



# Rules.ok.gov

Colborn Award Presentation – July 11, 2024



**OKLAHOMA**  
Secretary of State

# The Office of Administrative Rules (OAR) is responsible for the following:

- Publishing the *Oklahoma Administrative Code*
- Publishing the *Oklahoma Register*
- Maintaining official records of the state's rules and rulemaking notices
- Publishing public body meeting notices



## About OAR

The Office of Administrative Rules is a division of the Oklahoma Secretary of State.

## OAR Publications

Format review and publish for 176 regulatory agencies

### 24 issues of the Oklahoma Register per year

- 3,000 pages of rulemaking documents
- Published on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

### Annual publication of the Oklahoma Administrative Code

- 17,000 pages – 35,000 active sections
- Latest effective version codified each year

## OAR Publications

Record and publish meeting notices for public bodies

## Open Meeting Notices

- 2,199 active public bodies
  - Agencies, boards, and commissions
  - City and county entities
  - Schools
- 9,987 notices posted per year
- Meeting notices include agency rulemaking hearings



# Project Background

# Transparency, efficiency, and accountability

- In January 2019, Governor Stitt was sworn into office with a call for a Top 10 goal for state agencies.
  - State agencies to become more accountable to citizens
  - Create a government that is results oriented, transparent, and efficient
  - Be Top 10 in our responsibilities.
- OAR conducted an internal review and determined our current filing and publishing system to be outdated and unable to meet these goals.
  - Architecture dating from 1992
  - Components of system were approaching end-of-life and represented difficult to maintain technologies
  - Antiquated applications presented the following issues:
    - Heavy reliance on paper and printing, requiring substantial printing budget
    - Inefficient work processes, requiring same tasks be completed multiple times
    - Multiple conversion phases led to numerous errors, requiring extensive cleanup throughout the process
    - Inability to publish transparent, user-friendly website for citizens which restricted citizen participation in the rulemaking process
- This system was inefficient, non-transparent, and restricted citizen access to the rulemaking process.

# Top 10 Vision

Modernize the filing and publishing of administrative rules, increase efficiency, and expand citizen participation and access to agency, board, and commission rulemaking

## Old

- Little to no citizen participation in rulemaking. Process outdated and non-transparent.
- Agencies drafted rules using internal versions. Submitted via email, paper, or CD.
- No centralized location to connect agencies, citizens, Governor, and Legislature during the rulemaking process.
- Official *Oklahoma Administrative Code* and *Oklahoma Register* published in paper format and mailed to subscribers.

## New

- Citizen centric focus that maximizes transparency, accessibility, accountability, and efficiency.
- Innovative, web-based drafting system, eliminating paper or CD submissions.
- One-stop, rules portal at [rules.ok.gov](http://rules.ok.gov) that citizens, agencies, and elected officials access for all steps of the rulemaking process.
- Amend Administrative Procedures Act, allowing official, electronic publication of the Oklahoma Administrative Code and Oklahoma Register

# Rulemaking Roles and Goals

Identify all roles in the rulemaking process and apply the top 10 vision to develop goals for each role.

## Citizens

- Subscriptions
- Proposed Rules
- Public Comment
- Fee Increases
- Adopted Rules
- Codified Rules
- Petition Agencies

## State Agencies

- Online, Drafting Editor
- Online, filing templates
- Automated Publishing and Notification System

## OAR

- Auto-formatting of Agency Filings
- Auto-queuing of Agency Filings
- Register Generation (HTML and PDF) and Electronic Publication
- Auto-creation of History Notes and Codification

## Governor

- Notices of Rulemaking Intent Notifications
- Proposed Rules Notifications
- Fee Increase Notifications
- Adopted Rules Notifications
- Executive Order Notifications

## Legislature

- Fee Increase Notifications
- Adopted Rules Notifications



# Government Improvements



# Improvement of Government Operation

State of Oklahoma saw significant improvements in the operation of government agencies involved in rulemaking.

## Regulatory Agencies

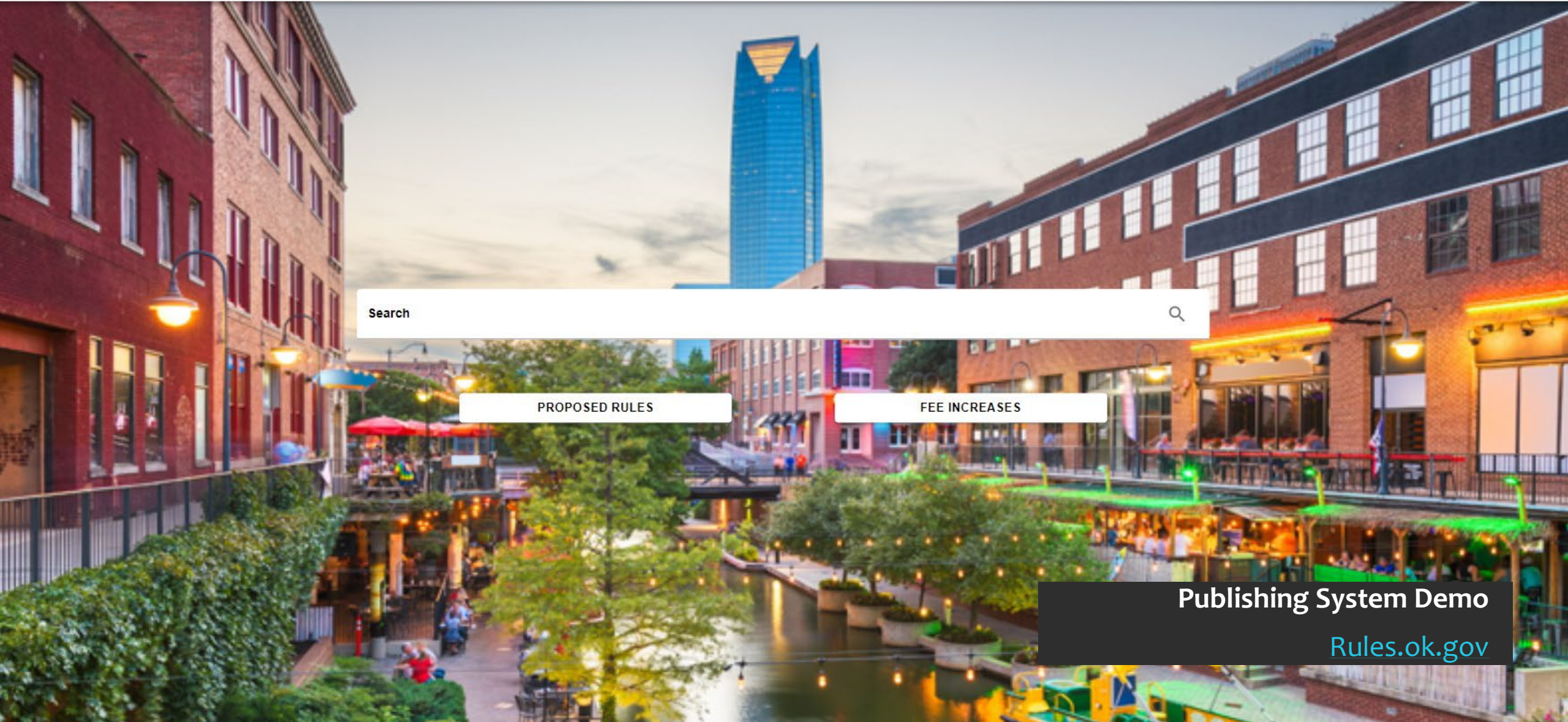
- Centralized Filing Location
- Web-based Filing Templates
- Online Drafting Editor

## OAR

- Elimination of Antiquated Software
- Elimination of Conversion Errors
- Filings Auto-formatted
- Register Auto-Generated
- Code Auto-Generated
- History Notes Auto-Generated

## Governor/Legislature

- Centralized Filing Location
- Documents Delivered Via Email



Search

PROPOSED RULES

FEE INCREASES

**Publishing System Demo**  
[Rules.ok.gov](https://rules.ok.gov)

# Thank You

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