

## Patricia Ryan

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**From:** Patricia Ryan <pmryan@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2016 5:29 PM  
**To:** DOA Public Records Board Comments  
**Subject:** Openness of Electronic Records

Dear Board Members,

We are pleased that you decided to have an open meeting about the change made last year about "transitory records." This was mistakenly considered a minor issue. More and more communication occurs electronically. Labeling those as "transitory" and thus, making them unavailable for public and press scrutiny is giving too much unaccountable power to elected officials. This is especially important when one party, regardless of the party, is dominant in government.

Operating in opaqueness is probably easier and more efficient but a democratic government must have an informed citizenry and a free press. To have an informed citizenry and a free press, they must be able to know how and why our elected officials reached their decisions. Without transparency, we cannot know that. And without knowing, those in power have too much power and we all know the saying "Power corrupts....."

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