



**pennsylvania**  
OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

## **The Office of Open Records webinar will begin soon**

- Use the “Conversation” box to submit questions
- Submitted questions are records under the RTKL
- After the webinar ends:
  - Email [openrecords@pa.gov](mailto:openrecords@pa.gov) or call 717-346-9903
- OOR website has resources for agencies & requesters
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**pennsylvania**

OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

Erik Arneson, Executive Director

## **2018 Office of Open Records Annual Report**

*March 15, 2019*

<https://openrecords.pa.gov>

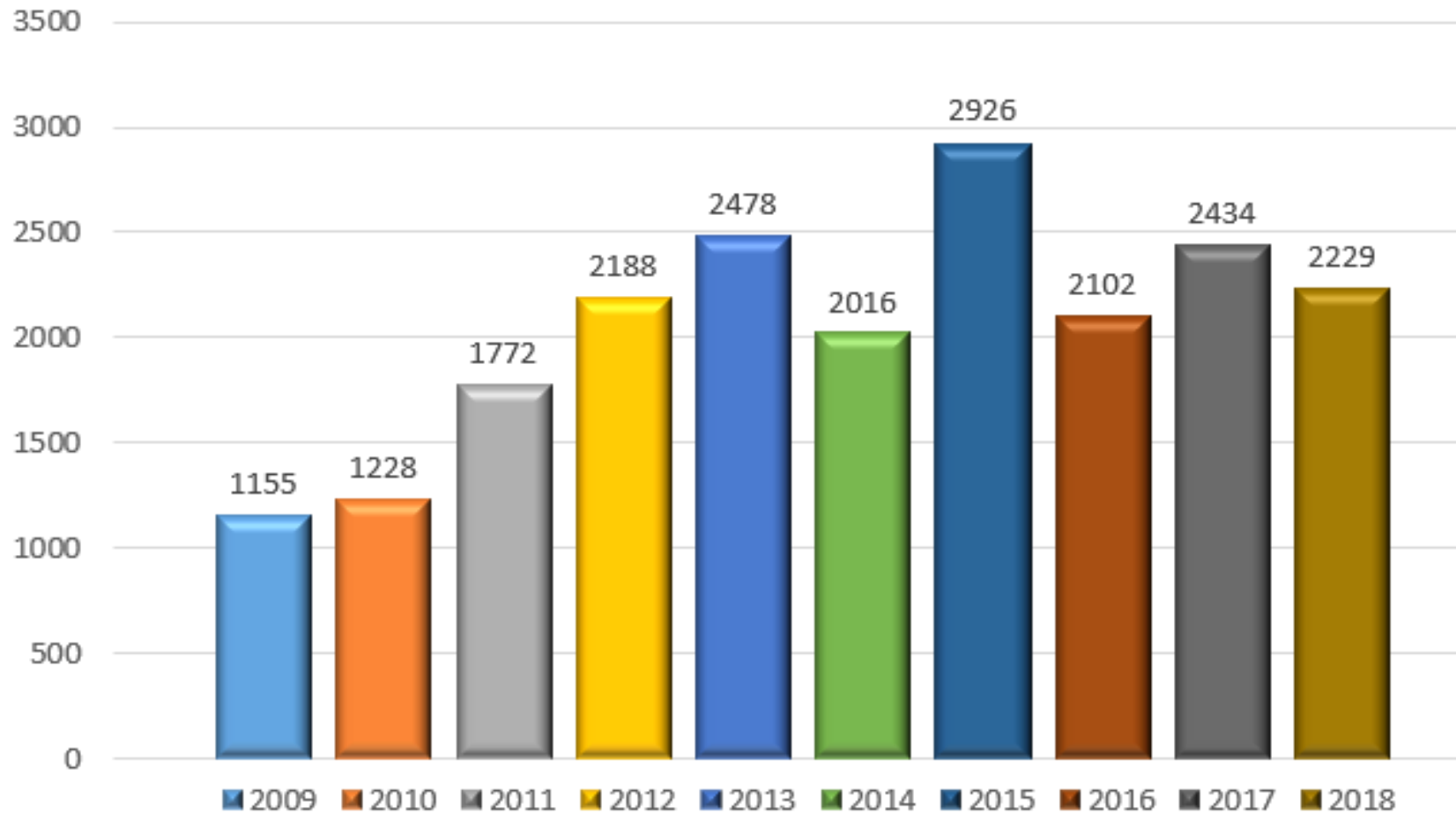
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# Appels Filed by Year



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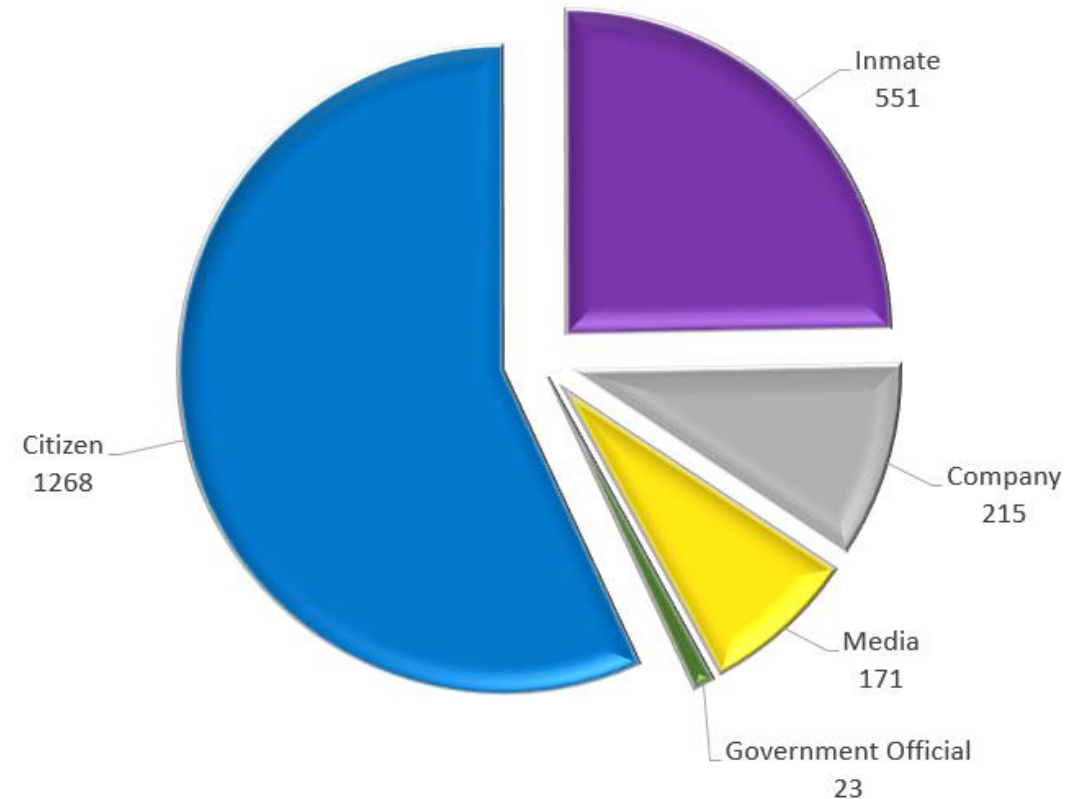
## Number of appeals filed relatively steady since 2012

- Between 2,000 and 2,500 appeals in 6 of past 7 years
  - Exception: 2,926 appeals in 2015
- Three-year average: 2,255
- Five-year average: 2,341

# Who Filed Appeals in 2018?

## Appellants fall into five categories

- Everyday citizens, 56.9%
- Inmates, 24.7%
- Companies, 9.6%
- Media, 7.7%
- Government officials, 1.0%



# Requests vs. Appeals – 2018

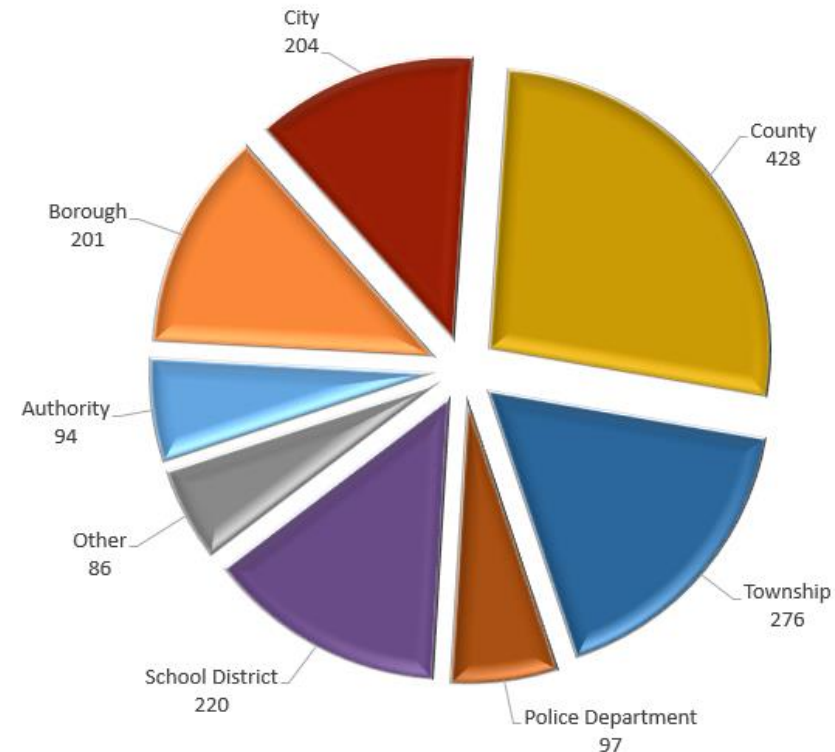
## Comparing AORO survey data to OOR appeal data

- Inmates: 1.5% of requests
  - Inmates: 24.7% of appeals
- Commercial requesters: 30.2% of requests
  - Companies: 9.6% of appeals
- News media: 3.8% of requests
  - Media: 7.7% of appeals

# Appeals Involving Local Agencies in 2018

## 1,606 appeals involved local agencies

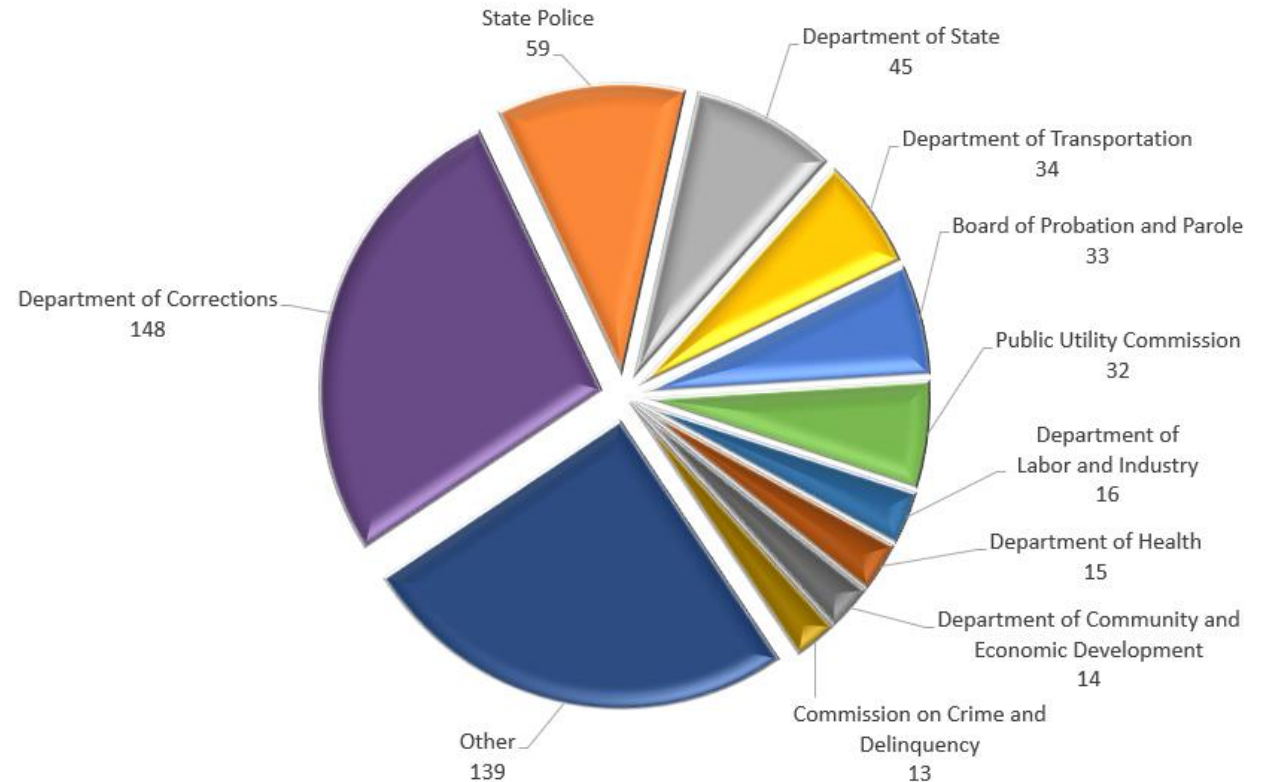
- Municipalities (cities, boroughs & townships), 42.4%
- Counties, 26.7%
- School districts, 13.7%
- Police departments, 6.0%
- Authorities, 5.9%
- Other, 5.4%



# Appeals Involving State Agencies in 2018

## 559 appeals involved state agencies

- Corrections, 27.0%
- State Police, 10.8%
- Dept. of State, 8.2%
- PennDOT, 6.2%
- Probation & Parole, 6.0%
- Other, 41.8%





# Issues Raised by Agencies on Appeal

## 2018 was the second year the OOR tracked this data

- (b)(17) Noncriminal investigation, 96 cases
- (b)(16) Criminal investigation, 83
- (b)(10) Internal, predecisional deliberations, 53
- (b)(6) Personal identification information, 49
- (b)(2) Public safety, 33

# Issues Raised by Agencies on Appeal

## Issues not related to the Section 708(b) exemptions

- Records do not exist, 339
- Not in agency possession or not records of agency, 180
- Request not specific or request asked questions, 102
- Attorney-client privilege, 49

# Training & Mediations

## We traveled the state in 2018

- 63 Training Sessions
  - Locations included Erie, Freedom, Indiana, Morrisville, Pittsburgh, Radnor, Upper Macungie & Sunbury
  - Colleges and universities, including Gannon, Lock Haven, Penn State & my alma mater Temple
- 68 Mediations
  - Most conducted via phone, email and/or Skype, but we do go on location when necessary

# Records Accessed via the RTKL in 2018

## Financial Records

- More than \$1 million paid to constables by magisterial district courts in Reading, far more than any other municipality.
- \$320,970 paid by Philadelphia City Council for a fleet of 13 new SUVs, plus an additional \$46,000 in gasoline and maintenance.
- The cost of ransomware attacks on agency computers, including paid ransoms and rebuilding infected systems.

# Records Accessed via the RTKL in 2018

## Other records

- Data showing a significant decline in racial diversity among teachers in Philadelphia School District.
- 28 reports of bed bugs in a university's dormitories over six years, with 12 of those reports being confirmed.
- Inspection report identifying issues with overhead conduits in a Turnpike tunnel where a driver was killed.

# The Amazing OOR Staff

## Dedicated, talented and hard-working

- **Administrative Team:** Dylan Devenyi, Faith Henry, Michele Kusery-Grant & Janelle Sostar
- **Appeals Officers:** Kyle Applegate, Joy Baxter, Erin Burlew, Jordan Davis, Angie Edris, Blake Eilers, Kelly Isenberg, Ryan Liggitt, Jill Wolfe, Joshua Young & Magdalene Zeppos
- **Chief of Training & Outreach:** George Spiess
- **Executive Team:** Charles Rees Brown, Nathan Byerly & Delene Lantz

# OOOR Resources

## Website, Twitter, Email Lists & More

- Web: <https://openrecords.pa.gov/>
- Blog: <https://openrecordspennsylvania.com/>
- Email lists: Daily Digest of FDs & General Updates
  - <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/EmailSubscriptions.cfm>
- Twitter: [@OpenRecordsPA](#)
  - Executive Director: [@ErikOpenRecords](#)
- [YouTube Channel](#)
- Open Records in PA Podcast: [Apple Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#), etc.

# Webinar Q&A

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