



2024

Government-to-Government Report



Oregon Secretary of State
LaVonne Griffin-Valade

December 2024

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



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LaVonne Griffin-Valade



LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Secretary of State

December 10, 2024

The Honorable Governor Tina Kotek
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Room 167
Salem, OR 97301

Governor Kotek:

The Oregon Secretary of State's Office is pleased to share our 2024 Government to Government (G2G) Annual Report detailing this past 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 has remained consistent in its commitment to our mission: building trust and making a difference. We genuinely respect the sovereign status of each of the nine federally-recognized Tribes in Oregon and it's been rewarding to see our agency's robust engagement. We plan to share our activities with the incoming Secretary-elect.

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 or cheryl.L.myers@sos.oregon.gov

Sincerely,

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Oregon Secretary of State

cc: Shana Radford, Tribal Affairs Director
Patrick Flanagan, Legislative Commission on Indian Services Executive Director
Tobias Read, Secretary of State-elect

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LaVonne Griffin-Valade
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About the Agency

The Secretary of State's Office includes four public-serving divisions: Archives, Audits, Corporation and Elections. In addition, the agency has three internal serving 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: Build trust, make a difference.

We Value

- Integrity – We ground our work in transparency, accountability and fairness.
- Access for All – We elevate equity through identifying and actively eliminating barriers.
- 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.

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 its core values and respectfully recognizing Tribal sovereignty through actions, including developing and nurturing strong working relationships with each federally-recognized tribe in Oregon. The 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 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/nonprofit registry for Tribal-owned or chartered entities, the Office of Small Business Assistance to support Tribal enterprises and Tribal member-owned entities.

Elections Division: Tribal members' ability to register to vote and participate in non-Tribal elections.

Government-to-Government (G2G) Activities

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade is Oregon's 29th Secretary of State. Born in John Day, LaVonne grew up in eastern Oregon. She moved to Monmouth where she attended Western Oregon University and received her Bachelor of Science degree. LaVonne later attended Portland State University and earned a Master of Public Administration degree. She was a government performance auditor for over 16 years, initially as a member of the auditing staff at Multnomah County, and later as the elected Multnomah County Auditor. In subsequent years, LaVonne was elected to the post of Portland City Auditor. After her retirement from the City of Portland, Secretary Griffin-Valade again attended Portland State University where she obtained a Master of Fine Arts in writing. Her four-novel contemporary series (Severn River Publishing) is set in eastern Oregon. She looks forward to returning to her writing career.

In addition to her agency leadership since 2020, **Deputy Secretary of State Cheryl 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 lifelong 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. The agency lauds the creation of a Governor's Tribal Liaison and appointment of Shana McConville Radford, bringing exciting new opportunities. 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 (including media and external guidance to other state agency Tribal liaisons), informs agency leadership on items of Tribal interest, and provides learning resources to staff.

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 Yarbrough, 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 Annual Audit Plan, teams consider how the audit topic potentially affects Oregon's federally-recognized Tribes. During 2024, the Audits Division held meetings with directors of health care clinics serving Tribal communities as part of scoping for a behavioral health audit. The team incorporated the insights and opinions in developing the audit scope and fieldwork. The report is expected to be released by the end of 2024. In addition, the Division Director has met with several Tribal government councils to provide an overview of the Audits Division and to support ongoing relationships. The director plans to continue meeting with Tribal councils in 2025.

CORPORATION DIVISION

In 2024, the Corporation Division continued its engagement with federally-recognized Oregon Tribes. Through participation in the Economic Development & Community Services Tribal Cluster meetings and direct interactions with Tribal Councils, the division sought to strengthen relationships and gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing Tribal businesses.

Division director Eloisa Yarbrough remained a key participant in these valuable meetings. In-person gatherings proved especially effective at greater in-depth learning, fostering meaningful dialogue, and building strong connections with Tribal members, including the Governor's Tribal-State G2G Summit.

The division deepened its commitment to Tribal engagement by joining the Northwest Native Chamber in September 2024. Additionally, the director accompanied Deputy Secretary Myers in meetings with several Tribal Councils, fostering valuable relationships. Looking ahead to 2025, Director Yarbrough aims to maintain these connections and continue engaging with Tribal Councils to further strengthen collaboration and support Tribal economic development.

ELECTIONS DIVISION

In late 2023, the Elections Division was approached by the Chemawa Health Center 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. Over the last year, the division worked collaboratively with the Chemawa Health Center and the Indian Health Service to formally designate the health center as a National Voter Registration Act site. This designation became effective on October 28, 2024, after the division conducted a formal rulemaking process and received input from the Legislative Commission on Indian Services Tribal Chairs. The division looks forward to continued support of the Chemawa Health Center as they continue rolling out voter registration services.

ARCHIVES DIVISION

In 2024 along with the Tribal Liaison, Deputy Cheryl Myers, the Archives Division continued to engage and participate in the Cultural Resources Tribal Cluster meetings, primarily attended by the State Archivist.

The division frequently receives research requests from the public, researchers and government representatives. The Governor's Office Tribal Affairs Director requested background information regarding Tribal Relations and Government-to-Government Relations and the history of Executive Order 96-30 and Senate Bill 770. They asked for history on the State-Tribal Clusters, which were established as an outcome of the first annual Legislative Council on Indian Services along with the history of LCIS. The last major component of this complex request was for history and communications relating to Public Law 280, which granted certain states criminal jurisdiction over American Indians on reservations and to allow civil litigation

that had come under Tribal or federal court jurisdiction to be handled by state courts. Records used to respond to this request included numerous legislative bill tracings, minutes, and exhibits — many of which were available electronically, and those that were still in paper format were digitized and placed in Archives' online system. The gubernatorial papers of John Kitzhaber and Paul Patterson were also consulted, and portions were digitized for easy access. Because PL-280 is a federal law, the division conducted outreach to the State Library of Oregon, the Oregon State Law Library, and the Library of Congress.

Another example of a recent request from the same office and the LCIS was for a signed letter from the nine federally-recognized Oregon Tribes to Governor Kate Brown relating to the 100 Year Water Vision. The request originally went to Audits, then to Archives. After sorting through more than 2 million electronic records, not only was the signed letter from all nine tribes to Governor Brown located, a copy of Governor Brown's response was shared.

The last research request relates to the centennial of the Indian Citizenship Act. On June 2, 1924, Congress enacted the Indian Citizen Act which granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. The right to vote, however, was governed by state law and until 1957, some states still barred Native Americans from voting. Tremendous research documenting Native American Voting rights in Oregon for the 2020 Suffrage Exhibit was shared. Additionally, historic newspaper databases were researched to provide an extra layer of detail related to Oregon's voter laws, including literacy tests that were implemented. For learning purposes, a presentation overview was shared with all agency staff during Native American Heritage Month.

IMPLEMENTATION 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 the nine federally-recognized Oregon 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 scheduled for destruction 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 codified 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 designate a Tribal Liaison, and ongoing support to agencies continues in the areas of records retention and destruction. These changes to the statute have increased visibility for this effort, and in turn have led to greater resources being applied in that direction and increased engagement between agencies and tribes.

The Oregon State Legislature passed the Adding Native Voices to Public Records Law (HB 2112) and the Governor signed the bill into law in 2023. 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. The team at the State Archives immediately went to work to provide additional training to Agency Records Officers both virtually and in person to help them better understand the lasting implications of this change.

OREGON BLUE BOOK

The 2024 Archives Division strategic plan for the Oregon Blue Book includes a greater focus on including Tribal perspectives and histories.

For the first time in book history, the content in the color insert was shared with the nine federally-recognized Tribes of Oregon for an extended review period. At that same time, each of the Tribes received their individual Tribal government listing from the book, to allow an extensive period to review the content for updates and changes. The learning from working with Tribal governments has reinforced this longer period is a respectful and important part of working with Indigenous nations.

Also, for the first time ever, the book will also include a land acknowledgement approved by LCIS. This will live on a prominent page toward the front of the book in the print edition and the digital edition website.

Earlier this year, Oregon’s history timeline in the History Section of the book was reviewed. It immediately became clear additional effort was required to bring greater Tribal inclusivity into the timeline. Currently, the timeline begins in the 1500s with the arrival of Captain Gray to the Columbia River. Clearly, Indigenous people have lived on the land now known as Oregon for at least 18,000 years based on archeological evidence and since Time Immemorial. Expansion of the timeline is underway to include this and other key moments in time demonstrating the Indigenous presence in Oregon prior to colonization.

SECRETARY OF STATE KEY CONTACTS

Cheryl Myers | Deputy Secretary of State & Tribal Liaison
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Stephanie Clark | State Archivist and Archives Division Director, Cultural Resource Cluster Co-liaison
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TRIBAL RELATIONS ACTIVITIES – Appendix A

Date	Engagement	Attendees
1/29/2024	Cultural Resource G2G Cluster	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; State Archivist
5/1/2024	Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS)	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Director
5/3/2024	Native American Voting Act 100th Anniversary discussion	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Governor's Tribal Affairs Director; Legislature Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) Executive Director; Capitol Foundation board member
5/10/2024	Economic Development & Community Services G2G Cluster	Corporation Division Director
5/29/2024	Native American Right to Vote: Reflecting on 100 Years of the Indian Citizenship Act – national call	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
6/4/2024	Oregon Arts Commission staff meeting	State Archivist
6/7/2024	Tribal Art Representation discussion	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Ford Family Foundation advisor; LCIS Executive Director; Governor's Tribal Affairs Director
6/10/2024	Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon – Tribal Council	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Director
6/12/2024	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde – Tribal Council	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Director; State Archivist
6/14/2024	Oregon State Correctional Institution – Native American Pride event	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; SoS Rules/Hearing Coordinator
6/15/2024	Oregon State Correctional Institution – Native American Education Night	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
6/20/2024	Introduction: Request from SOS	Audits Division Principal Auditor; Audits Division Staff Auditor
6/21/20024	Introduction: Request from SOS	Audits Division Principal Auditor; Audits Division Staff Auditor
6/24/2024	Introduction: Request from SOS	Audits Division Principal Auditor; Audits Division Staff Auditor
7/20/2024	Oregon State Correctional Institution - Recovery Pow-wow	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; SoS Rules/Hearing Coordinator
7/23/2024	Cultural Resource G2G Cluster	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
7/23/2024	Annual Tribal Summit Reception	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Director



Date	Engagement	Attendees
7/24/2024	2024 Tribal-State Government-to-Government Summit	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Director
8/3/2024	Oregon State Penitentiary - Annual Big Yard Pow-Wow	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; SoS Rules/Hearing Coordinator
8/26/2024	Research meeting	State Archivist; Archives Reference & Publications Unit Manager; Grand Ronde Research Librarian
9/5/2024	Tribal Liaison Support, DOC voting rights poster development	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Department of Corrections Assistant Director/Tribal Liaison
9/5/2024	Telling the American Story on Our Public Lands – national call	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
9/9/2024	Capitol Renovation /Tribal Art Representation Meeting	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; LCIS Executive Director; Governor's Tribal Affairs Director
9/17/2024	Legislative Commission on Indian Services	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
9/18/2024	Northwest Native Chamber Luncheon	Corporation Division: Director, Operations Manager, Small Business Ombudsman; SoS Chief Procurement Officer
9/28/2024	Records Request	Reference & Publications Unit Manager - Archives Division
10/2/2024	CTUIR 10/10 voter event planning	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison, NW Public Affairs
10/2/2024	Research/Request fulfillment	Reference & Publications Unit Manager - Archives Division
10/2/2024	Technical Assistance Program	Corporation Division Director, NWNC Advancement Capital Specialist
10/3/2024	Tribal Liaison support	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison, OSBEEELS Tribal Liaison
10/10/2024	CTUIR Voter Registration Event	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
10/15/2024	LCIS Meeting	State Archivist
10/24/2024	Klamath Tribes - Tribal Council	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Director; Audits Division Director; State Archivist
10/28/2024	Cultural Resource G2G Cluster	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; State Archivist
10/29/2024	Cultural Resource G2G Cluster	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
11/7/2024	Technical Assistance Program	Corporation Division Director, NWNC Technical Assistance Manager



Date	Engagement	Attendees
11/8/2024	Technical Assistance Program	Corporation Division Director, NWNC Program Coordinator
11/17/2024	Wilson Wewa, Warm Springs elder reflections – community presentation	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
11/19/2024	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians – Tribal Council	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Deputy Director; Audits Division Director
12/5/2024	Confederated Tribes of Coos-Lower Umpqua Siuslaw - Tribal Council	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Deputy Director; Audits Division Director; Elections Division Director
12/8-12/9/2024	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde – American Leadership Forum Fellows Program	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison
12/19/2024	Confederated Tribes of Coos-Lower Umpqua Siuslaw - Tribal Council	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison; Corporation Division Director; Audits Division Director
12/21/2024	Oregon State Correctional Institution - Native American Club	Deputy SoS/Tribal Liaison