



## Oregon Wine Board Service Overview

*This document is intended to provide those interested in serving on the Oregon Wine Board with an overview of the responsibilities, commitment, and processes entailed in Board service. If you have questions not addressed here, [contact us](#).*

### Board appointment and term of service

The terms of Board service are outlined in Oregon statute [ORS 576.856](#)

- The Board is composed of nine directors.
- Directors are appointed by the governor. There is no other confirmation process.
- A term is three years and begins on January 1; reappointment to a second term is possible.
- Appointments are confirmed in the fall and newly appointed Directors are expected to attend the regular Board meeting in December prior to the start of their term.
- While there are no official quotas to be filled or specifications for any of the nine seats on the Oregon Wine Board, governors have historically aimed to create a Board comprised of Directors representing a diversity of regions, business sizes and models, demographics, and functional expertise.
- OWB appointments are generally considered volunteer positions, however [HB 2992](#) passed in 2021 offers the potential for some compensation if certain conditions are met.

### Director responsibilities and expectations

The Oregon Wine Board of Directors guides the organization by setting strategic direction and allocating resources in service to the [strategic plan](#).

To ensure a fully functioning governing body capable of making effective decisions on behalf of the Oregon wine industry, Directors are expected to:

- Commit 10-15 hours per month to Board service.
  - Special circumstances may create an increased demand for time spent.
- Prepare for, attend, and participate in all Board meetings.
  - There are typically five to six half-day Board meetings each year. They may be virtual or in-person in any of Oregon's winegrowing regions, which may require overnight travel.
  - Travel expenses (mileage, hotels, food) for Board meetings are covered and/or reimbursable.
- Actively participate in and/or chair at least one Board committee. Committees include:
  - Education Committee (with sub-committees focused on 1) viticulture and enology and 2) sales, marketing, and business)
  - Technical Research Committee
  - International Marketing Committee
  - Other standing or ad hoc committees as determined by the Board
- Actively participate in conversations among the Board between meetings (i.e., over email or via

phone).

- When fulfilling Board duties and making decisions:
  - Fulfill the commitment to consider and fairly represent ALL regions of the state.
  - Carefully weigh the interests of growers, winemakers, and other industry stakeholders.
  - Factor the concerns of all wine and wine grape businesses, accounting for geography, size, and business model.
- Support the Oregon Wine Board's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Represent the Oregon Wine Board among industry stakeholders.

Further, the State of Oregon's Guidelines for Board Service outline the following:

- Complete state-mandated training for new board/commission members within six months of term start date.
- Recognize the Board must operate in a public and open manner.
- Learn about issues affecting the Board and industry.
- Examine all available evidence before making judgement.
- Authority to act is granted to the Board as a whole, not to individual members.

*Note: State law places special emphasis on regular attendance. In ORS 182.010, it says that a member who has two successive, unexcused absences "shall forfeit his or her office unless prevented from attending" for reasonable cause.*

### Application and nomination process

- **Timing:** Any person meeting the eligibility requirements (below) may apply directly to the Governor's office by September 30 for a term beginning the following January. Appointments are announced in the fall.
- **How to Apply:** For more information and to apply, see the Oregon Government Boards & Commissions website. Applicants are subject to background checks.
- **Nominating Committees:** Per ORS 576.856, the governor shall consider nominations or recommendations made by organizations with nominating committees representative of all major wine industry regions of the state.
  - The Oregon Wine Board does not convene a nominating committee.
- **Application Status:** Submission of an application does not mean that you will automatically be contacted. If you are being actively considered for appointment, you will hear from the Boards & Commissions Office.
  - Inquiries regarding application status should be made directly to the Governor's Executive Appointments office at, [Executive.Appointments@oregon.gov](mailto:Executive.Appointments@oregon.gov)



## Eligibility

The following requirements for Oregon Wine Board service are outlined in statute:

**ORS 576.856 (5)** *A person appointed to the board must have:*

- (a) Expertise and experience in the Oregon wine grape growing or wine making industries; and*
- (b) A demonstrated ability and disposition to serve the state's interests regarding all aspects of the Oregon wine grape growing and wine making industries, including but not limited to the various types and sizes of wine grape growing and wine making operations, grape varieties and growing regions within the state.*

**ORS 576.856 (6)** *A member of the board must maintain the following qualifications during the term of office:*

- (a) Be a bona fide resident of the state or an officer or principal owner of an entity organized or registered to do business in this state.*
- (b) Have a demonstrated interest in the positive development of the Oregon wine industry.*
- (c) Be actively engaged in wine grape growing or wine making.*