

Warren Metzger

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**From:** Warren Metzger <wmetzgerusa@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 5, 2016 6:47 PM  
**To:** DOA Public Records Board Comments  
**Subject:** Electronic Records

Hi,

Last summer we averted a measure that would have changed the open records law. A little known rule was slipped into the budget in the middle of the night. A public outcry ensued and the restrictions were removed from the final wording of the budget. In June of 2015, Attorney General Brad Schimel established the Office of Open Government to ensure that the Department of Justice preserves the proud tradition of open government in Wisconsin.

Both of these settled the outcry against the changing the open records law BUT we recently learned, (<http://www.prwatch.org/news/2015/12/13003/wisconsin-board-open-records-law>) "On August 24<sup>th</sup>, the Public Records Board changed the definition of "transitory records" which used to be described as "correspondence and other related records of short-term interest which have no documentary or evidentiary value." The changes broadened the definition to include "emails to schedule or confirm meetings or events, committee agendas and minutes received by members on a distribution list, interim files, tracking and control files, recordings used for training purposes and ad hoc reports for individual use."

I disagree. In this day and age most correspondence takes place via electronic means and very few via printed messages. Keeping electronic messaging private and out of the purview of investigative journalists could constitute a violation of the open meeting laws.

Preserving open government is something that the state attorney general cherishes.

Please do the right thing and reverse your decision that you made last summer.

Sincerely,

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