

Dave Ruske

From: Dave Ruske <druske@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 7:31 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Cc: Blessing, Matthew T - WHS; Ferguson, Paul M - DOJ; Naab, Bryan S - LAB; Schmidt, Melissa A - LEGIS; Broady-Rudd, Sandra; Buesing, Carl; Sorce, Peter; Governor Scott Walker; Sen.Kapenga - LEGIS; Rep.Neylon - LEGIS
Subject: Public Records Comments

I am writing to ask the Public Records Board to rescind its "clarification" of transitory records, and to request that further such changes are conducted with the amount of public scrutiny befitting Wisconsin's tradition of open government. After the previous attempt by Robin Vos and Scott Walker to substantially weaken Wisconsin's open records laws, it should be obvious that such changes, when made behind closed doors, create the appearance of corruption and distrust in state government. Worse, it is possible that such changes could allow actual corruption to be hidden from view. Citizens of every political stripe demand honest and fair government, and open records laws go a long way toward assuring that.

To that end, electronic communications in any form should not be treated any differently than printed publications. Do not bend laws to permit elected officials to hide their activities. Create an environment that is as open as possible with all communications, and hold violators of open records laws accountable.

Recent police controversies have prompted some communities to equip officers with body cameras, to make sure their interactions with the public are objectively documented. Perhaps, given the desire of some politicians to conceal their activities, we should consider equipping them with body cameras as well. I'd be more inclined to trust a police officer than a Wisconsin politician.

Respectfully,
Dave Ruske
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