Public Records Advisory Council

DUTIES AND AUTHORITY: Senate Bill 106, 2017

- Survey state agency, other jurisdictions and public body practices and procedures for:
  - Receiving public records requests, identifying the existence of records responsive to the requests and gathering and disclosing responsive records;
  - Determining fee estimates and imposing or waiving fees; and
  - Determining and applying exemptions from required disclosure.

- Identify inefficiencies and inconsistencies in application of the public records law that impede transparency in public process and government;
- Make recommendations on changes in law, policy or practice that could enhance transparency in public process and government, and facilitate rapid dissemination of public records to requesters;
- Make recommendations on the role of the Public Records Advocate as facilitator in disputes between custodians of public records and public record requesters;
- Report to Governor and Legislature by December 1 of each even-numbered year describing the findings of the council since the council’s last report including recommendations for legislation.

Council Members

The Public Records Advocate – Vacant

The Secretary of State or a designee – Stephanie Clark – Stephanie.Clark@oregon.gov

The Attorney General or a designee – Michael Kron - Michael.C.KRON@state.or.us

The Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or a designee – Elizabeth Merah (formerly Craig) - Elizabeth.Merah@oregon.gov

A representative of the News Media who is a member in good standing of a professional journalism association – Emily Harris - Emily.HARRIS@oregon.gov
Two additional representatives of the news media – Steve Suo - Steve.SUO@oregon.gov and
Les Zaitz - Les.ZAITZ@oregon.gov

A representative of the cities – Scott Winkels - swinkels@orcities.org

A representative of the counties – Rob Bovett - rbovett@oregoncounties.org

A representative of the special districts – Mark Landauer - Mark.J.LANDAUER@oregon.gov

A representative of the public sector workforce – Shirin Khosravi -
Shirin.A.KHOSRAVI@oregon.gov

A member of the public – Tony Hernandez - Tony.Hernandez@oregon.gov

A Senator who is appointed by the President of the Senate and who serves as an ex officio
nonvoting member – Kim Thatcher - Sen.KimThatcher@oregonlegislature.gov

A Representative who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and who
serves as an ex officio nonvoting member – Karin Power -
Rep.KarinPower@oregonlegislature.gov

Distribution group email: PublicRecordsAdvisoryCouncil@oregon.gov

Appointment/Confirmation Authority – SB 106, 2017
Term (for the 8 members appointed by the Governor) – Four Year terms – October 1, 2017 –
September 30, 2021

Council will meet at least once every six months and at other times and places specified by the
call of the chair or of a majority of the members.

Public Records Advocate is the chair of the council. Until the advocate is appointed, the
Secretary of State or designee will chair the council.