



## 2023 Government-to-Government Report



Secretary of State  
LaVonne Griffin-Valade

December 2023

Online version available at <https://sos.oregon.gov/pages/tribal-relations.aspx>

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
LAVONNE GRIFFIN-VALADE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

CHERYL MYERS  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE  
AND TRIBAL LIAISON



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December 15, 2023

Patrick Flanagan, Executive Director  
Legislative Commission on Indian Services  
900 Court Street NE, Room 167  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Patrick:

The Oregon Secretary of State's Office is pleased to share our 2023 Government to Government (G2G) Annual Report detailing this year's activities. As one of three constitutional offices established at statehood, this office has a lengthy history of voluntary compliance with the Governor's executive order for annual report submissions, appointing a Tribal Liaison, participation in G2G clusters and additional relevant activities.

My administration remains fervently committed to our mission: building trust between the people of Oregon and our state government so that public services can make a positive impact in peoples' lives. We genuinely respect the sovereign status of each of the nine federally-recognized tribes in Oregon and it's rewarding to see our agency's engagement increase, with a plan to continue throughout 2024.

If questions arise or follow-up is desired, please direct them to our Tribal Liaison, Deputy Secretary of State Cheryl Myers at 971.720.3133 | [cheryl.L.myers@sos.oregon.gov](mailto:cheryl.L.myers@sos.oregon.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LaVonne Griffin-Valade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LaVonne Griffin-Valade  
Oregon Secretary of State

The Secretary of State agency includes four public-serving divisions: Archives, Audits, Corporation and Elections. In addition, the agency has three internal central service divisions: Business Services, Human Resources, and Information Systems. The Secretary has an executive team providing direct support to her administration and the agency.

## MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

### Our Mission

Building trust between the people of Oregon and our state government so that public services can make a positive impact in peoples' lives.

### Our Vision

We envision an Oregon without barriers, where we lead with our values and believe every voice should be heard. We do so by:

- Building equitable access to our democracy
- Making tools easily available to achieve economic success
- Ensuring state resources are used sustainably, efficiently and accountable to the public
- Honestly acknowledging Oregon's history

### We Value

- *Access for all* - We elevate equity through identifying and actively eliminating barriers
- *Authenticity* - We have integrity and are honest and true to ourselves and others
- *Clarity* - We share stories, using plain language to increase understanding and impact
- *Respect* - We are committed to serving the people of Oregon and strive to understand all viewpoints
- *Service* - We are responsive and prioritize the needs of current and future Oregonians we serve

## TRIBAL RELATIONS

In accordance with [ORS 182.164](#), the Secretary of State has developed and implemented an agency policy on relationships and cooperation with tribes.

The agency's approach is rooted in our core values and respectfully recognizing tribal sovereignty through our actions. We work to develop and nurture strong working relationships with each federally-recognized tribe in Oregon. Our goal is to ensure potential agency impacts to tribes and their members are positive in nature, and any potential negative effects are swiftly and transparently mitigated to the best possible outcome.

### Strategy

Within the agency, the Oregon Secretary of State's Tribal Liaison is tasked with identifying changes and initiatives in the agency which may impact tribes and/or tribal members, and then to engage early and appropriately with tribes. It is with intention the designation of this role be at the highest feasible authority within the agency, hence the current appointment of the Deputy Secretary of State. The Tribal Liaison reports to and advises the Secretary on such programs, recommends appropriate action, and works to promote positive communications and relations between the agency and the tribes.

Identified areas with potential tribal impact thus far include:

**Audits Division** – performance and financial audits; Misuse of State Government Resources hotline.

**Archives Division** – permanent collection, records retention responsibilities and expertise, the Oregon Blue Book, and connections to other organizations who retain objects or documents of interest.

**Corporation Division** – business registry for tribal-owned or chartered entities, the Office of Small Business Assistance.

**Elections Division** – tribal members’ ability to register to vote and participate in non-tribal elections, financial impact of ballot measures to tribes.

## GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT (G2G) ACTIVITIES

### Executive Office

- **Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade** is Oregon’s 29<sup>th</sup> Secretary of State and grew up in Eastern Oregon. Born in John Day, she was raised by her mill worker mother and Teamster Union truck driver father. LaVonne began her career working as an administrative assistant in the Crook County Juvenile Department. For over 16 years, LaVonne worked as a government performance auditor. In 2009, LaVonne was elected the Portland City Auditor. After leaving office, LaVonne went on to earn a Master of Fine Arts in writing from Portland State University and has since pursued a successful writing career. She was appointed to Secretary of State by Governor Tina Kotek in 2023.
- **Deputy Secretary of State/Tribal Liaison Cheryl Myers** in addition to her agency duties, Deputy Myers is honored to also serve as the agency’s Tribal Liaison and has engaged with the nine federally-recognized Oregon tribes for more than a decade in her various prior state agency leadership roles: Governor’s cabinet, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and in the Chief Education Office. Her professional background includes public policy, organizational leadership, economic development, public education/youth advocacy, and a history of assisting organizations to construct equitable cultures and embed collaborative practices. Her longstanding private sector entrepreneurship lends insight into the varying aspects of unique business needs. A lifetime Oregonian, she is deeply committed to community, serving on local and national boards.

The Executive Office is highly appreciative of the continuing relationship with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS); Executive Director Flanagan and his team are remarkable partners, including their ever-ready availability and astute guidance. Secretary Griffin-Valade prioritizes identifying engagement opportunities and thoughtful policy initiative considerations. The Deputy Secretary/Tribal Liaison regularly attends and engages in a variety of tribal-related meetings, oversees agency initiatives and engagement, informs agency leadership on items of tribal interest, and provides learning resources to staff. The agency looks forward to engaging with the newly created tribal affairs team in Governor Kotek’s office.

The agency participates in two LCIS G2G (Government-to-Government) cluster groups and voluntarily complies with provisions of [Executive Order 17-12](#). The Tribal Liaison initiates and strengthens ongoing relationships with key tribal contacts and is appreciative of the warm reception received in these efforts.

- ✓ The State Archivist, Stephanie Clark, serves alongside the Tribal Liaison to participate in the Cultural Resources G2G cluster.
- ✓ The Corporation Division Director, Eloisa Miller, serves alongside the Tribal Liaison to participate in the Economic Development & Community Services G2G cluster.

Appendix A recaps agency activities over the past year.

## Audits Division

When developing each audit plan, teams consider how the audit topic potentially affects Oregon's federally-recognized tribes. During 2023, the Audits Division released the Oregon Racing Commission audit, requested by six of Oregon's federally-recognized tribes. The teams incorporated the insights and opinions from the tribes in developing the audit scope and fieldwork and included their viewpoints and stories in the final report. In addition, the Division released the Water Advisory and Broadband Access reports, which included input from seven of Oregon's federally-recognized tribal leaders and members. Following the release of the Water Advisory report, the team, along with Deputy Secretary Myers, traveled to Pendleton to discuss the findings with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees.

## Corporation Division

In 2023 along with the Tribal Liaison, the Corporation Division continued to engage and participate in the Economic Development & Community Services (EDCS) Tribal Cluster meetings. The meetings were attended by Eloisa Miller, Corporation Division Director, along with Monique Bourque, Public Outreach Facilitator for the Office of Small Business Assistance. The in-person meetings were tremendously valuable and appreciated in providing opportunity for more meaningful engagement with the members in comparison to virtual meetings. During the year, the division participants mostly spent time learning from tribal members, listening to challenges and taking to heart the importance of continuing to be present to learn and understand the various challenges of Oregon's federally-recognized tribes. The division's vision is to connect not only during times of hardship or urgency, but to connect frequently to proactively discuss and understand tribal barriers versus addressing on a reactive basis.

In November of 2023, the division invited the EDCS Tribal Cluster tribal representatives to participate in providing input on the "Start a Business Guide" and "Employer's Guide". These guides are used to aid small businesses within the state. The division desires to ensure all resources available to tribal owned businesses are indicated in the guides. With input from the members of the EDCS Tribal Cluster, the division will become aware of new resources otherwise unknown and can better assist tribal-owned businesses.

The division openly welcomes input on how the Corporation Division's services can be improved for tribal-owned businesses. The division would be delighted to receive an invitation from tribal representatives to learn about their cultures, values, and challenges related to the Corporation Division services, starting a business, growing a business, and government barriers. We invite the opportunity to continue to learn from tribal communities of how we can best engage and collaborate.

## Elections

In early 2023, The Elections Division joined states around the nation for an informal work group on Native American voting rights. Convened by the Utah Secretary of State's office, the group has met four times to discuss ideas on how to expand voter registration and engagement on tribal lands and tribal communities. Elections intends to continue participating in this important ongoing conversation.

In late 2023, the Elections Division was approached by the Chemawa Health Clinic in Salem for guidance on providing voter registration at the site. The Clinic was chosen by the Biden administration as a pilot site to adopt registration requirements. We are excited to continue working in partnership with Chemawa Health Clinic in the coming months to stand up a program that introduces voter registration into regular business practices at the site. We also began very preliminary discussions about how to conduct outreach to 16, 17, and 18 year olds at the Chemawa Indian School.

## Archives Division & Tribal Cultural Items

In 2023 along with the Tribal Liaison, the Archives Division continued to engage and participate in the Cultural Resources Tribal Cluster meetings, primarily attended by the State Archivist.

### Passing of House Bill 2012 (*Adding Native Voices to Public Records Law*)

With the creation of the Tribal Cultural Items Task Force, there was a concerted effort starting in 2017 to solicit information from state agencies and other public institutions about items within their possession that are associated with Oregon's nine federally-recognized tribes. Out of that process, the State Archives sparked conversations between state agency records officers and state agency Tribal Liaisons by requiring Agency Tribal Liaison signoff for records due for destruction out at the Oregon State Records Center. This created a cascading effect throughout agencies, many of which had not yet designated a Tribal Liaison. The State Archives' responsibility is not merely housing and providing access to valuable public records, but to also determine the retention period for each public records series. In statute, there have historically only been four required values to weigh – administrative, legal, fiscal, and historical. Through the collaborative work with the Governor's Tribal Cultural Items Task Force, much has been learned about the ongoing tribal cultural value inherent in many government records.

In order to maintain strong and respectful relationships with each Tribal Government, the Secretary of State's office and the Oregon State Archives sought to implement lasting change to carry on the Task Force's work. To that end, the State Archives proposed a legislative concept to add "tribal cultural value" to the other list of values currently in place when appraising public records for retention. The statute change would codify the current practice of including more in-depth consideration of tribal cultural value when establishing retention periods for government records. State agencies are already required to have a Tribal Liaison, and ongoing support to agencies continues in the areas of records retention and destruction. These changes to the statute will increase visibility for this effort, and in turn lead to greater resources being applied in that direction.

The Oregon State Legislature passed the Adding Native Voices to Public Records Law (HB 2112) and the Governor signed the bill into law. The bill added "tribal culture value" to the list of considerations when appraising public records for retention. Doing so ensures in-depth consideration of the nine federally recognized tribes when establishing retention periods for government records.

### Destruction Reports – Tribal Liaison Sign-off

As noted above, State Agency Tribal Liaisons are required to sign off when authorizing records to be destroyed at the State Records Center. In 2023, the Records Center sent out destruction reports to agencies with instructions on notifying the tribes about their intent to destroy. The instructions were also added to the monthly Transferring Records webinar training and delivered in the Public Law Conference. Ongoing contact continues with the tribal contacts, updating the tribal contacts list when new representatives are appointed.

## SECRETARY OF STATE KEY CONTACTS

Cheryl Myers - Deputy Secretary of State, Tribal Liaison  
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Stephanie Clark - State Archivist, Cultural Resource Cluster Co-liaison  
[stephanie.clark@sos.oregon.gov](mailto:stephanie.clark@sos.oregon.gov) | 503.378.8161

Eloisa Miller – Corporation Division Director, Economic Development & Community Services Cluster Co-liaison  
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**TRIBAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES – Appendix A**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Convening (*indicates virtual)</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
1/19/2023	Cultural Resource Cluster Meeting*	Deputy/Tribal Liaison; State Archivist
1/5/2023	Rep. Sanchez Meeting re: LC258 (HB 2112) *	Deputy/Tribal Liaison, State Archivist, Legislative Assistant
1/5/2023	Presentation to Public Records Advisory Council re: LC 258 (HB 2112)*	State Archivist, Legislative Assistant
1/19/2023	Presentation to the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders re: HB 2112*	State Archivist
1/26/2023	Public Hearing for HB 2112, House Rules Committee	State Archivist, Legislative Assistant
2/3/2023	State-Tribal Economic Development and Community Services Cluster Meeting. *	Deputy/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Director
2/9/2023	Meeting with staff from the Board of Chiropractic Examiners re: Tribal Cultural Value*	State Archivist
3/7/2023	Public Hearing for HB 2112A, Senate Rules Committee	State Archivist, Legislative Assistant
3/11/2023	Department of Corrections (DOC) Freedom Recovery Graduation	Deputy/Tribal Liaison
3/14/2023	Cultural Resource Cluster Meeting*	Deputy/Tribal Liaison; State Archivist
3/15/2023	Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)*	Deputy/Tribal Liaison
3/23/2023	Water Advisory Report Presentation to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees	Deputy/Tribal Liaison; Audit Manager; Senior Auditor
4/28/2023	State-Tribal Economic Development and Community Services Cluster Meeting. *	Deputy/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Director
5/17/2023	Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)	Corporation Director
5/31/2023	NW Native Chamber Luncheon	Corporation Deputy Director; Small Business Ombudsman
6/16/2023	Tribal-related content - Oregon Blue Book*	Deputy/Tribal Liaison and Archives Blue Book Editor
6/18/2023	Cultural Resource Cluster Meeting	Deputy/Tribal Liaison
6/20/23 & 6/21/2023	Domestic Violence Audit, interview requests, emails	Audits Team and Deputy/Tribal Liaison
6/22/2023	DOC Tribal Club Powwow	Deputy/Tribal Liaison
7/5/2023	Big Yard Powwow	Deputy/Tribal Liaison
7/5/2023	Domestic violence response programs - Warm Springs Tribe - Oregon Audits Division (OAD)*	Audits Team
7/26/2023	Discussion - Domestic Violence - Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation - OAD/CTUIR*	Krystine McCants, Audits Team
8/15/2023	Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)*	Corporation Director

Date	Convening (*indicates virtual)	Attendees
8/25/2023	State-Tribal Economic Development and Community Services Cluster Meeting.	Deputy/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Director
9/26/2023	Lakota Oyate-Ki Cultural Club - 55th Annual Banquet	Deputy/Tribal Liaison
9/27/2023	Presentation to Collections Coordinating Council re: HB 2112*	State Archivist
10/19/2023	NW Native Chamber Gathering 2023	Corporation Director
10/20/2023	Public Law Conference Presentation re: HB 2112	State Archivist
10/31/2023	Cultural Resource Cluster Meeting*	Oregon Blue Book Managing Editor
12/5/2023	Tribal Cluster*	Deputy/Tribal Liaison and Corporation Director