

Jane Rider

From: Jane Rider <nicknjoenjane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 9:28 AM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Public Records proposal

I am a native of Wisconsin and longtime resident of Burlington, WI., and I am strongly opposed to any effort by lawmakers to reduce citizens' ability to monitor the activities of public officials. Have you all forgotten who you work for? You were elected to represent us, the citizens of Wisconsin. We have a right to know what you are doing, what you are planning to do before you take action that affects us, our families, our lives. It allows us the opportunity to participate in our government as our founding fathers envisioned and keep our government uncorrupted.

Instead, after you take office, you become drunk with power and direct all your efforts toward personal gain and working for those who can best help you become reelected. You lose sight of the needs and interests of the ordinary people of this state - the working families, the children who are our future, those struggling to make it from one day to the next. Many of your actions these past few years have not been in the best interest of our government or this state. And hiding any further directives, planning, discussions - which so clearly violates the spirit of open records and meetings that Wisconsinites built their trust in leaders - is a coward's journey.

Wisconsin has always prided itself as a state with open government. If what you are doing is noble, right, respectable, honorable, worthy, you should not be ashamed to hide it in some obscure text message or hidden electronic file. It should be available for all to have access. You should be willing to defend it in the light of day. Instead, I fear you are no longer men but puppets for some other larger, powerful machine.

It is a dangerous game you are playing. If any of you are scholars of history and our founding fathers, you know that the cleanest, purest and soundest government is that which is closest to the people. You are removing our ability to monitor and participate in our government. Removing local control at each level and consolidating at the higher levels moves Wisconsin further and further away from our founding principles.

Please revisit these founding principles, if you have a shred of decency remaining in you, you will see what you are doing is wrong. Retain open government in Wisconsin. Keep our records and meetings open.