



## Oregon State Archives

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# Governor Theodor R. Kulongoski Administration

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## Scope and Content Note

### **Overview**

The records of the administration of Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski, 2003-2011, document the actions of the governor, first lady, staff, state agencies, and various related entities such as cities, counties, schools, federal agencies, and interest groups. The records will be more fully arranged and described as time allows.

### **Size of the Kulongoski record group**

218 cubic feet of boxed records

17 rolled maps

### **Offices and functions**

The Kulongoski Administration records reflect the increasing complexity of government and society on all levels. In order to develop policy related to state government, several units within the Governor's office specialized in subject areas. Examples include natural resources, economic recovery, economic revitalization, and advocate for minority, women and emerging small business. Other functional offices or responsibilities included chief of staff, senior policy advisor, legal counsel, affirmative action, education & workforce policy, sustainability, emergency preparedness and military and veterans' affairs, and extraditions.

### **Organization and staff**

The makeup of the organization and staff of the Governor's Office changed over the eight years of the administration. The Governor's office administrator records include organizational charts and other records that provide an overview of the office.

### **Schedule, travel, and correspondence records**

Several record series document the schedule, travel, and correspondence of the governor. These include detailed records of contacts and events that place the governor's work in the context of time and place. They also reflect the ceremonial and political aspects of the governor's duties.

### **Legislative records**

Legislative records are interfiled in dozens of record series. But the record group also includes series specifically dealing with the issues and bills related to each legislative session. These document strategy and policy decisions on many of the major bills of a legislative session. Legal records include those of the governor's legal counsel as well as those related to subjects such as

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court cases of interest and executive clemency. Another significant duty of the governor, the appointment of judges, boards, commissions, and others is documented in executive appointment records.

### **Natural Resource Office records**

The Natural Resource Office was the largest office within the Governor's Office in terms of staff and the over 40 cubic feet of records reflects this. Many of the records are arranged as advisor or issue record series. Examples include protecting Oregon's Ancient Forest Ecosystems, Conservation of Marine Life and Ocean Health. The Kulongoski Administration launched several major natural resource initiatives including relicensing hydro-electric projects; implementing the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and deepening the Columbia River channel. Governor Kulongoski protected forests in Oregon by restoring the 2001 Roadless Area conservation Rule and advocated for state intervention to preserve working forests for future generations. The records document these initiatives extensively. Other major topics include renewable energy technologies such as wave energy development and saving Oregon's pristine waterways and repairing damaged rivers and streams.

### **Other significant records**

Large record series document other responsibilities and initiatives of the Governor's Office. Four principles that guided his two terms were "1. Government will live within its means, 2. Children will be the state's top priority, 3. Implement policies to rebuild the economy and focus on the creation of family-wage jobs for Oregonians, and 4. State government will no longer do business as usual." Records that reflect these principals include creating the state's first Rainy Day Fund, investing in Oregon Head Start and Healthy Kids Campaigns, restructuring the Oregon economy due to two national recessions, and reforming the Public Employee Retirement System. Other categories in these records include civil rights and affirmative action, economic development, education, energy, sustainability, climate, health, human services, labor, public safety, transportation and tribal affairs.

### **Other media**

In addition to standard paper documents, various media such as photographs, slides, maps, computer floppy discs, compact discs, and videotapes are interfiled with the records of each related record series. These will be separated for better storage when detailed arrangement and description of the record group is completed.

### **Access restrictions**

Some of the records are designated "confidential" or contain information that is legally access restricted. [Contact a reference archivist for more information.](#)

### **Archived Website**

The archived version of Governor Kulongoski's website as it appeared in January 2011:

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/Pages/archivedwebsites/index.aspx>

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