

2025-27 Budget Review

Public Records Advocate

	2021-23 Actual *	2023-25 Legislatively Approved **	2025-27 Current Service Level	2025-27 Governor's Budget
Other Funds	703,469	1,000,967	1,172,941	1,174,012
Total Funds	703,469	1,000,967	1,172,941	1,174,012
Positions	2	2	2	2
FTE	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

* Data reflects actual expenditures within the Department of Administrative Services.

** Includes legislative and administrative actions through December 2024.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of the Public Records Advocate (OPRA) was created along with the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC) by SB 106 (2017) to improve transparency and the functioning of public records laws in Oregon. The Office is responsible for supporting the Council and responding to requests from local and state government bodies or public records requesters for: (1) dispute resolution services; (2) training on public records laws and best practices; and (3) guidance and advice on public records law.

Members of the public and public employees can directly request assistance from OPRA through an online web portal. In collaboration with the Attorney General's Office and the Oregon State Library, OPRA compiles and publishes public records appeals opinions from the district attorneys of every Oregon county and maintain a searchable online database available to the public.

The Public Records Advocate serves as a voting member and executive director of the Council. The 14-member Council consists of bipartisan public records experts representing state and local governments, the media, the public, and public sector workforce. The Council is charged with examining, vetting, and proposing reforms to law, policy, and practice to enhance fairness, efficiency, and transparency for both requester and custodians of public records. The Public Records Advocate is appointed by the Council.

BUDGET ENVIRONMENT

When it was first established, the budget for OPRA was included in the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) budget. For the 2017-19 biennium, SB 106 appropriated \$633,187 General Fund to DAS to be expended for the Office of the Public Records Advocate and to support the Public Records Advisory Council. For the 2019-21 and 2021-23 biennia, the expenses for the Office were paid through DAS assessments. SB 500 (2021) required OPRA to be an independent office within the executive department, separate and distinct from any other state agency. SB 510 (2023) authorized the newly

independent OPRA to use an assessment model to fund the agency's operating expenses. The 2023-25 biennium budget was the first time the Office submitted a budget request as an independent agency.

OPRA Other Funds revenues are generated from an assessment on all state agencies based on the number of full-time equivalents for each agency. For the 2025-27 biennium, forecasted revenue for OPRA is projected to be \$1.8 million, which includes both the agency's beginning balance and the statewide assessment. The source of Other Funds received from assessment agencies is a combination General Fund, Lottery Funds, Other Funds, and Federal Funds.

CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL

The 2025-27 current service level budget (CSL) of \$1.2 million Other Funds is \$171,974, or 17.2%, more than the 2023-25 legislatively approved level of \$1 million. The increase is attributable to standard personal services growth and inflation for services and supplies expenditures.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET SUMMARY

The 2025-27 Governor's budget for the Office of the Public Records Advocate totals \$1.2 million Other Funds, an increase of \$1,071, or 0.1%, from current service level. The increase reflects adjustments in statewide government service charges.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A copy of the Office of the Public Records Advocate proposed key performance measures can be found on the LFO website: [APPRProposed OPRA 2024-10-29.pdf](#)

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