

## Chris Rockwood

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**From:** Chris Rockwood <cydrone@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2016 9:47 PM  
**To:** DOA Public Records Board Comments  
**Subject:** Please protect and strengthen rules governing open records

To the State Public Records Board:

Like many of my fellow Wisconsinites, I was outraged to learn about the changes that were made to rules governing "transitory electronic records." This was yet another attack on the principle of open, honest, transparent government that has been respected in Wisconsin for decades.

Instead of writing a long message, I will refer you to this open letter from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editor George Stanley. I agree with this letter in its entirety:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/an-open-letter-to-the-state-public-records-board-b99647130z1-364413531.html>

Mr. Stanley writes:

"Whenever government employees conduct the public's business and spend the taxpayers' dollars, the citizens of Wisconsin have a right to see their communications, no matter what medium they use."

The principle of open, transparent government is important enough to require public access to all communications sent or received by elected officials and government employees, regardless of the format or medium. Any and all written or recorded communications, including (and especially, in this age of cell phones) text messages and voicemail, must be retained and publicly accessible under the open records law.

I will keep this relatively short and conclude by quoting Mr. Stanley's final paragraph, which consists of two requests that I would also like to make:

"At your next meeting on Monday, please go further than merely rescinding your redefinition of electronic records, now that you have seen how it will be used. Please also make a public commitment that the board you lead will do everything it can in the future to protect and promote citizen access to their government's records."

Thank you for your attention to this matter, which is important to the future of our state and will help to ensure that Wisconsinites can trust their elected officials and government employees.

Sincerely,

Chris Rockwood  
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