

Jim Hochstetter

From: Jim Hochstetter <jimhochstetter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 8:27 AM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Open Records

To whom it may concern:

Wisconsin has had a heritage of open government. However, your recent actions to rescind access to text messages, emails, Facebook posts and other electronic communications by public employees threatens this distinguished heritage.

It seems that since state government began being governed by politicians from a single political party, the slide into secrecy and backdoor action has become the new normal. When politicians conduct government business in secret there is a predictable drift into bad policy with no way for citizens to shed light on the dealings.

That point was made crystal clear just one day after your board's quiet decision to redefine transitory records. Gov. Scott Walker's administration hid behind the board's action, saying it didn't have text messages requested by the Wisconsin State Journal and adding that officials didn't have to retain such messages.

Your board has a responsibility to keep public records public. Please stop working behind the scenes to give politicians excuses that they can hide behind.

Sincerely,

Jim Hochstetter
Wauwatosa