

Justin Givens

From: Justin Givens <jmgivens@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 9:56 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Public Records=Citizen Ownership

Dear Chairman Blessing & Board Members:

The below is regarding your public office. Your personal life and beliefs are not of business to me.

Integrity.

Honesty.

Two qualities humans, must daily, make a commitment to. It is preached by parents, instructors, pastors, etc., but yet only one's individual compass can hold themselves to those qualities. Perfection is not expected, but honesty and integrity should be. I believe each of you took an oath of office that ends with "... So help me God." If your own individual compass is not strong enough to allow you to faithfully practice integrity and honesty with regard to your public office then possibly revert back to the last line in your sworn oath.

Sometimes it takes courage to do the right thing. Sometimes it comes at a cost. The most recent change to Wisconsin's open records laws was intentionally orchestrated to be secretive. In fact, laws may have been broken in the attempt to secretly change our laws for more secrecy. The secret change was completed without any public record of the change even after it occurred. Then suddenly the following day, without pause, Wisconsin's top office holder used your secret change to deny the public from records which involved, not surprisingly, another government decision exercised in secret without integrity or honesty. The governor's office claims they were not in contact with your board, but then how did the governor know to deny the records request the following day using your changes? First attempt was the end of the last workday prior to Independence Day; second attempt concealed in even more secrecy.

When honesty and integrity cannot be relied upon as a part of government, open records of said government to the owners, the citizens, becomes paramount. This is true regardless of religious, personal, or political beliefs.

I write to you requesting you rescind your redefinition of public records. I also hope the entire board understands just how important the protection of public record is. It is the last line of defense when man is not strong enough to practice integrity and honesty. As partial gatekeepers in this protection of open records if you are having trouble individually practicing integrity and honesty in your public office and pressure mounts from others who no longer have a working compass then you may always revert back to your oath's finale, "...So help me God."

Thank You,

Justin Givens
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin