



From 2025 SB 1077 -1:

- A requester who received a notification of the estimated fee amount as described in this paragraph may request an explanation from the public body for the basis for the fee. If an explanation is requested, the public body shall provide a response to the requester that has sufficient detail to permit a reasonable person to understand the amount and purpose of each component of the estimated fee as soon as practicable, but no more than five business days after the request for explanation is received by the public body.
The period of time between when a requester seeks an explanation for the basis of the fee and the response by the public body is not included in the 60-day period described in ORS 192.329 (3) and (4).
- If the custodian denies the request for a fee waiver or substantial fee reduction, the custodian shall provide a written explanation for the denial. If the custodian fails to provide a written explanation for the denial and the requester appeals the denial of the waiver under ORS 192.407, the custodian's failure to provide a written explanation may be considered by the appropriate reviewing body.
- The written procedure described in this section shall be made available:
On the public body's website; or
If the public body does not have a website, at a publicly accessible physical space, if available, and provided upon request to a requester.
A public body may not charge a fee for completing public records requests until the public body complies with this subsection.

As suggested by Shasta:

- Create grant opportunities or budget lines for agencies – especially small local governments to hire or train public records coordinators.
- Create a “flex” option for an expert to come in or a mutual aid agreement with other local agencies when public interest spikes and a high volume of requests happen. (Potentially housed in the PRA).
- IT solutions - centralized tracking, shared software licensing, redaction systems or digital storage (this would need a process with techie people. I think as Chair, I would want to make this one of the topics of a full council meeting first, so I don't think this is a legislative concept yet and certainly not for 2027.)
- Simplifying the law – this was a very strong drum beat throughout the survey responses. I think Sunshine Committee is where this work is/should be done.
- I also like Nick's idea of adding language that gives PRA the same powers to inspect records that DAs and AGs have in the appeals process in order to facilitate resolutions.