

Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Ronald A. Bersin
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 more than 70% of voters

Jurisdiction

- ORS Chapter 244 – Ethics
- ORS Chapter 171.725-171.785 - Lobby Law
- ORS Chapter 192.660 & 192.685 – Executive Session

Funded by Assessment Revenue

- \$3,897,374 GRB 2023-2025
- \$3,939,327 ARB 2023-2025
- \$3,323,509 LAB 2021-2023

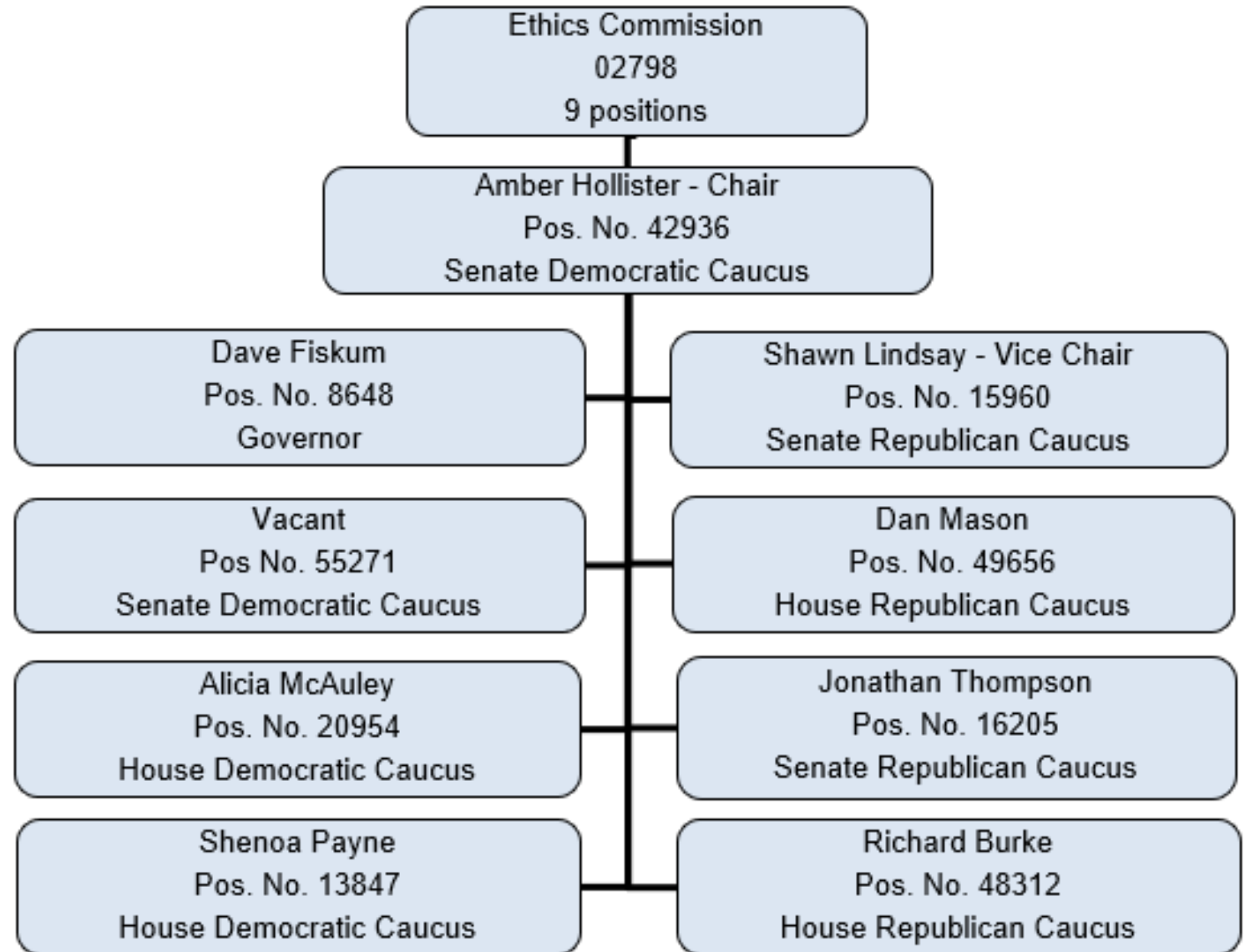
Legislative Concept

- Senate Bill 207



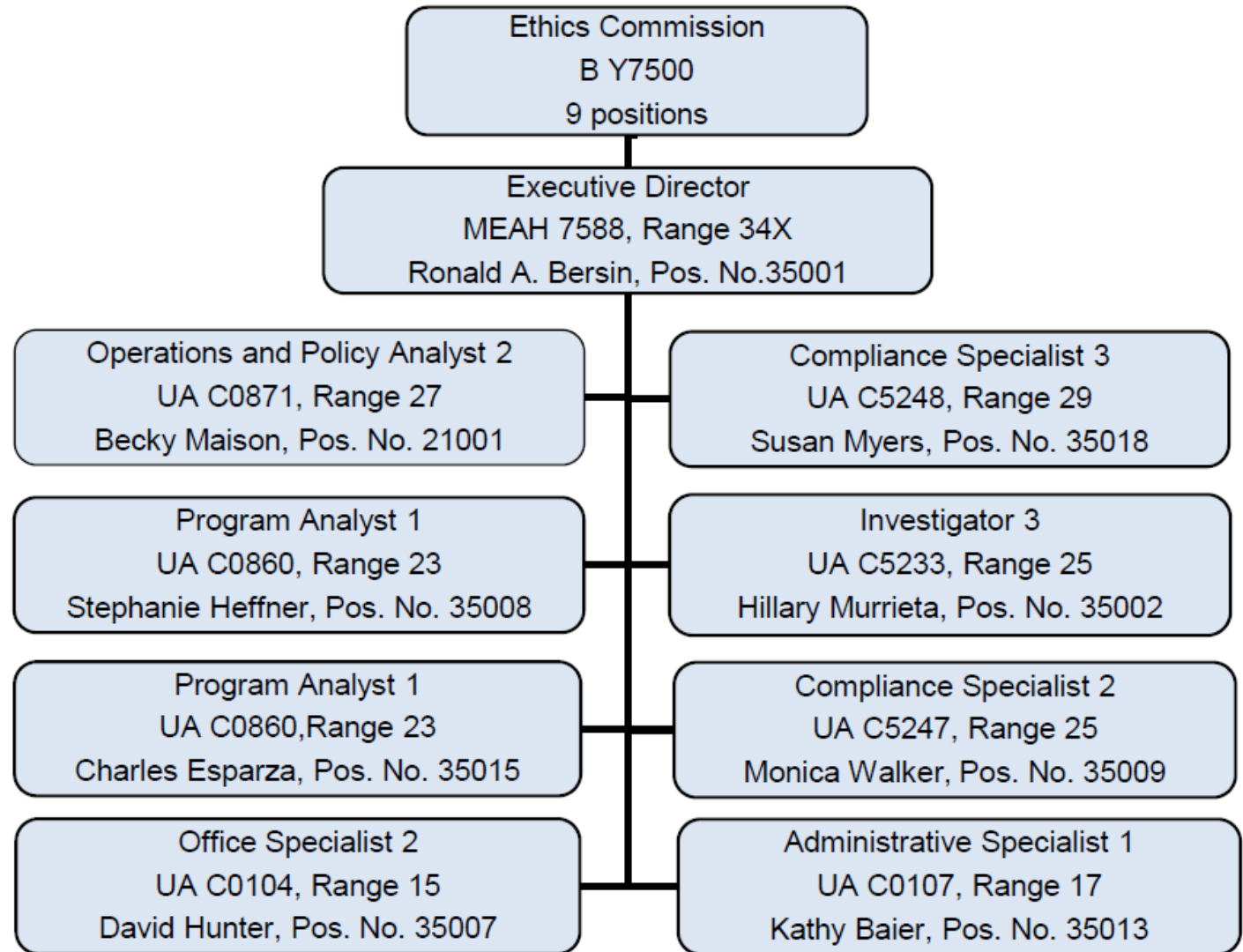
Commission Composition

- 9 Senate confirmed volunteers
 - Democratic & Republican Caucuses nominate 8
 - Governor nominates 1
- No more than 3 from same political party
- Serve up to two 4-year terms



Staff Composition

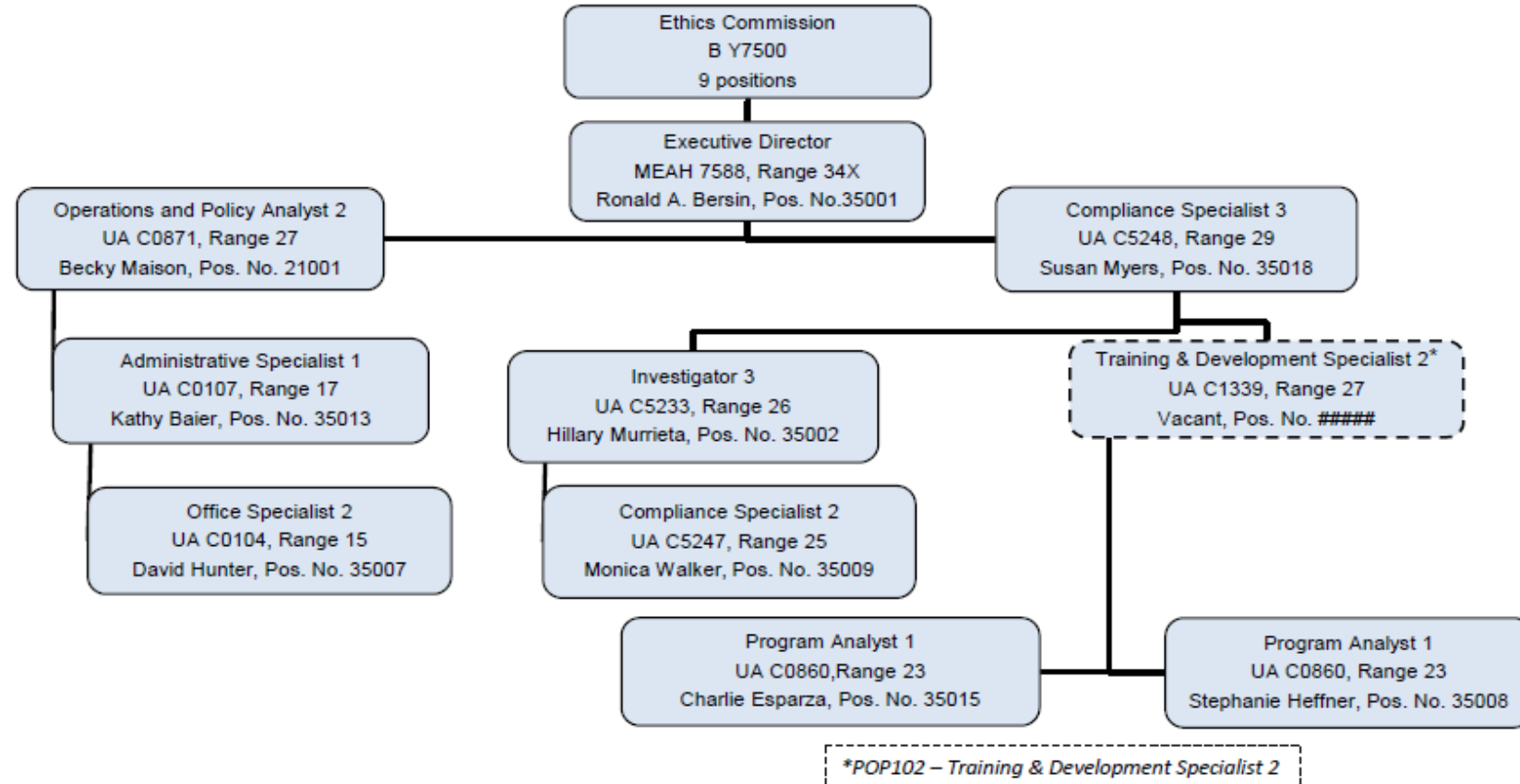
- 9 Member Staff
 - Executive Director
 - Agency Programs Administrator
 - Compliance & Education Coordinator
 - 2 Investigators
 - 2 Trainers
 - 2 Administrative Support Staff



Proposed Staff Composition

- 9 Member Staff
 - Executive Director
 - Agency Programs Administrator
 - Compliance & Education Coordinator
 - 2 Investigators
 - *Training & Development Specialist 2 (POP 102)*
 - 2 Trainers
 - 2 Administrative Support Staff

2023 - 2025 Proposed Organizational Chart



Agency Funding – 100% Other Fund

Assessment Funding Model

- 50% of Budget is funded by State Agencies based on FTE
- 50% of Budget is funded by Local Governments based on Municipal Audit Fee



Policy Option Packages

POP101 – EFS/CMS System Enhancements

- \$259,740 (One Time)
- Governor's Budget Approved

POP102 – Training & Development Specialist 2

- \$225,102 (Continuous)
- Governor's Budget Approved

POP103 – Increased Telecommunication Costs

- \$12,709 (Continuous)
- Governor's Budget Approved

Education & Trainings

Monthly Trainings

- Lobby Law
- Executive Session
- New Public Official
- Gifts
- Conflicts of Interest
- Use of Office/Official Position
- Jurisdictional Contact

Yearly Trainings

- Statement of Economic Interest Trainings

Customized Trainings

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

Workday Trainings

- Overview of Oregon Ethics Law

2022 Statistics

- Total People Trained: 4,139
- Total # of Trainings: 2,768
 - In-Person: 17
 - Webinar: 102
 - Workday: 2,648

Staff

- 2 Trainers
- Compliance & Education Coordinator (0.4 FTE)



Advice & Opinions

Informal Advice

- 175 advice emails in 2021
- Staff provided

Staff Advice

- 42 letters issued in 2021
- Signed by Executive Director
- Published via Case Management System (CMS)

Staff Advisory Opinion

- 4 issued in 2021
- Signed by Executive Director
- Published via CMS

Commission Advisory Opinion

- 5 issued in 2021
- Signed by Commission Chair
- Published via CMS

Commission Issued Guides

- Guide for Public Officials
- Guide to Lobbying in Oregon

Oregon Administrative Rules

- Chapter 199 – Updated in 2021
 - Procedural Rules
 - Gifts
 - Lobbying Registration and Reporting
 - Statement of Interest
 - Executive Session



Investigation Process

Signed, Written Complaint

- Cannot be Anonymous

Own Motion

- Opened by Commission
- Senate Bill 207 - Executive Session

Preliminary Review

- 60 Days for Executive Session & Ethics
- 135 Days for Lobby
- Confidential
- Dismiss or Move to Investigation

Investigation Phase

- 180 Days
- No Longer Confidential
- Dismiss or Make Findings of Violation

Conclusion

- Dismissal
- Stipulated Final Order
- Default Final Order
- Contested Case
 - 100% Settlement Rate

Staff

- 2 Investigators
- Compliance & Education Coordinator (0.6 FTE)



Compliance Analysis

Complaint Breakdown

Ethics

- 33% of All Complaints

Executive Session

- 24% of All Complaints

Lobby

- 2% of All Complaints

Non-Jurisdictional

- 41% of All Complaints

Case Breakdown

Ethics

- 57% of Cases Opened

Executive Session

- 41% of Cases Opened

Lobby

- 3% of Cases Opened



Budget Drivers

Education

- Publications
- Training
- Advice & Opinions

Compliance

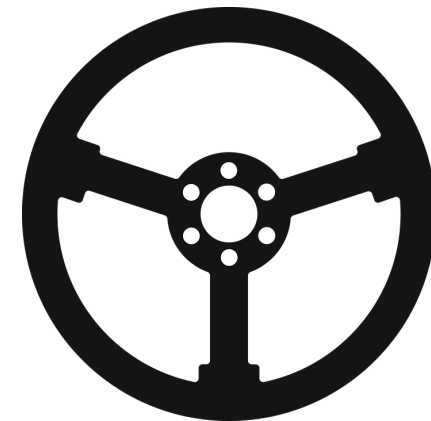
- Investigation Process
- Department of Justice

Public Records & Databases (Info Tech Project)

- Case Management System (CMS)
- Electronic Filing System (EFS)

Administrative Services

- Department of Administrative Services
- Personnel
- Services & Supplies
- Other Legal Expenses



Budget Reduction – 15%

Eliminate Office Specialist 2

- \$170,000 savings
- Slower response to public records requests
- Increased workload for remaining staff
- Decreased customer service

Eliminate Program Analyst 1

- \$195,000 savings
- Delays in provided advice
- Decreased number of trainings
- Limited training program development
- Decreased customer service

Reduce Compliance Specialist 2

- \$195,000 savings
- Delays in provided advice
- Delays in completed investigations
- Decreased customer service



Cost Containment

Self Service Public Records Availability

- Electronic Filing System
- Case Management System
- Website

Virtual Trainings

- Webinars
- On-Demand

Shared Resources

- Conference Spaces
- Technology



Key Performance Measures

Time Used - 79%

- Preliminary Reports 85%
- Investigations 76%
- Advice 77%

Quality of Investigations – 4.87

- Timeliness - 5
- Accessibility - 5
- Objectivity – 4.7
- Organization – 4.7

Training Effectiveness – 70%

- Decrease in Wrong Answers – 70%

Minimize Case Disposition Costs – 100%

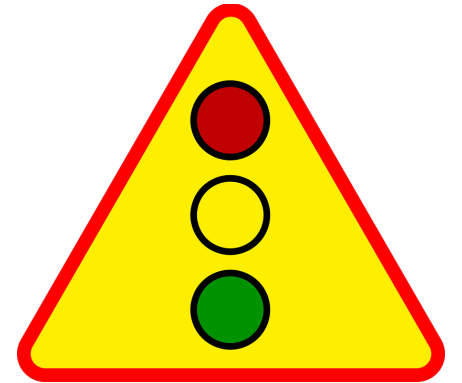
- Cases settled before hearing – 100%

Customer Service – 86

- Accuracy - 88
- Timeliness- 90
- Helpfulness - 86
- Expertise - 91
- Availability of Info. - 88

Best Practices – 100%

- Best Practices – 100%



Key Takeaways

Agency Focus

- Education
- Compliance

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- 50% Public Bodies/Municipalities

Budget

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Policy Option Packages

- POP101 – EFS/CMS
- POP102 – TDS2
- POP103 – Telecom.



Questions?

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