

Laura Patten

From: Laura Patten <Laura@wccopywriting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 2:20 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Rescind the transitory records policy revision

Dear Public Records Board,

I am writing to ask you to rescind the board's action to limit access to texts, emails, Facebook posts and other electronic communications by public employees. As taxpayers, that information belongs to us, and we have every right to make sure these public officials are conducting the people's business with integrity. Without assurances, you and I both know that deals will be made that benefit the people in power, not regular Wisconsinites.

Changing policies and laws just to suit the majority's agenda and completely disregard the people of Wisconsin is unacceptable. All of us, regardless of the party with which we are affiliated, should be able to expect open and transparent government, and easy access to our representatives and records of the business they're conducting. That's just the democratic way.

Last July, when the JFC tried to sneak in the gutting of our open records law at the last minute before the holiday weekend kicked off, I took the time to write and express my extreme displeasure at their attempt to make government less open. I honestly cannot believe that I have to write again, when clearly most Wisconsinites are against any attempt to close off access to our government. We're taxpayers. We have a say. And when it comes time to vote again, we'll remember who wanted to conduct the public's work in private.

Laura Patten
Whitefish Bay