

Tom and Carol Conlin

From: Tom and Carol Conlin <tconlin@wi.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 5:48 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Cc: Sen.Darling - LEGIS; Knodl, Daniel - LEGIS
Subject: Public Records Board

As a concerned resident of Wisconsin, I wish to express my position supporting open, transparent government.

One only needs to read **PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROPERTY ss 19.31, Declaration of policy.**

In recognition of the fact that a representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be the public policy of this state that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employees who represent them. Further, providing persons with such information is declared to be an essential function of a representative government and an integral part of the routine duties of officers and employees whose responsibility it is to provide such information. To that end, ss. 19.32 to 19.37 shall be construed in every instance with a presumption of complete public access, consistent with the conduct of governmental business. The denial of public access generally is contrary to the public interest, and only in an exceptional case may access be denied.

Have you forgotten the intent?

I am concerned by the recent actions of the Public Records Board. Considering the Board includes a Certified Records Manager and several attorneys, I am surprised by the cavalier approach toward electronic record management. It is not the record form but the record content. You must not avoid open meeting requirements by conducting business electronically, and then destroy the records.