

ETHICS COMMISSION

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The Oklahoma Ethics Commission is created by Article 29 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It has the Constitutional mission to promulgate rules of ethical conduct for state officers and employees and for campaigns for elective state office and initiative and referenda, including civil penalties for violations. An additional part of its Constitutional mission is to investigate and, when appropriate, prosecute in District Court alleged violations of those rules.

Here the name, title and contact information for the lead administrative person should be listed.

Lee Slater, Executive Director
405-521-3451

GOVERNANCE:

The agency is headed by an executive director employed by the Ethics Commission pursuant to Article 29 Section 2(C).

The Ethics Commission consists of five (5) members who serve for five years as follows:

- One member appointed by the Governor
- One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate
- One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
- One member appointed by the Attorney General
- One member appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Current commission members are:

- Karen Long – Chair
- Jo Pettigrew – Vice Chair
- Cathy Stocker – Commissioner
- John C. Hawkins – Commissioner
- Thomas Walker - Commissioner

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Please provide copies of the minutes for any Commission/Board meetings the agency has had since July 1, 2012 in electronic format (Only in PDF format) Is there an attendance policy for board members/commissioners? If so, is it being followed?

There is not an attendance policy for commission members. The minutes are available in pdf format on our website at www.ok.gov/ethics.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2012-13 Performance Report

The Commission is in the process of replacing its outdated and unreliable computer software with new reliable software. The software will be used for campaign finance registration and reporting, lobbyist registration and reporting and financial disclosure reporting. With the exception of financial disclosure forms, all registrations and reports will be available online at the time of filing. It will be fully implemented in calendar year 2015, subject to modifications and enhancements in following years. The new software will make public access to campaign finance and lobbyist expenditure information more readily available.

The Commission in 2014 constructed a new website at www.ok.gov/ethics that also is more user-friendly for the public and the regulated community.

The Commission enacted entirely new rules in 2014 which have gone into effect, for the most part, as of January 1, 2015. The new rules recognize the enormous impact of the *Citizens United* decision issued by the United States Supreme Court in 2010 which dramatically changed the face of campaign finance law in the United States and Oklahoma.

What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

The Commission's new rules require mandatory electronic filing for all candidate committees, political party committees, political action committees, special function committees, lobbyist registration and reporting, and, for the first time, personal financial disclosures. In establishing the mandatory electronic reporting requirement for committees the Commission reviewed the composition of its regulated community to determine where to establish the registration and reporting requirements. Previously all committees, no matter how little, or if any, funds were raised or spent, had to register with the Commission. By establishing a threshold registration requirement we are able to focus the efforts of the Commission on committees that are in fact politically active.

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? Are there services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere?

As of January 1, 2015 the Commission has enforcement authority over the Local Government Campaign Finance and Financial Disclosures Act (SB 1745, 2014), as well as responsibility to design and make available campaign and financial disclosure forms for County, Municipal, and School District and Technology Center campaigns. Constitutionally, the Commission is required to promulgate and enforce rules for statewide campaigns, and state officers and employees—not local campaigns nor local officers or employees.

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The Commission lacks the resources to adequately focus on voluntary compliance, routine educational information or programs, and/or enforcement of its rules.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma? In other states? Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency?

None of our services are performed by the private sector in Oklahoma. All other states have agencies similar to ours that perform similar functions. The agency has not been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency.