

**OKLAHOMA ETHICS COMMISSION  
DECEMBER 6, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. Call to Order.**

Upon notice, with the agenda being properly posted at the Commission's office at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the commencement of the meeting and notice being filed in advance with the Office of the Secretary of State, a regular meeting of the Ethics Commission of the State of Oklahoma ["Commission"] was called to order on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 10:00am. Chair Eddie Fields ["Fields"] opened the meeting, which was held in Room G-3 of the State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Determination of Quorum.**

Roll was called to determine the existence of a quorum for the transaction of business. Commissioners answering present were, Eddie Fields ["Fields"], Howard Johnson ["Johnson"], Mike Wilt ["Wilt"], and Adam Weintraub ["Weintraub"]. A quorum of members was declared.

**Staff & Visitors.**

Commission staff members present at all, or part of the meeting were Executive Director Lee Anne Bruce Boone ["Bruce Boone"], General Counsel Margaret Kerr ["Kerr"], Deputy Director Jeremy Rogers ["Rogers"], Legal Assistant Tiffany Elcyn ["Elcyn"], Compliance Officer Tyler Fixley ["Fixley"], and Assistant Compliance Officer Kayla Brasel ["Brasel"].

**Observing all or part of the meeting:** Denise Lawson, Attorney; Jim Dunlap, OKSPA; Diana Duran, LegisOK; Maddy Hague, Lobbyist; Jeromy Knapp, LOFT; Ric Moore, Citizen; A.J. Ferate; Chair of Governor's Taskforce; Caitlin Lee, State Employee; Arnella Karges; State Employee; Michael McNutt, NewsOK; Caitlin Lee, State Employee; Melissa Jacques, Tulsa World; and Susie Moock; Citizen.

**2. Open Meeting Act Compliance.**

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

**3. Introductions and Announcements.**

None.

4. **Announcements, consideration, discussion and possible action on the disqualification or recusal of a Commissioner or Commissioners 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 November 8, 2024.**

**Motion:** Commissioner Weintraub moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting and executive session held November 8, 2024.

**Second:** Commissioner Wilt

**Roll Call vote:** Weintraub – yes, Wilt – yes, Johnson – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

6. **Consideration, discussion, and possible action on request for waiver of Ethics Rule 5, Lobbyist Registration and Reporting, based upon a preexisting relationship pursuant to Rule 5.25. General Counsel Kerr.**

General Counsel Kerr discussed the waiver submitted by Caitlin Lee for a preexisting relationship with a member of the lobbying community.

**Motion:** Commissioner Wilt moved to approve the waiver request pursuant to Rule 5.25 for W-24-01.

**Second:** Commissioner Johnson

**Roll Call vote:** Wilt – yes, Johnson – yes, Weintraub – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

7. **Public Hearing: Consideration of Ethics Rules Amendments (ERA). The proposed amendments modify the Constitutional Ethics Rules published at Title 74, Chapter 62, Appendix 1.**

- a. Consideration of **ERA 2024-01**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rules 2.2.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone explains that the definitions in Rule 2.2 have changed. What was added to Rule 2.2 is a definition for foreign nationals, FEC coordination, and political caucus committee.
  - ii. Comment by A.J. Ferate recommended the commission to not approve the amended rules. Discussed how the amended rules were more restrictive and the commission should contemplate how the rules come together.

- b. Consideration of **ERA 2024-02**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rules 2.17.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone explains that the changes in Rule 2.17 would affect the expansion of the contribution limit from \$50 to \$200. Another change is regarding the restriction on contributions and the prohibition on foreign nationals.
  - ii. Comment by A.J. Ferate that the changes do not capture the price index that is necessary.
- c. Consideration of **ERA 2024-03**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.20.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone explains that in Rule 2.20 the contribution limit has increased from \$50 to \$200. There is a price index for the inflationary index that is included in the change.
- d. Consideration of **ERA 2024-04**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.95.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone covers the personal certification from treasurers and/or deputy treasurers as applicable in Rule 2.95. This rule is to clarify the language as far as personal certification on donations from foreign nationals.
- e. Consideration of **ERA 2024-05**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rules 2.107.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discusses adding the domicile requirements, increasing the contribution limit reflecting \$200, and including the consumer price index for an inflationary index.
  - ii. Comment by Denise Lawson on two proposed changes. One change that requires individuals that make independent expenditures to have a telephone number, and to answer the phone for five or more hours. The other change is the language that if such person is acting as a corporation or non-profit corporations such corporation must be incorporated in Oklahoma. Encourages the Commission to think before adopting these rules.
  - iii. Comment by A.J. Ferate explains that the rule will get challenged, and to deeply consider before adopting these rules.

- f. Consideration of **ERA 2024-06**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rules 2.108.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discusses adding domicile requirements and increasing contribution amount from \$50 to \$200 with inflationary index included. Another added change was the coordination definition of benefits.
- g. Consideration of **ERA 2024-07**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 2.109.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discusses adding domicile requirements and increasing contribution amount from \$50 to \$200 with inflationary index included.
- h. Consideration of **ERA 2024-08**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.6.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discusses removing requirement of attendance at an event by lobbyist, liaison, or lobbyist principal.
- i. Consideration of **ERA 2024-09**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.7.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discusses increasing the limit from \$500 to \$750 for meals for Legislative liaisons and/or Legislative lobbyists.
  - ii. Comment by Jim Dunlap explaining that he agrees with the \$750 increase, but he would also like to see that liaisons and lobbyists can take clients out to a thunder game or to go play golf.
- j. Consideration of **ERA 2024-10**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.8.
- k. Consideration of **ERA 2024-11**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.10.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discusses increasing the limit from \$500 to \$750 for Executive lobbyists meal limits.
  - ii. Comment by A.J. Ferate explaining that this rule is not an effective use of the Ethics Commission and believes no one is using this system.
- l. Consideration of **ERA 2024-12**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 5.11.
  - i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discusses the rule change increasing the gift limit from \$500 to \$750. They are also looking at possibly changing the \$100 in the aggregate to reflect the increasing limit.

m. Consideration of **ERA 2024-13**. This amendment modifies Ethics Rule 6.4.

- i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discusses modifying blackout period to conclude after primary election if such election determines outcome.

**8. Executive Director's Report. Director Bruce Boone.**

**a. Budget Update**

- i. Executive Director Bruce Boone discussed the allotment budget and available cash. A vendor has been selected for the new Guardian system, and officially have a signed contract. Requested funds for the new system and the political subdivision enforcement funding. To get all the pieces in place for the political subdivision enforcement, it was requested to have reoccurring funds and for it to be doubled.
- ii. Comment by Chair Fields if they were to grant the increase for yearly operations, it would be a \$1.5 million budget.

**Motion:** Commissioner Wilt moved to approve the request for FY 2026.

**Second:** Commissioner Weintraub

**Roll Call Vote:** Wilt – yes, Weintraub – yes, Johnson – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

**b. Compliance Update**

- i. Executive Director Bruce Boone explains that there were issues with the amount they were asking lobbyists to pay. The fee was increased to \$125 but was not in compliance for statutory law. The fee has now been dropped to \$100 and lobbyists who paid the \$125 are getting refund checks.

**c. LOFT Update**

- i. Executive Director Bruce Boone explains they are working diligently to complete the request. Expecting to get excerpts of the report at the end of the month, and a final report in January.

**d. Annual Report**

- i. Executive Director Bruce Boone wanted to discuss some of the accomplishments the Commission has achieved this past year. Accomplishments discussed were strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, revamping our website, increasing

funding to the commission, increasing our staff, adding another office space, and being able to educate others.

e. RFP Update

- i. Director Bruce Boone discussed that the RFP was issued in July, responses were due in August, demos were done in September, and now we have an award. RFD & Associates are a Texas based company. The vendors have a good track record with the work they have done. We also have the opportunity with this system to run it with the states help rather than having to continue to pay licensing fees.

**Motion:** Commissioner Wilt moved to approve the contract with the successful vendor to replace the Guardian System.

**Second:** Commissioner Weintraub

**Roll Call Vote:** Wilt – yes, Weintraub – yes, Johnson – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

9. **Determination to enter Executive Session**

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 process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation, or proceeding in the public interest or violate confidential requirements of state law. This proposed executive session meets the requirements for executive session pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act in Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, § 307 (B)(1), (4), and (7), and required by Ethics Rules 6.5 and 6.9. The statement is on the agenda and does not need to be read.

- a. Determination, pursuant to Counsel's advice as set forth above, to enter closed, executive session in Room G-3 of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

**Motion:** Commissioner Johnson moved, pursuant to counsel's advice as set forth in subsection 9(a), the Commission go into executive session in room G-3 of the State Capitol Building to discuss the matters listed for Executive Session.

**Second:** Commissioner Wilt

**Roll Call Vote:** Johnson – yes, Wilt – yes, Weintraub – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried to go into Executive/Closed session at 11:00**

**b. Executive Session.**

i. Complaint Numbers:

C-23-28

C-24-17

C-24-19

C-24-23

C-24-24

C-24-25

C-24-29

C-24-36

C-24-38

**c. Action to Exit Executive Session.**

**Motion:** Commissioner Johnson moved to reconvene open session at 1:12 pm

**Second:** Commissioner Wilt

**Roll Call Vote:** Johnson – yes, Wilt – yes, Weintraub – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

**d.** Possible action on the numbered matters (i) discussed in Executive Session. Prior to taking action, the Commissioners may consider, discuss, and take action on the disqualification or recusal of a Commissioner or Commissioners pursuant to Ethics Rule 1.6 for any item listed in this agenda for Executive Session. General Counsel Kerr

i. Prior to the meeting, there were no recusals. Seeing no additional recusals.

ii. Consideration of authorizing possible action regarding the following cases:

1. **Motion:** Commissioner Weintraub moved to dismiss Complaint C-23-28.

**Second:** Commissioner Johnson

**Roll Call Vote:** Weintraub – yes, Johnson – yes, Wilt – abstain, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

2. **Motion:** Commissioner Weintraub moved to dismiss Complaint C-24-17

**Second:** Commissioner Wilt

**Roll Call Vote:** Weintraub – yes, Wilt – yes, Johnson – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

**3. Motion:** Commissioner Weintraub moved to dismiss Complaint C-24-19.

**Second:** Commissioner Wilt

**Roll Call Vote:** Weintraub – yes, Wilt – yes, Johnson – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried**

**4. Motion:** Commissioner Weintraub moved to dismiss Complaint C-24-23.

**Second:** Commissioner Johnson

**Roll Call Vote:** Weintraub – yes, Johnson – yes, Wilt – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

**5. Motion:** Commissioner Weintraub moved to dismiss Complaint C-24-24.

**Second:** Commissioner Wilt

**Roll Call Vote:** Weintraub – yes, Wilt – yes, Johnson – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

**6. Motion:** Commissioner Weintraub moved to open a formal investigation on Complaint C-24-29.

**Second:** Commissioner Wilt

**Roll Call Vote:** Weintraub – yes, Wilt – yes, Johnson – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

**8. Motion:** Commissioner Weintraub moved to dismiss Complaint C-24-36.

**Second:** Commissioner Johnson

**Roll Call Vote:** Wilt – yes, Johnson – yes, Weintraub – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

9. **Motion**:- Commissioner Weintraub moved to open a formal investigation Complaint C-24-38.

**Second:** Commissioner Johnson

**Roll Call Vote:** Weintraub – yes, Johnson – yes, Wilt – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

**12. New Business. Chair Fields**

No new business.

**13. Adjournment. Chair Fields**

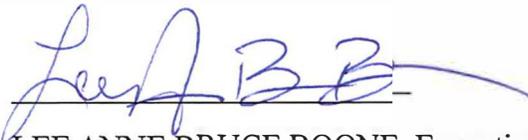
**Motion**:- Commissioner Wilt moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Commissioner Johnson

**Roll Call Vote:** Wilt – yes, Weintraub – yes, Johnson – yes, Fields – yes

**Motion Carried.**

**Meeting ended at 1:19 pm**



LEE ANNE BRUCE BOONE, Executive Director

Approved on behalf of the Commission:



EDDIE FIELDS, Chair