

Leon Burzynski

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**From:** Leon Burzynski <leonbur@execpc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2016 4:12 PM  
**To:** DOA Public Records Board Comments  
**Cc:** gstanley@journalsentinel.com  
**Subject:** Electronic Records are Public Records

Dear Public Records Board,

We are Wisconsin residents who have served our communities of residence as members of several public Boards over the course of our lifetimes. Service included as a Village Trustee, Village President, School Board Members (both of us), United Way Board, and the Waukesha County ARCH Board. We served in all of those positions with the ethical and moral belief that the actions taken as members belonged in the public realm.

Although there were times we had to make difficult decisions, it never crossed our minds that the process should be done in secret. We knew that all written communications were open to public review, as they should be. The State of Wisconsin open records law codified what had been our practice prior to its enactment. The communications made today via electronic devices are no different than those made by us on paper. The only difference is the method of transmission.

Whether by paper, government email, twitter, text messaging, hand-written note, Facebook postings, or private email account, all communications pertaining to government service and decision-making should be considered public records. And copies of all these methods of communication should be accessible to the public as part of our right-to-know about who is making these decisions and how they are going about it.

During the past few years, we have witnessed secrecy and denial by Governor Walker and his aides, as well as various legislators. This is how corruption in government occurs.

We urge you, the Public Records Board, to rescind your previous action to limit access to the various electronic communications by State of Wisconsin public employees.

Respectfully,  
Leon Burzynski

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"The greatest threat to our future is apathy." (Jane Goodall)