

Governing Bodies Subject to Public Meetings Law

What governing bodies are subject to Public Meetings Law?

A governing body, per ORS 192.610(5), is:



Two or more members of a public body



With authority to make decisions for or recommendations to a public body on policy or administration

The governing bodies subject to Public Meetings Law, per OAR 199-050-0010(1), are:



Decision-Making Bodies

- Make decisions on policy or administration
- Including exercising governmental power and acting on behalf of the public body



Advisory Bodies

- Formed by public body
- To make recommendations to public body on policy or administration

What bodies are NOT subject to Public Meetings Law?

The bodies NOT subject to Public Meetings Law, per OAR 199-050-0010(2), are:



Fact Gathering Bodies

- Purpose is to gather and provide factual information
- Cannot make decisions or recommendations



Bodies Advising Individual Public Officials

- Appointed by an individual public official
- Can only make recommendations to that public official



Certain Multi-Jurisdiction Bodies

- Multi-jurisdictional bodies
- Oregon members do not make up a majority of the governing body's voting members

Meetings Subject to Public Meetings Law

A meeting is “the convening of a governing body of a public body for which a quorum is required in order to make a decision or to deliberate toward a decision on any matter” [ORS 192.610(7)(a)].



CONVENING

When governing body members convene (in-person, virtually, or via other methods described in ORS 192.610(1)).



QUORUM

A quorum, or the minimum number of members needed to conduct business, is present.



DECISION / DELIBERATION

The group is talking about matters that could come before the governing body for deliberation or decision.



**A Meeting
(Public Meetings Law applies)**

There are a few communications where **Public Meetings Law does not apply**:

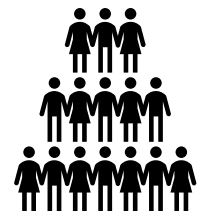
Purely informational & factual

Unrelated to governing body's deliberation or decisions

Non-substantive (scheduling, leave, etc.)



On-site inspections



Association gathering

Public Meetings Law does not apply so long as communications do not convey deliberations or decisions that might reasonably come before the governing body. See ORS 192.690(1)(m) and OAR 199-050-0015(3). Call OGEC at 503-378-5105 for more information.