



Principles & Policy Positions

The Oregon Building Officials Association (OBOA) represents more than 1,000 building officials and personnel throughout the state. Its members include a wide range of building officials, both in large, metropolitan cities and counties, as well as small, rural jurisdictions, including third-party agencies. OBOA is committed to advocating on behalf of its diverse membership to find solutions to issues impacting its members and communities around the state.

Support & Promote Safe Structures

Under the statewide building code, the safety of occupants in and around buildings and structures is paramount. In support of this principle, OBOA supports coordination and active communications with key partners to ensure the safety of the buildings and other structures we inspect.

- State policy should promote *tested* and *proven* safety standards with clear direction.

Maintain Statewide Building Code

Oregon has a statewide building code, adopted by the State Building Codes Division, which establishes uniform safety and energy standards for all residential and commercial buildings and other structures throughout the state. In most jurisdictions, the statewide code is administered and enforced by local city or county building departments. In jurisdictions where neither a city, nor a county, assume these responsibilities, the State Building Codes Division must do so.

The statewide building code provides uniformity and certainty for both the private and public sectors as they partner in the inspection process. Additionally, the State Building Codes Division provides a process through its appointed boards that allows for thoughtful discussion where changes to the statewide building code are considered.

- Support and maintain Building Code Division process for considering changes to the state building code; refrain from placing building code in statute where it is difficult to change and maintain alignment with evolving technology, materials, and processes.

Promote Public/Private Partnerships

Partnership between private and public entities is critical for efficient and cohesive interactions between customers and jurisdictions. OBOA supports policies and regulations that allow for flexibility and promote partnership between the public and private sectors. These partnerships allow for a high level of service from the initial stages of a project through completion.

- OBOA strives to be a partner in the construction industry by coordinating with the Home Builders Association, National Fire Protection Agency, National Fire Sprinkler Association, and Oregon Fire Marshals Association.
- We have members in private industry who provide 3rd party Building Official plan review and inspection services.

Support Our Workforce

In Oregon, there is a shortage of building officials in jurisdictions across the state. The ability of building officials to effectively and efficiently perform their work is integral in meeting our shared goal of building 36,000 additional housing units per year. To be successful, we need more building officials, more training, and efficient inspections.

- The building codes typically change every 3 years. OBOA provides training for building officials, plans examiners, inspectors, and permit technicians throughout the state.
- Refrain from placing burdensome and inefficient requirements on building officials and their departments, such as requiring inspectors to verify education, licensure/certification of contractors, building materials, or other information during inspections.
- OBOA members support community college building inspection programs by providing education, Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) opportunities and program guidance.

Protect & Support Local Control

Oregon's communities are diverse and ever-changing, which puts local communities in the best position to solve local issues and thrive as jurisdictions. Statewide policy should encourage, guide, and allow for adequate flexibility to maximize resources and tools available to local jurisdictions to best serve their communities and encourage workforce development.

- The State building codes are written for the entire state. However, Oregon is a geographically diverse state, and some situations require geographical considerations as well as differences in rural and urban settings. What makes sense in Eastern Oregon, may not be relevant in the Willamette Valley and vice versa. Building departments need flexibility in recognition of these differences and to make decisions that fit their local jurisdictions.