



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

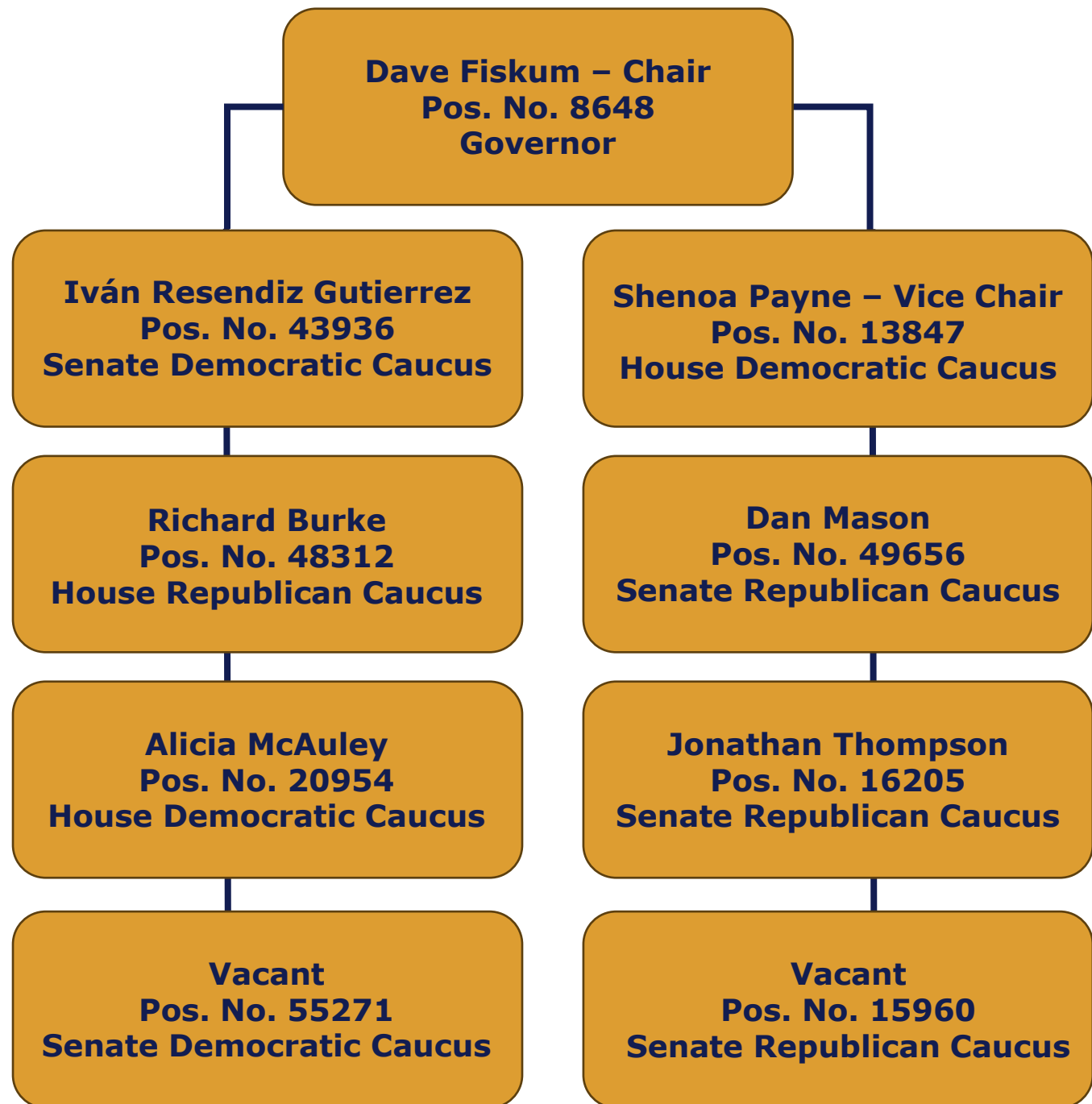
- ▶ Post-Watergate Era
- ▶ Safeguard Public Trust
- ▶ Statewide Ballot Measure
 - ▶ Supported by > 70% of voters

Jurisdiction

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

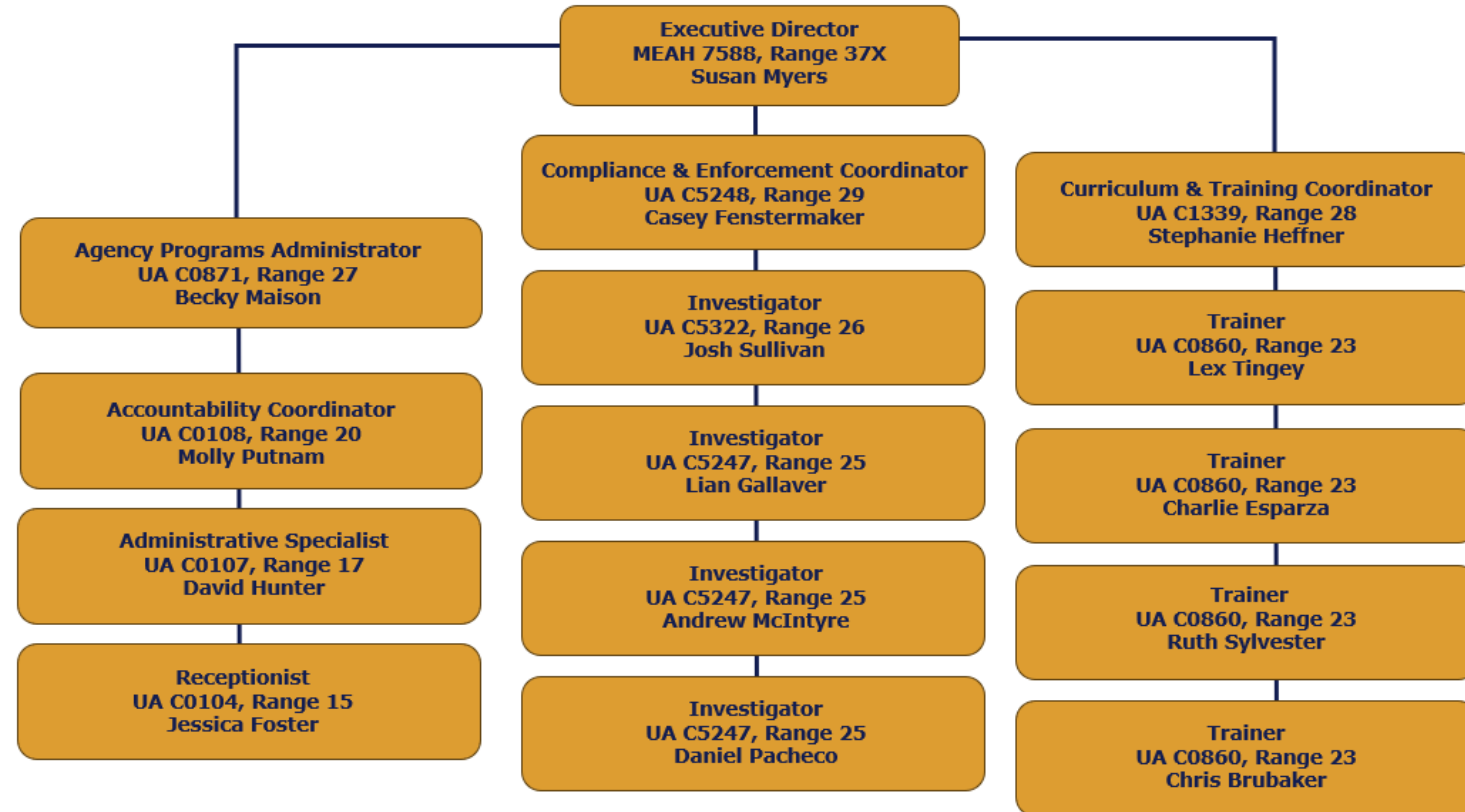
Commission Composition

- ▶ 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



Agency Funding

100% Other Funds Using Assessment Model

State Agencies

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

Local Governments

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

Agency Summary

Funded by Assessment Revenue

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

Policy Option Packages

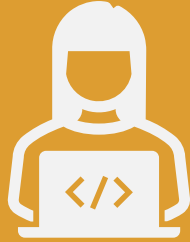
- ▶ POP #100
 - ▶ Department of Justice Fees
- ▶ POP #101
 - ▶ Position Reclass
- ▶ POP #102
 - ▶ Increased Training Costs
- ▶ POP #103
 - ▶ EFS/CMS System Updates

Types of Advice



Telephone

- Calls to Front Desk
- Can Lead to Written Advice
- 5 Days a Week, 8am-5pm



Informal (Email)

- Most Common
- Executive Director Review
- Frequent DOJ Review



Informational Letters

- Under Executive Director's Signature
- Agency Letterhead
- DOJ Review



Advisory Opinions

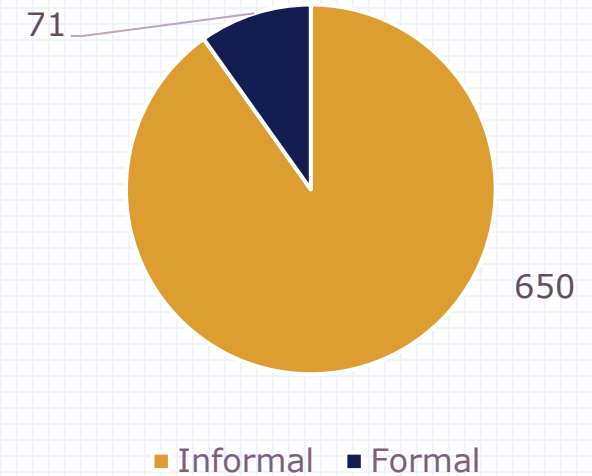
- Staff Advisory Opinion
- Commission Advisory Opinion
- DOJ Review & Signature

Advice & Opinions

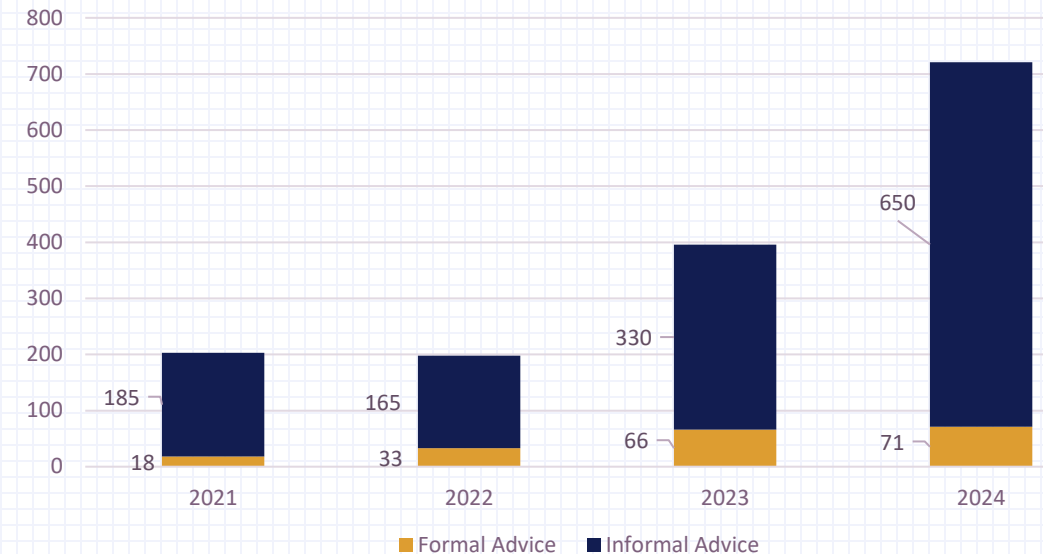
2024 Statistics

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

Advice Written in 2024



Written Advice & Opinions, 2021 - 2024



Available Free 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

- Association Conferences
- Agency-Specific Trainings
- Interested Entities or Organizations

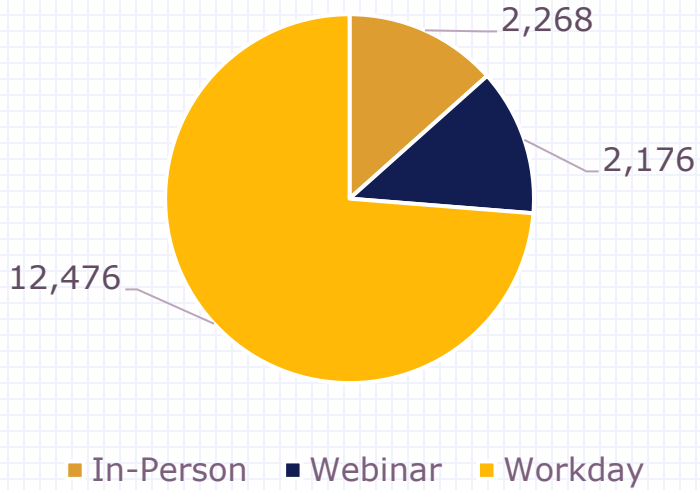


Workday Trainings

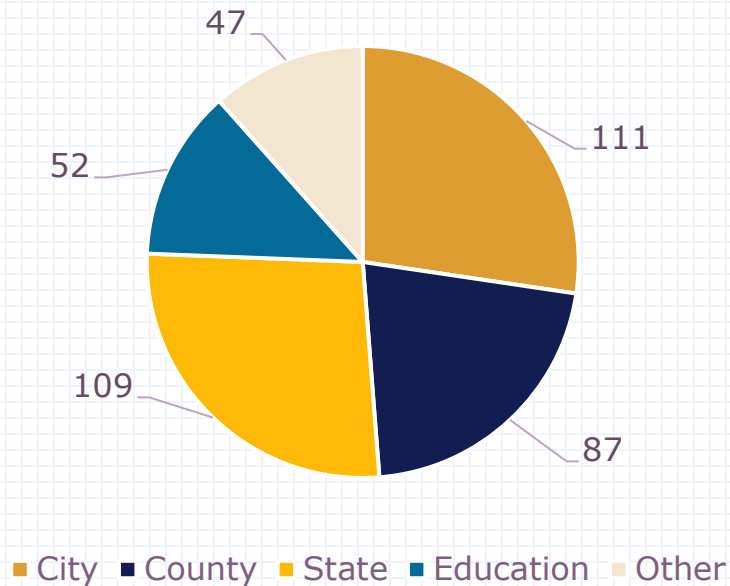
- Oregon Government Ethics Law Overview

Education & Trainings

People Trained



Groups Trained



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

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

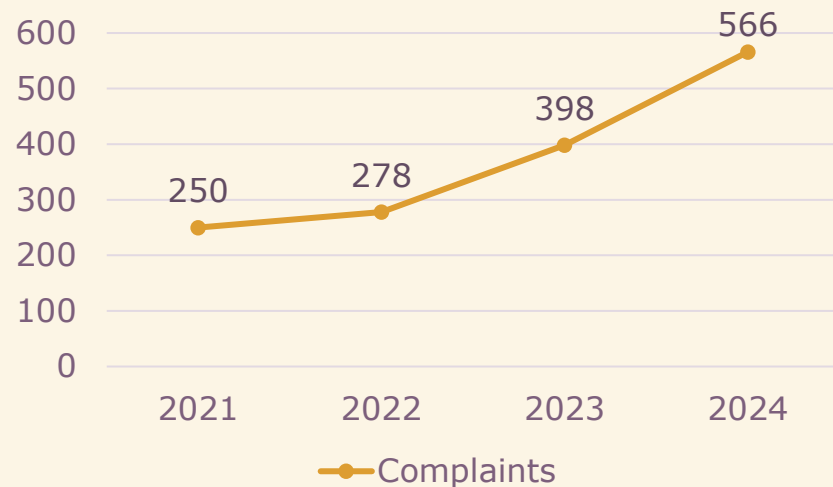
House Bill 2729

- ▶ Provides 60 Day Investigation Extension

Compliance Analysis

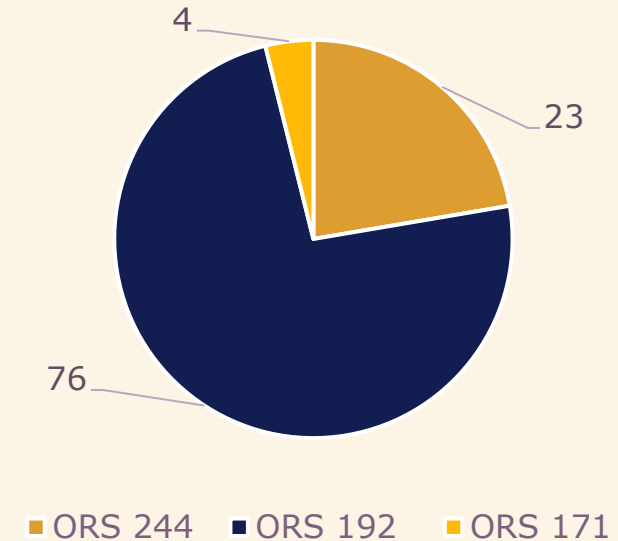
Complaint Breakdown

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



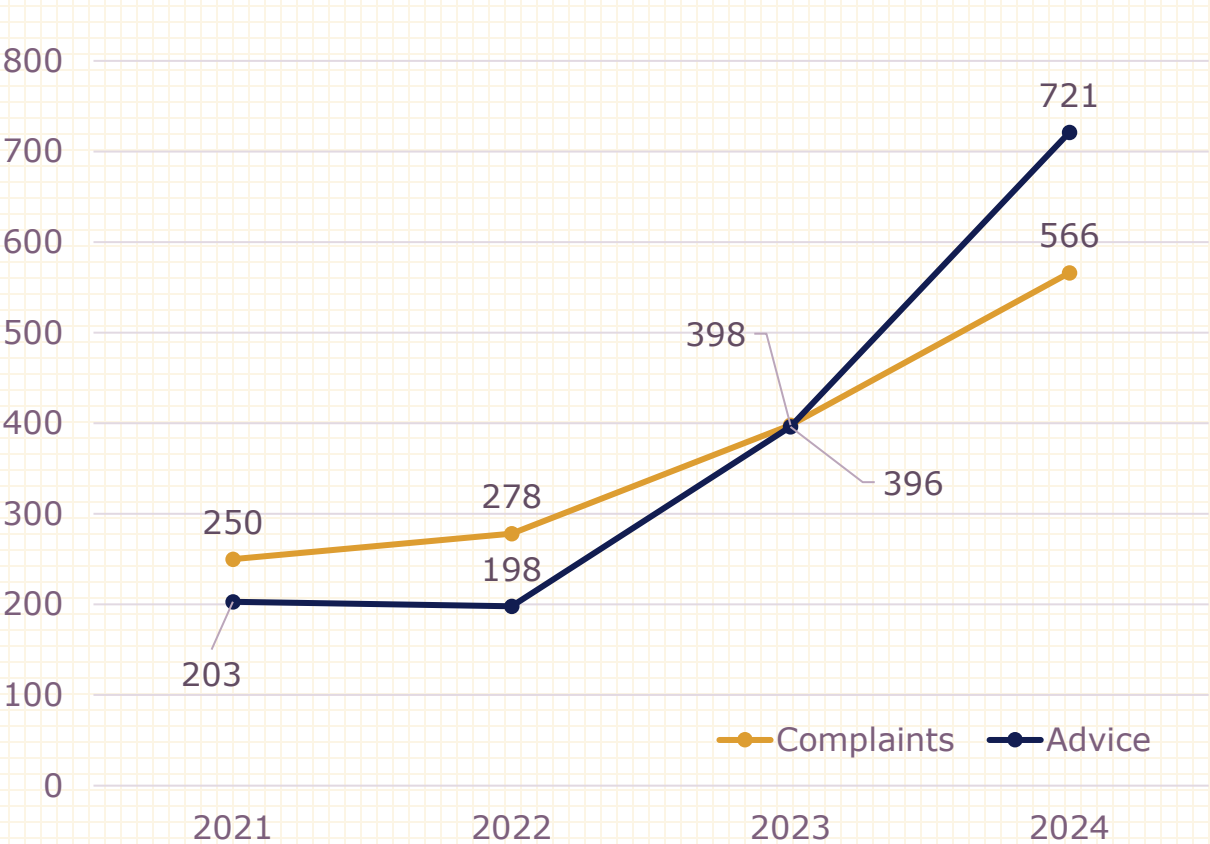
Case Breakdown

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

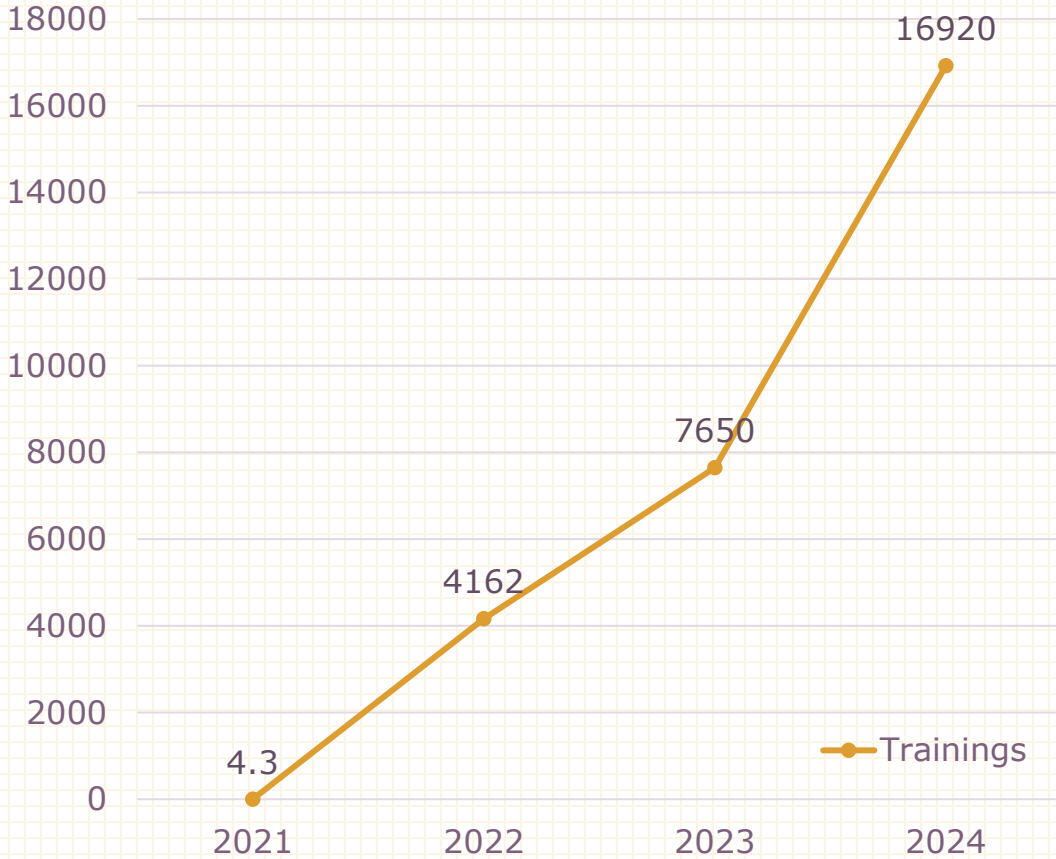


Education & Compliance Factors

Complaints & Advice, 2021 - 2024



Trainings, 2021 - 2024



OGEC's Key Performance Measures

1 - Statutory Time Limit

2 - Quality of Investigations

3 - Training Program Effectiveness

4 - Case Disposition Costs

5 - Customer Service

6 - Governance Best Practices

Key Performance Measures

Statutory Time Limit

- ▶ 92.5%
 - ▶ Preliminary Reviews: 94%
 - ▶ Investigations: 92%
 - ▶ Staff Opinions: 88%
 - ▶ Advisory Opinions: 96%
- ▶ Negative trend

Quality of Investigations

- ▶ 4.95/5
 - ▶ Timeliness – 5
 - ▶ Accessibility – 5
 - ▶ Objectivity – 4.9
 - ▶ Organization – 4.9
- ▶ Positive trend

Key Performance Measures

Training Program Effectiveness

- ▶ 40%
 - ▶ Decrease in wrong answers
- ▶ Negative trend
 - ▶ Expected due to change in question format (from T/F to multiple choice)

Case Disposition Costs

- ▶ 100%
- ▶ Cases settled before hearing

Key Performance Measures

Customer Service Satisfaction

- ▶ 85
 - ▶ Accuracy: 84
 - ▶ Timeliness: 84
 - ▶ Helpfulness: 84
 - ▶ Expertise: 89
 - ▶ Availability of Info: 85
- ▶ Upward trends

Governance Best Practices

- ▶ 100%
 - ▶ OGEC will continue to encourage Commissioner involvement in best practices.



2023-2025 Strategic Initiatives

- 1. Serve Oregonians by educating public officials on laws within OGEC's jurisdiction.**
- 2. Ensure OGEC resources are available, used efficiently, effectively, and transparently.**
- 3. Strive for excellence and be accountable to the public we serve.**

OGEC's Growth

2019 – 2021

Budget

- ▶ \$2,903,298

Programs

- ▶ Ethics Law
- ▶ Lobbying Law
- ▶ Executive Session

Investments

- ▶ EFS Update
 - ▶ HB 3377 (2019)

2021 – 2023

Budget

- ▶ \$3,231,509

Programs

- ▶ Ethics Law
- ▶ Lobbying Law
- ▶ Executive Session

Investments

- ▶ None.

2023 – 2025

Budget

- ▶ \$5,415,403

Programs

- ▶ Ethics Law
- ▶ Lobbying Law
- ▶ Public Meetings Law

Investments

- ▶ EFS/CMS System Enhancements
- ▶ Training & Development Specialist 2

2023-25 Investments: Public Meetings Law



2023-25 Investments

Training & Development

Curriculum & Training Coordinator

- ▶ Public Meetings Law
 - Curriculum Development
 - Training Approval Process
- ▶ Training Outreach
- ▶ Relationship Management
- ▶ Training Increase
- ▶ Advice Increase
- ▶ Staff Onboarding Process

EFS/CMS Updates

- ▶ House Bill 2038
 - SEI updates
 - System updates to correlate
- ▶ Continued Work Needed
 - System Limitations
 - Aging systems
 - Cloud-based
 - POP#103

Budget Drivers

Education

- ▶ Increased Trainings
- ▶ Demand for Advice
- ▶ Updated Software
- ▶ POP #102

Compliance

- ▶ Increase in Cases
- ▶ DOJ Fees
- ▶ Transparent Data
- ▶ POP #100 & #103

Accessibility

- ▶ System Updates
- ▶ Accessible Records
- ▶ Staff Training
- ▶ POP #102 & #103

Cost Containment

Accessible Documents

- ▶ All advice sent electronically
- ▶ Easier for public to access/interact

Self-Service Public Records

- ▶ EFS/CMS
- ▶ Available via website

Virtual Attendance

- ▶ Trainings: Webinars & Workday
- ▶ Commission Meetings

Shared Resources

- ▶ Conference Spaces
- ▶ Technology

Significant Issues for 2023 - 2025

- ▶ CMS/EFS Delays
 - Delays in approved project
 - Additional updates for SEI Filers
 - New POP #103
- ▶ Public Meetings Law
 - Heavy demand for services
 - Training
 - Advice
 - Cases/Complaints
 - Travel training costs

Governor's Budget Summary

Funded by Assessment Revenue

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

- ▶ No fee increases between ARB & GB for 2025-27
- ▶ No vacancies for 2025-2027

Agency Funding

100% Other Funds Using Assessment Model

State Agencies

- ▶ 50% of Budget
- ▶ Based on Full-Time Employees (FTE)
 - ▶ 23 - 25: \$35/FTE
 - ▶ 25 - 27: \$42.74/FTE

Local Governments

- ▶ 50% of Budget
- ▶ Based on Municipal Audit Fee
 - ▶ 8 Levels
 - ▶ 9 Levels - HB 2110 (2023)

Policy Option Packages

POP100 (Continuous) - \$600,000

- Department of Justice Fees

POP101 (Continuous) - \$40,710

- Reclassification to Policy, Planning, and Development Manager 2

POP102 (Continuous) - \$75,000

- Increased Training Program Costs

POP103 (One Time) - \$300,000

- Case Management/Electronic Filing System Updates/Replacement

Reduction Options – 10%

Eliminate AS1 Position

- ▶ \$210,000 savings
- ▶ Inability to meet increased demand for services
- ▶ Slower response to public records requests
- ▶ Slower report processing
- ▶ Decreased customer service

Eliminate PA1/Trainer Position

- ▶ \$260,000 savings
- ▶ Inability to meet increased demand for trainings
- ▶ Slower response to advice requests
- ▶ Limited training program development
- ▶ Decreased customer service

Eliminate CS2/Investigator Position

- ▶ \$287,000 savings
- ▶ Delays in completing cases on time
- ▶ Slower response to advice requests
- ▶ Slower response to increased complaint load
- ▶ Decreased customer service

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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