

Board of Governors

Election and Position Frequently Asked Questions

What type of time commitment is involved in serving as a member of the Board of Governors (BOG)?

The commitment for a BOG member is considerable and not easy to estimate. A rough estimate of time spent by a BOG member in meetings and special events is 300 hours annually or an average of 25 hours per month, excluding travel time. While this varies for each member, travel time could be considerable for those living outside of Portland. BOG members from the eastern or southern area of the state may become frequent drivers/flyers attending meetings at the bar center once or twice a month. Use is made of telephone conference calls whenever possible to reduce travel requirements.

What are the duties required of a member serving on the BOG?

The BOG is charged with the executive functions of the state bar and directs its power to the advancement of the science of jurisprudence and the improvement of the administration of justice. It has the authority to adopt, alter, and amend and repeal bylaws and to adopt new bylaws containing provisions for the regulation and management of the affairs of the state bar not inconsistent with law.

The BOG has five regular meetings a year typically held on Fridays. Nearly half of the meetings are in the Portland area and the remainder at locations around the state. A social hour is scheduled on Thursday evening with members of local bar associations at "out-of-town" meetings. Special board meetings are called for emergency matters and are often held by conference call.

The board's first meeting, the annual planning retreat in November, begins on a Thursday and ends on a Sunday. "Homework" for a board meeting includes a full agenda with 100+ pages of exhibits and preparation for various committee meetings.

Each BOG member will also serve on two to three board committees. Meetings are held three to four weeks prior to regular board meetings in the Portland area. Board members are assigned as contacts for three to six OSB committees or sections. Staying in touch with leaders of these groups is key to facilitating communications with the BOG and about issues before the bar. Attendance at these meetings is not normally required.

Reimbursement is provided for travel expense for BOG-related business. Travel time is a factor for board members living outside the Portland metro area as a majority of meetings are held at the OSB Center in Tigard.

Inquiries regarding a variety of bar-related matters may be received by phone and in the mail. The amount of time devoted to this activity, whether proactive or reactive, varies for each individual.

What are the eligibility requirements for serving on the BOG?

An elected governor may be elected only by the active members of the Oregon State Bar who maintain their principal offices in the regions established by the board. No full-time or pro tempore judge of a municipal, state or federal court or any other judicial officer shall be eligible for appointment or election to the BOG.

The term of a governor automatically ends upon: death or resignation; termination of the governor's active membership in the state bar; ceasing to maintain the governor's principal office in the region the governor represents; or upon recall pursuant to ORS 9.050.

How many openings are there for the BOG?

The number of vacant seats varies each year. For details on this year's vacancies including the number of positions and the regions they represent, go to <http://www.osbar.org/leadership/bog>.

Are there any conflicts that would prevent me from running or serving on the BOG?

No full-time or pro tem judge of a municipal, state or federal court or any other judicial officer shall be eligible for appointment or election to the BOG.

Members of the House of Delegates, State Professional Responsibility Board, Disciplinary Board, MCLE Committee, Professional Liability Fund Board of Directors, and Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability are not eligible to serve on the BOG. Additionally, the chair of any bar section is also ineligible to serve on the BOG.

How do you run for election to the BOG?

Members interested in running for a seat on the Board of Governors must submit a completed candidate statement before the statutory deadline. Appropriate forms and deadlines are available at <http://www.osbar.org/leadership/bog>.

Who can I contact to find out more information about serving on the BOG?

For more information contact Danielle Edwards, Director of Member Services, dedwards@osbar.org or 503-431-6426.

BOG meetings are open to the public. Interested candidates may wish to attend a meeting or contact their current BOG representative for further information.