

**BEFORE THE OREGON
GOVERNMENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:

Matt Scarfo

Case No.:

25-708ECF

Date:

August 14, 2026

STIPULATED FINAL ORDER

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this stipulated final order is to release, settle and compromise any and all claims, allegations, and charges that have been asserted by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced case against Matt Scarfo.

2. Jurisdiction:

- A. At all material times, Matt Scarfo was a Union County Commissioner. As such, he is a public official as defined in ORS 244.020(15), and therefore subject to Oregon Government Ethics Law.
- B. On February 6, 2026, the Commission considered information in the preliminary review report for case no. 25-708ECF and found there to be sufficient evidence to move the case to investigation to review alleged violations of ORS 244.040(1) and ORS 244.120(1)(c).

3. Applicable Law:

- A. At the time relevant to this review, ORS 244.020(1) and (13) defined conflict of interest as any action or decision or any recommendation by a public official, the effect of which would be (actual conflict of interest) or could be (potential conflict of interest) to the private pecuniary benefit or detriment of the public official, their relative or any business with which either the public official or their relative is associated.
- B. Pursuant to ORS 244.120(2)(a), when an elected official is faced with a potential conflict of interest, the elected official is required to publicly announce the nature of the potential conflict of interest prior to taking any action on the matter in the capacity of a public official.
- C. Pursuant to ORS 244.120(2)(b)(A), when met with an actual conflict of interest, the public official must publicly announce the nature of their actual conflict and refrain from participating as a public official in any discussion or debate on the issue out of which the actual conflict arises or from voting on the issue.

4. Stipulated Facts:

- A. Matt Scarfo was first elected to the Union County Board of Commissioners in 2018 and was reelected in 2022. In his capacity as a Union County Commissioner he earns a salary.
- B. At a meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners held on January 8, 2025, Commissioner Paul Anderes indicated that he wanted a legal ruling of the term limits for Commissioners.
- C. Matt Scarfo failed to declare the nature of his conflict of interest at the January 8, 2025 meeting, during which the question of the validity of the term limits arose and information and guidance from legal counsel was requested. At that point, the conflict of interest was a potential conflict of interest because

the Commissioners were seeking information from their legal counsel with respect to their options and those options could have resulted in a financial benefit or detriment to Matt Scarfo.

- D. At a meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners held on January 22, 2025, legal counsel for the Union County Board of Commissioners discussed the term limits of two consecutive terms (8 years) established by petition in 2017. Legal counsel indicated that in a similar case in a different Oregon county, the circuit court overturned the term limitation. Legal counsel provided the Union County Commissioners with the option of petitioning the court for a determination on the validity of the term limits or waiting until a Commissioner submitted the documentation necessary to run for a third term, at which point the clerk would be responsible for addressing the matter.
- E. Each of the Commissioners, including Matt Scarfo, discussed the options for moving forward presented by legal counsel and voted to request a determination on the legality of the term limits through a special writ at the January 25, 2025 meeting. None of the Commissioners declared a conflict of interest. Legal counsel was present during the discussion and vote.
- F. Matt Scarfo failed to declare the nature of his conflict of interest and failed to abstain from discussion and the vote on the matter at the January 25, 2025 meeting, during which the Commissioners received legal advice from their legal counsel regarding the validity of the term limits and their options for obtaining a court ruling regarding those term limits. At that point, the conflict of interest was an actual conflict of interest because the action, decision or recommendation would result in a financial benefit to himself because he would not be required to pursue legal action on the term limits using his own funds.

- G. The Commission asserts that as a result of his failure to declare a conflict of interest at two separate public meetings, Matt Scarfo violated ORS 244.120(2)(a)(A) and ORS 244.120(2)(b)(A).
- H. The result of the Commission investigation, if submitted through exhibits and testimony at a contested case hearing, would establish a preponderance of evidence in support of a post-hearing order to find two violations of ORS 244.120(2).
- I. Matt Scarfo contends that he did not intentionally violate the law. The decision made by the Commissioners was only to seek a determination of the legality of the term limits, not to eliminate the term limits. He notes that other public officials in similar positions did not declare a conflict of interest and did not have a complaint filed against them. Nonetheless, Matt Scarfo understands the importance of complying with Oregon Government Ethics Law and agrees to the terms and conditions in this stipulated final order to bring this case to a close.

5. Terms of Settlement:

The parties agree as follows:

- A. Matt Scarfo has indicated that he wishes to conclude this matter by agreeing to the terms and conditions in this order without completing the investigative phase.
- B. As authorized by ORS 244.350(5), Matt Scarfo will receive a letter of education in order to settle and compromise this matter.
- C. The Commission releases, settles and compromises any and all claims, allegations and charges that have been or could be asserted against Matt Scarfo within the scope of the above-referenced case.

D. Matt Scarfo will initiate no claims, litigation, or other action against the Commission as a result of these proceedings.

6. Review by Counsel:

All of the parties hereto acknowledge that this agreement has been entered into by their own free will and with full understanding of the contents herein. Each of the parties further acknowledges that each has had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel in reviewing and entering this agreement.

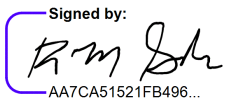
7. Effect:

This agreement is subject to the final approval of the Commission. Once approved, this agreement shall be the final disposition of these matters and shall be binding upon all parties.

By signing this agreement, Matt Scarfo agrees to waive his right to a contested case hearing as provided in ORS Chapter 183 and ORS 171.778. This order shall be the final order and all information in the Commission files on this matter shall become part of the record.

By signing this agreement, Matt Scarfo agrees to waive his right to obtain judicial review of this order as provided in ORS 183.482

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into and signed this stipulated final order on the dates set forth below.

Signed by:

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Respondent: Matt Scarfo

August 6, 2026

Date

Shenoa Payne, Chairperson
Oregon Government Ethics Commission

Date