ 15 Member Staff
  - ▶ Executive Director
  - ▶ Agency Programs Administrator
  - ▶ Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator
  - ▶ Curriculum & Education Coordinator
  - ▶ 4 Investigators
  - ▶ 4 Trainers
  - ▶ 3 Administrative Support Staff



# Available Trainings



## Monthly Trainings

- Public Meetings Law
- Lobby Law
- Ethics Law
  - Gifts
  - Conflicts of Interest
  - Use of Office



## Annual Trainings

- Statement of Economic Interest
- Jurisdictional Contact (also available monthly)



## Customized Trainings

- Large Scale Conferences
- Agency-Specific Trainings
- Interested Entities or Organizations

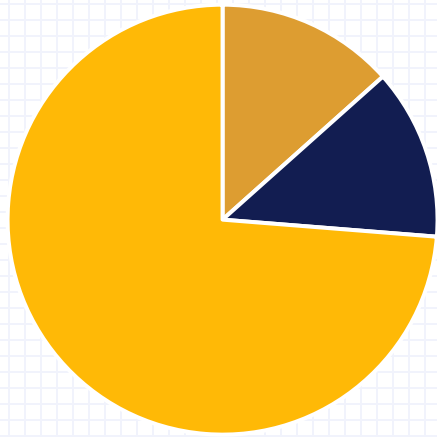


## Workday Trainings

- Oregon Government Ethics Law Overview

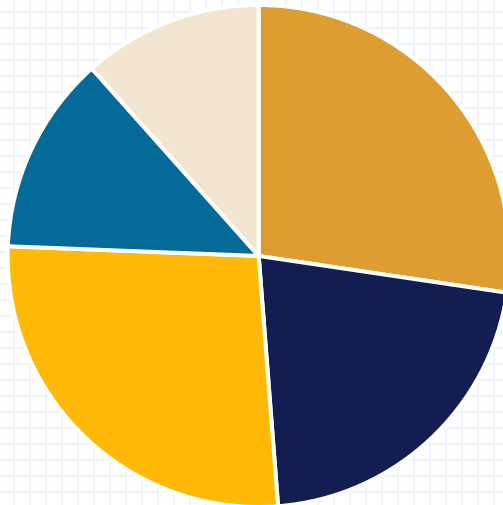


## People Trained



■ In-Person ■ Webinar ■ Workday

## Groups Trained



■ City ■ County ■ State ■ Education ■ Other

# Education & Trainings

## 2024 Statistics

Total People Trained: 16,920

- ▶ In-Person: 2,268
- ▶ Webinar: 2,176
- ▶ Workday: 12,476

## Groups Trained

- ▶ City: 111
- ▶ County: 87
- ▶ State: 109
- ▶ Education: 52
- ▶ Other: 47

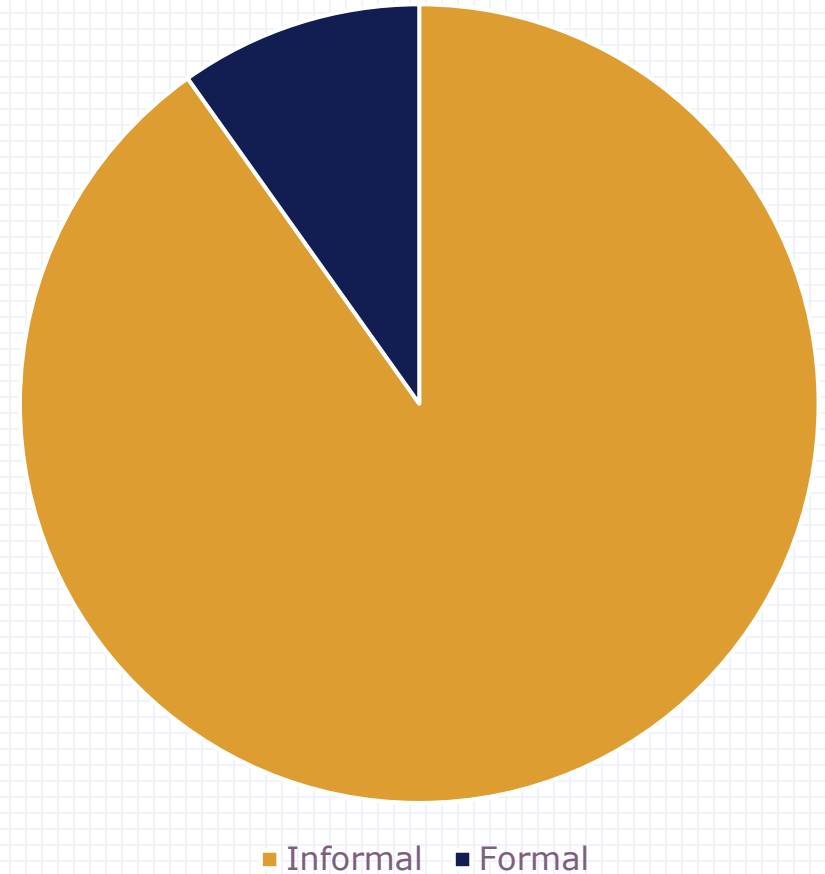
## Staff

- ▶ 4 Trainers
- ▶ Curriculum & Education Coordinator

# Advice & Opinions

## 2024 Statistics

- ▶ Total Advice Issued: 721
  - ▶ Informal Advice: 650
  - ▶ Informational Letters: 66
  - ▶ Staff Advisory Opinions: 2
  - ▶ Commission Advisory Opinions: 3
- ▶ Additional Resources
  - ▶ Commission-Issued Guides
  - ▶ Quarterly Newsletter
  - ▶ Training Handouts



# Investigation Process

1

## Signed, Written Complaint

Cannot be Anonymous

OR

## Own Motion

Opened by Commission

2

## Preliminary Review

60 Days for Ethics & Public Meetings Law

135 Days for Lobby Law

Confidential

Dismiss or Move to Investigation

3

## Investigation Phase

180 Days

No Longer Confidential

Dismiss or Make Findings of Violation

4

## Conclusion

Dismissal

Stipulated Final Order

Default Final Order

Contested Case – 100% Settlement Rate

## Investigative Staff

- ▶ 4 Investigators
- ▶ Compliance & Enforcement Coordinator

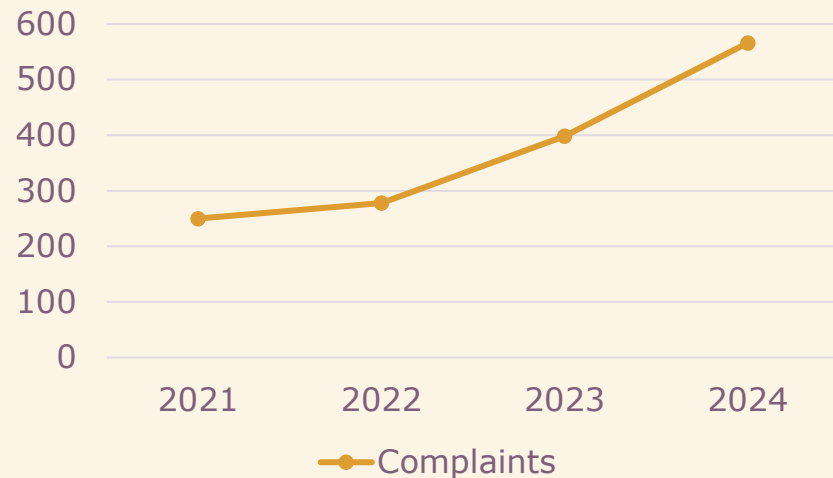
## House Bill 2729

- ▶ Provides 60 Day Investigation Extension

# Compliance Analysis

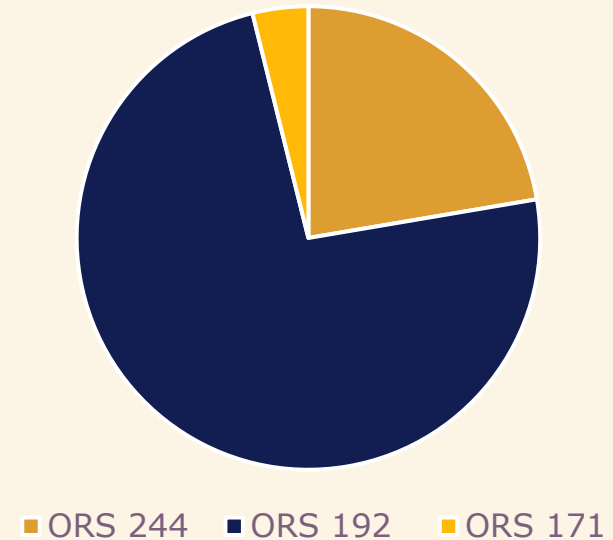
## Complaint Breakdown

- ▶ 566 Complaints
- ▶ 294 Non-Jurisdictional
- ▶ 31% Increase



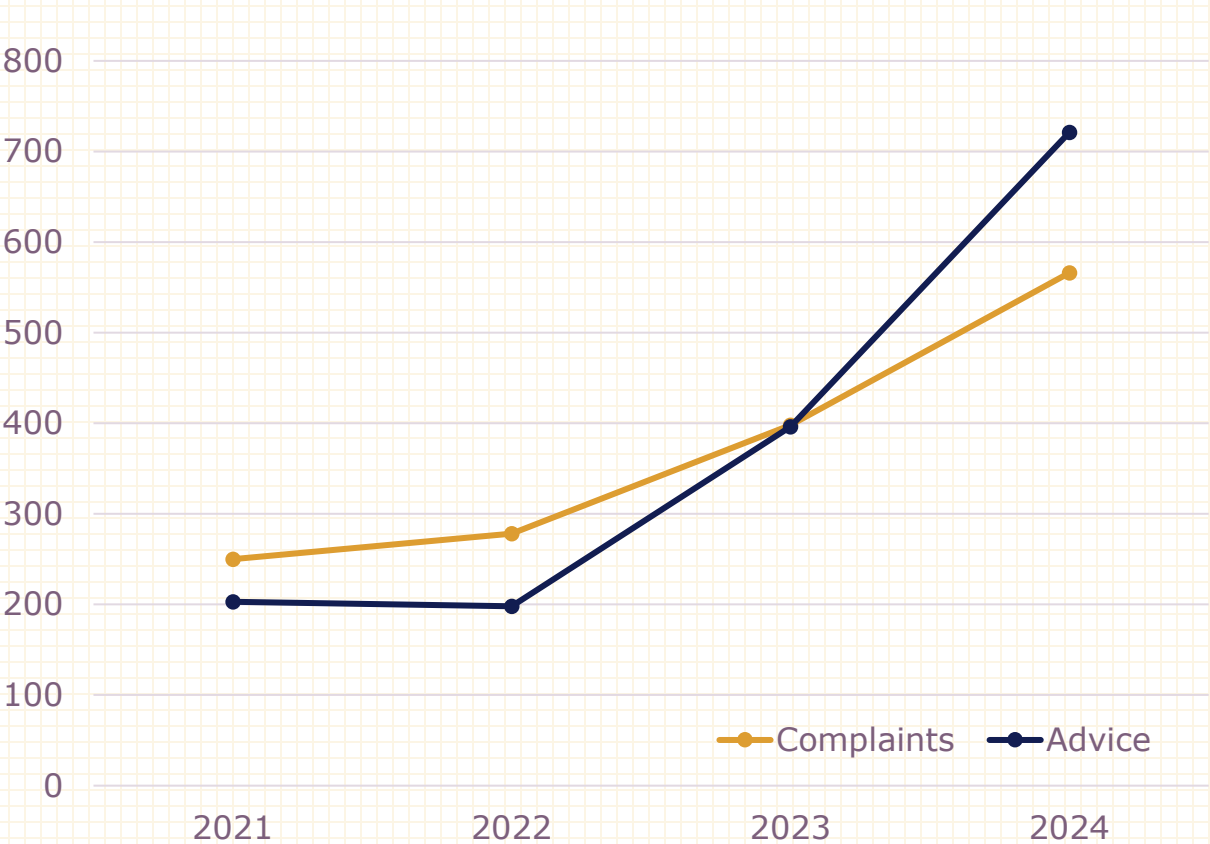
## Case Breakdown

- ▶ 272 Cases
  - ▶ Ethics Law – 23%
  - ▶ Public Meetings Law – 76%
  - ▶ Lobby Law – 4%

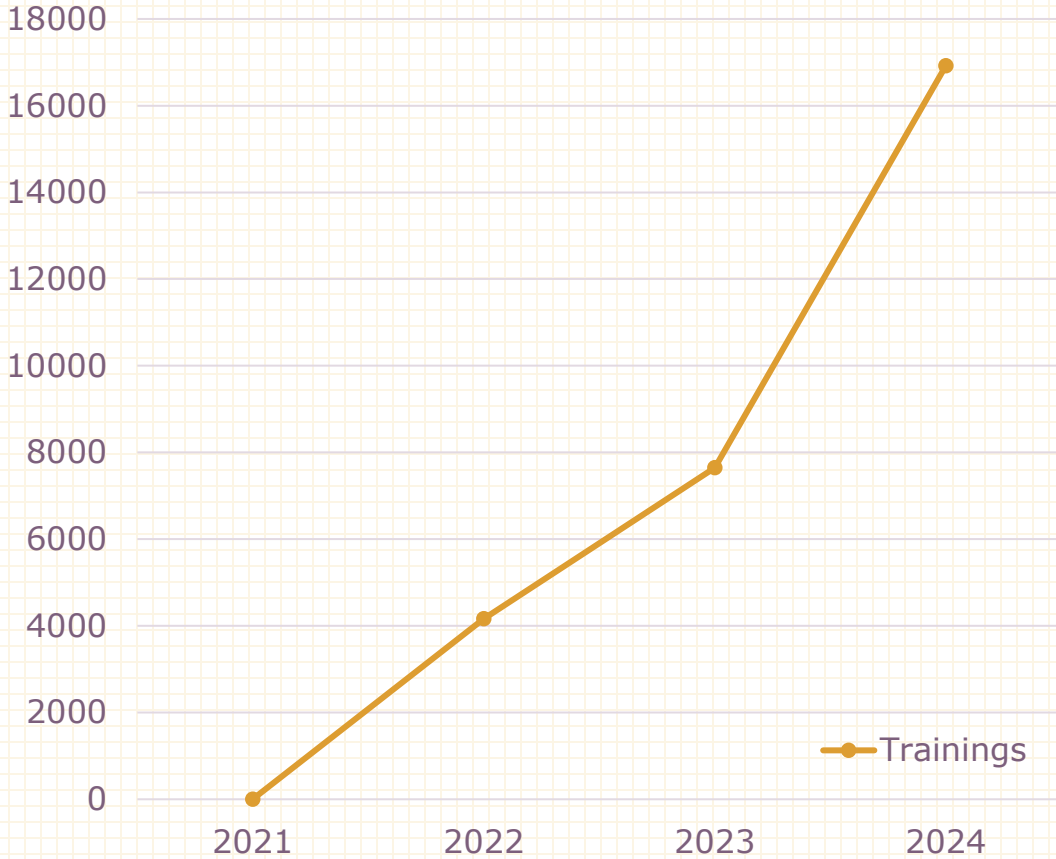


# Education & Compliance Factors

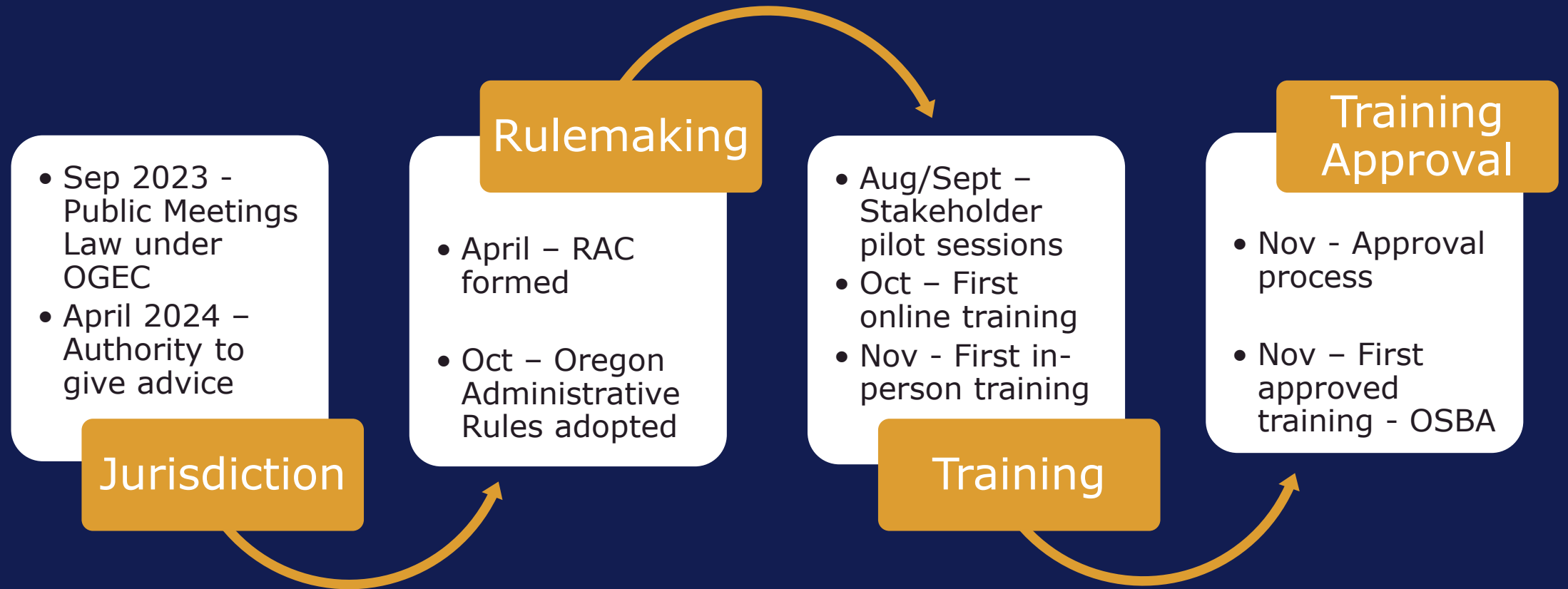
### Complaints & Advice, 2021 - 2024



### Trainings, 2021 - 2024



# Public Meetings Law



# **OGEC's 2025 Legislative Concepts**

**HB 2923  
SEI Updates**

**HB 2927  
Investigation  
Extension**

**HB 2928  
Gift Offer  
Language**

**HB 2930  
COI Household  
Member**

**HB 2932  
Use of Office  
Education**

# House Bill 2923

- ▶ Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) Update
- ▶ Specifies information that must be included on an SEI form
  - ▶ Types of business roles
  - ▶ Types of business positions
  - ▶ For public officials and candidates who file SEI forms
- ▶ To make language more accessible to filers.



# House Bill 2927

- ▶ Investigation Timeline Expansion
- ▶ Permits OGEC to prolong an investigation into alleged Ethics or Lobby Law violations by no more than 60 days, rather than 30 days currently.
- ▶ To accommodate current Commission Meeting schedule.

# House Bill 2928

- ▶ Gift Statute Language Update
- ▶ Removes prohibition on **offering** gifts in excess of \$50 per calendar year.
- ▶ OGEC's jurisdiction can only regulate accepting of gifts, not offering.
- ▶ 2009, VanNatta v. OGEC

# House Bill 2930

- ▶ Conflict of Interest to include Household Members
- ▶ Applies conflict of interest provisions to members of the household of public officials.
- ▶ Provides symmetry between the conflict of interest and prohibited use of office/position statutes, as they are often intertwined.

# House Bill 2932

- ▶ Provides an exception to the prohibition against public officials using their position or office for financial gain or avoidance of detriment.
- ▶ Permits public officials to receive compensation from a post-secondary institution in exchange for teaching courses (education).
- ▶ Students benefit from real-world experiences of Judges, State Hospital nurses, etc.

# Questions?

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