

## Steven Schellin

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**From:** Steven Schellin <saschellin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2016 11:51 PM  
**To:** DOA Public Records Board Comments  
**Subject:** Do not limit public access to state records

Anything written on paper or entered into a computer that is owned by the state or public entity of local government should be kept as an open record for public access. Access exceptions may exist for a few personal personnel or competitive bidding information records. Even these should not be deleted, but maintained as historic and able to be revealed with proper court authority or age, such as after a bid is awarded or an employee has left a job.

Do not limit public access to state records as was recently done by the Public Records Board. Rescind that action.

Open records are the lifeblood of honesty in government, where the few selected to represent the many to be served deserve the right to have actions and decisions examined in the daylight of public scrutiny.

I have served in a local public office as a School Board Member and Clerk of the School District. My record of discussions, votes, and actions are recorded for all to see and still exist. These records, during my terms in office, served to educate and inform my constituents, both in my voting district and School District-wide such that they re-elected me and respected my votes for their children. When my terms ended I was selected for various district committees to serve the district and these records still exist and show what was done, by whom, and why. The same should exist at all levels of government, especially the State level, where so few represent so many and spend so much so quickly.

When things go bad these records help all to learn and avoid future mistakes or keep us from making the same bad decisions again. When people in government go bad these records help us to uncover and prosecute the criminals, even after they have left their elected offices or jobs or cheated the government from the outside.

An example is the prosecution of the former Town of Lisbon Clerk, Elizabeth Kraus, who tried to hide here illegal personal use of \$20,000 of Town Taxpayer funds. Open records helped identify the thefts and convict her of credit card fraud, despite her attempts to hide the records.

When records are not saved these things can be hidden. When the records are not accessible they can hide wrong doing. **Make sure the Records are Retained and Do Not limit public access to state and other government records.**

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