

Joseph Laux

From: Joseph Laux <eagleriverjoe@choicetelonline.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:26 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Public Records and Open Meetings Law

Dear madam/sir:

I have been involved in open meetings and public records in Wisconsin for nearly 30 years. In all that time I have been a strong believer in this law and I have seen the Wisconsin Court system consistently expand what is considered open records and open meetings. This has been very positive for the State of Wisconsin and for me as a citizen. For 20 years I was a local Mayor and saw lots of things come and go but one thing I learned for sure, if the activity will see the light of day — corruption, in any form, will fade away into the background. Only the open meetings and open records law have held our elected officials to account for their actions. Electronic records are no different than any other form of communication and need to be considered an open record and available to the public. Those who are opposed to this are trying to hide something and keep it from the public eye. This runs counter to the Wisconsin tradition — fair, open and honest government. Electronic communication (text, tweet, Facebook, email and many more forms of electronic forms of communication not yet developed) should be maintained for the public to see. If the communication can somehow lead to a public policy decision then, as a citizen of Wisconsin, I should have the right to know why the decision was made and what forms of communication lead the policy makers to those policy decisions.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will continue the Wisconsin Tradition and keep Wisconsin honest through open government!

Joseph F. Laux
Eagle River, Wisconsin