

David Walker

From: David Walker <dwatwa7224@cs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 10:19 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Open Records - Policy Revision

Public Records Board members: We are very concerned about the policy revision made in August regarding the handling of government records. We believe that electronic records of elected officials belong to the citizens of Wisconsin.

"Quietly, with no public notice or reporting, the board changed the definition of "transitory records"--those deemed to have only temporary significance." Milw. Journal Sentinel

According to the article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Wednesday, January 6 "When government employees conduct the public's business and spend the taxpayers' dollars electronically, citizens have an interest in those communications and a right to see them." We totally agree.

Later in the article, it mentions that "...open records attorneys and advocates accused the Public Records Board of violating the state's open meetings law with its notice for the August meeting, which did not specifically mention the transitory records issues, and also with its minutes, which failed to provide details of the board's action or of any vote."

Issues, discussion about the issues and a vote should certainly be on the agenda and recorded in the minutes.

Wisconsin has been known as a state with good government and an open records history. Please rescind your action "to limit access to text messages, emails, Facebook posts and other electronic communications by public employees" and continue to provide your constituents with this information.

We will be watching closely to see how this is handled.

Thelma Walker and Dave Walker, 7224 Elberton Avenue, Greendale, Wisconsin 53129