

From: [Sheila Plotkin](#)
To: [DOA Public Records Board Comments](#)
Subject: "Transitory" messages
Date: Sunday, January 03, 2016 5:18:18 PM

Dear Board Members,

I write to oppose exempting texts and other instant messages from the Open Records statutes. It's not the medium that matters; it's the message.

If a text or other "transitory" message contains references to legislation under consideration or already passed, then it is public record and must be preserved.

If such a message comes from and/or goes to a citizen, an interest group, media, fellow legislators, leg counsel, another government agency, or consultants, then it is public record and must be preserved.

Elected officials should not be messaging private matters on the public dime; therefore, every message sent or received during working hours should be considered public record and must be preserved.

This is not complicated. Legislators do the public's business in the public spotlight on public time and with public money. The public is the final arbiter here. And, the public is served well and in good faith only if their spotlight is neither dimmed nor extinguished.

The people's right to know is not "transitory". "Exemptions" from transparency are unacceptable in a democracy.

I urge you not to weaken our Open Records statutes. Rather, it is your responsibility to guard those statutes from changes that cloud the public's vision and accommodate secrecy.

Thank you.

Sheila Plotkin
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