

OKLAHOMA ETHICS COMMISSION

August 13, 2026

Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order.

Chair Meek ["Meek"] called to order the meeting of the Ethics Commission of the State of Oklahoma ["Commission"] on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 10:00 am. in Room G-3 of the State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, after confirming the agenda and notice were properly given.

Determination of Quorum.

Roll was called to determine the existence of a quorum. Commissioners present were Mark Melton ["Melton"], Mike Wilt ["Wilt"], Vice Chair Adam Weintraub ["Weintraub"] and Chair Justin Meek ["Meek"]. A quorum of members was declared.

Staff & Visitors.

Commission staff members present were Executive Director Lee Anne Bruce Boone ["Bruce Boone"], General Counsel Margaret Kerr ["Kerr"], Deputy Director Jeremy Rogers ["Rogers"], Compliance Officer Tyler Fixley, Compliance Investigator Kyle Tarbet, and Compliance Specialist Aniston Emory.

Observing all or part of the meeting: Lionel Ramos, News; David Oakley, Press; H.J. Reed, OKSPA; Emma Murphy, Media; Ben Felder, Media; and Andrea Hancock, Media.

2. Open Meeting Act Compliance.

Chair Meek reviewed the *Affidavit of Posting* and affirmed compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

3. Introductions and Announcements.

[Bruce Boone] Introduced Mark Melton, the new Commissioner representing the 4th Congressional District; and Kyle Tarbet, the new Compliance Investigator.

4. Announcements, consideration, discussion and possible action on the disqualification or recusal of Commissioner(s) pursuant to Ethics Rule 1.6 for any matter listed on the Commission agenda.

No additional recusals.

5. Consideration, discussion, and possible action on minutes for the regular meeting and executive session held July 9, 2026. [Chair Meek].

Motion: Commissioner Weintraub moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting and executive session held on July 9, 2026.

Second: Commissioner Wilt

Roll Call Vote: Wilt – yes, Weintraub– yes, Meek – yes, Melton – Abstain

Motion Carried

6. **Executive Director's Report**

a. Budget Report

Executive Director Bruce Boone reported that the FY2027 fiscal year just started and the Commission remains in a sound financial position. The Commission was advised of a change in the OMES Budget Analyst that supports the Commission. Currently looking to hire an Educational Specialist, which is accounted for in the budget.

b. Compliance and Education Report

Approximately 1790 active Filers in the Guardian. Committee filings remains above 90% and Lobbyist filing at 98%. Highlighted direct assistance provided by the Compliance Staff, over 800 public interactions over the last month. Engagement can vary from month to month depending on reports due. Expecting 519 pre-primary reports on Monday, August 7. The Commission staff plans to provide at least six educational offerings over the next couple of months.

c. Guardian and Political Subdivision Update

Everything with Phase 2 for political subdivision integration in the Guardian is complete. Ongoing engagement with Civix for maintenance and improvements necessary in the system, while taking into consideration long-term system plans. Provided an update on the partnership with OMES for a technology assisted, campaign finance report review. Currently, staff generates and downloads reports, and then manually tracks progress. This system would query the Guardian data directly and provide staff with web-based analytics system to know where there might be issues on reports. It is not meant to replace compliance officers but to help us organize and identify information and at-risk issues so that we can make our reviews more meaningful. This will be very important as we include Political Subdivision reports and our workload grows exponentially. Ideally this will help us work more efficiently and more consistently by utilizing technology review to help us to prioritize the reviews. We will still have quality assurance sampling and still be highly involved throughout the review process.

The public outreach campaign with Honeymoon, formerly Candor, has finished up at the end of July. The goal of the campaign was to build a statewide awareness of change in the filing requirements for political subdivisions (all the school and technology boards, municipalities, counties), which needed to reach state-wide

audiences. In addition to the uptick in number of people calling or emailing with questions, there were almost 20,000 paid media clicks, 40,000 website visits, and almost 30,000 unique visitors to our website. We believe this was a really valuable campaign.

d. Public Service Announcement Campaign

Provided a first month update of the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters PEP report. The Commission's value from free public service announcement messaging on television and radio was \$75,000 in the month of June 2026, which was reported by OAB to be a very successful campaign rollout. In the first month, we've almost made the value of what we're spending on the entirety of the \$80,000 contract. Combined with the Honeymoon campaign there was a substantial impact to the website visits compared to the prior year: up over 180%.

e. Confidentiality and the Responsibilities of Commissioners

Executive Director Bruce Boone provided a short educational session on confidentiality, why it's important, and how it encircles many things that we do at the Commission considering the entrusted information through your service to the Commission. Provided a reminder that per Ethics Rule 6.9 all the complaints and the formal investigations remain confidential unless the Commissioners determine otherwise.

f. Legislative and Advisory Groups

Meetings with groups in August and September. The legislative working groups, consisting of separate House and Senate groups, consist of a collaboration on any kind of rule change ideas that they might have or any kind of rule change ideas that we have that we'd like to get their insight on. For the Advisory Group, we will be talking with them about some similar things surrounding rule amendments in addition to the strategic planning and updates on some of our dark money and artificial intelligence discussions.

g. Emerging Issues: Artificial Intelligence in Campaign Communications

Similar to recent Commission meeting highlighting emerging issues and artificial intelligence this month the focus is on disclosures, which is by far the most popular approach. Thirty-one states have begun addressing the use of artificial intelligence in campaigns – there were only six states that had addressed this as of January 2024. The most popular approach is requiring disclosure: who paid for it and stating that it contains artificial intelligence or synthetic media.

At both the federal and state level campaign finance law already contains a lot of examples requiring disclosures requirement (i.e., who pays for things). For the most recent litigation challenges the issue is more with a ban on political speech, not on the disclosure requirements. Many states have chosen disclosure as it fits within the existing campaign finance framework while preserving that political speech while still increasing transparency helping people evaluate campaign communications. From the thirty-one states, a subset of examples from Washington, Michigan, Wisconsin, Oregon and Utah were provided as reference to states with similar civil liability authority to Oklahoma's authority. There is a variation on disclosure

requirements which includes reporting based on certain time limits (similar to electioneering communications), number of days before an election, specificity of disclosure, among other variations.

In Washington, they created a civil remedy if artificial intelligence/synthetic media is distributed without the required disclosure. The disclosure requirement is there for transparency. Washington defended their political advertising requirements against Meta, and the Supreme Court upheld their law. This may be a good option for Oklahoma.

Next month will cover constitutional and implementation issues.

7. **Proposed Executive Session.** Consideration, discussion, and possible action to enter Executive Session, as authorized by 25 O.S. 2021, § 307(B)(4) and (7) and 2005 OK AG 29, ¶12, regarding the numbered matters set forth below, for the purpose of having confidential communications between the Commission and its counsel, regarding pending investigations, claims, or actions; and to discuss matters for which disclosure would seriously impair the ability of the Commission to proceed in the public's interest and would violate confidentiality under Ethics Rules 6.5 and 6.9. Chair Meek

- i. Case No. 2026-13, alleging violations of Campaign Finance Rule 2.
- ii. Case No. 2026-09, alleging violations of Campaign Finance Rule 2.

Complaints:

C-26-04	C-26-19
C-26-15	C-26-20
C-26-18	C-26-21

Statement by Attorney: The information to be discussed in Executive Session requires confidential communications between the Ethics Commission and its attorney(s) concerning pending investigations, claims, or actions, the disclosure of which would seriously impair the ability of the Ethics Commission to consider or process claims or conduct pending investigation(s), litigation, or proceeding in the public interest or violate confidentiality requirements under Oklahoma law and the Ethics Rules 6.5 and 6.9.

i. **Action to enter Executive Session.**

Motion: Vice Chair Weintraub moved to enter closed executive session in room G-3 of the State Capitol Building to discuss the matters listed for agenda item 9.

Second: Commissioner Wilt

Roll Call Vote: Weintraub— yes, Melton— yes, Wilt – yes, Meek-yes

Motion Carried to enter Executive Session at 10:34 a.m.

ii. **Action to exit Executive Session:**

Motion: Vice Chair Wilt moved to return to Open Session at **1:25 p.m.**

Second: Commissioner Melton

Roll Call Vote: Wilt– yes, Weintraub – yes, Melton– yes, Meek-yes

Motion Carried.

During Executive Session, no votes were taken and no other matters were discussed other than the items listed on the Agenda for executive session. Possible action on the above matters discussed in Executive Session. Chair Meek

Statement by General Counsel Kerr: General Counsel Kerr stated that the Commission had one recusal on one case. She asked if there were any additional recusals and there were none.

Motion: Vice Chair Weintraub moved in **Case No. 2026-13** pursuant to Ethics Rules 6.9 and 6.10 to submit the offer of settlement as discussed in Executive session and to authorize the Executive Director to release the public statement as discussed as it will provide an educational benefit.

Second: Commissioner Melton

Roll Call Vote: Wilt– yes, Melton – yes, Weintraub – yes, Meek-yes

Motion Carried.

Motion: Regarding **Case No. 2026-09**, Vice Chair Weintraub moved pursuant to Ethics Rule 6.10 to submit the counteroffer of settlement as discussed in Executive Session.

Second: Commissioner Wilt

Roll Call Vote: Melton – yes, Wilt-yes, Weintraub-yes, Meek-yes

Motion Carried.

Motion: Vice Chair Weintraub moved pursuant to Ethics Rule 6.7 to open a formal investigation based upon a reasonable cause to believe that one or more violations of the ethics rules occur in **Complaint C-26-04**.

Second: Commissioner Melton

Roll Call Vote: Melton – yes, Weintraub-yes, Wilt-yes, Meek-yes

Motion Carried.

Motion: Vice Chair Weintraub moved to dismiss **Complaint C-26-15** because there is not reasonable cause to believe that violations of the ethics rules occurred.

Second: Commissioner Melton

Roll Call Vote: Melton – yes, Weintraub – yes, Meek – yes, Wilt – abstain

Motion Carried.

Motion: Vice Chair Weintraub moved in **Complaint C-26-19** pursuant to Ethics Rule 6.9 and 6.7 to authorize the Executive Director to release the public statement discussed in executive session for the reason it will provide an educational benefit and to open a formal investigation into complaint based upon a reasonable cause to believe that one or more violations of the Ethics Rules occurred.

Second: Commissioner Melton

Roll Call Vote: Melton – yes, Weintraub – yes, Wilt – yes, Meek – abstain

Motion Carried.

Motion: Vice Chair Weintraub moved to resolve **Complaint C-26-20** by issuing a public statement as discussed in executive session.

Second: Commissioner Melton

Roll Call Vote: Melton – yes, Weintraub – yes, Wilt – yes, Meek – yes

Motion Carried.

Motion: Vice Chair Weintraub moved to resolve **Complaint C-26-21** by issuing a public statement as discussed in executive session.

Second: Commissioner Wilt

Roll Call Vote: Melton – yes, Weintraub – yes, Wilt – yes, Meek – yes

Motion Carried.

Statement by Chair Meek: Chair Meek stated the Commission will not be taking any action today on the following case discussed in Executive Session, **Complaint No. 2026-18**

8. **New Business.** Under Oklahoma Statute 25 O.S. § 311(A)(9), new business is limited to any matter not known or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting of this agenda. Chair Meek.

No new business.

9. **Adjournment. Chair Meek**

Motion: Commissioner Melton moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Commissioner Wilt

Roll Call Vote: Melton – yes, Weintraub– yes, Wilt – yes, Meek – yes

Motion Carried.

Meeting ended at 1:35 p.m.



LEE ANNE BRUCE BOONE, Executive Director

Approved on behalf of the Commission:



Chair Meek