

Jeff Gibson

From: Jeff Gibson <tiderman@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 2:16 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Transitory Records Definition = End of Open Government in Wisconsin

I strongly encourage you to vote against the new definition of transitory records which would allow public officials to carry on the people's business in private.

Wisconsin's tradition of open government would be a thing of the past when officials are allowed to conduct business through electronic means with no possible oversight by those who are governed.

The inconvenience to elected officials is far outweighed by the need to protect the citizens' right to a redress of grievances. This action would make it nearly impossible for a citizen to know that he/she has a grievance in the first place, if they are unable to know how the "deal went down."

As a school district technology administrator in Wisconsin for 16 years, I understand how difficult it is to ensure that board members and school staff electronic communications are stored and available for public review. However, I strongly believe that the public's right to know outweighs the effort to maintain the records. The new definition of transitory records would eliminate the expectation that official business be made available for public review. This is unacceptable in a democracy.

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