



Pledge for Transparency and Openness in Government

I hereby pledge to the people of the state of Ohio and to the citizens who are served by the office I seek that I will both practice transparency individually and demand that the government of which I hold office shall engage in full disclosure of government activity.

I acknowledge and state that:

- Such disclosure is consistent with and necessary to representative government.
- Such disclosure is required by the regular statements clauses of the United States and Ohio Constitutions.
- Such disclosure must be made on the Internet, in real time or approximate real time.
- Such disclosure shall be in the form of searchable databases whenever there are multiple records relevant to an activity.
- The structure of the Internet, including cross linking, shall be used where appropriate, but shall not be used to fragment data to increase the difficulty of analyzing or aggregating such data.
- Exceptions to such disclosure are extremely few and the scope of such exceptions is dramatically smaller for government entities than for private entities, and those who enjoy the benefits of government office must accept this distinction between public and private entities.

I acknowledge and state that, at a minimum, the following items must be maintained on a Web site operated by each government entity:

- Financial data shall include all contracts, the checkbook register, all budgets, collective bargaining agreements, payroll, all financial audits, and all taxes, fees and other revenues collected by each government entity.
- Administrative data shall include, with sufficient advance time to comply with notice requirements and to be useful to the citizens served, notices of meetings and agendas, with supporting documentation; minutes of meetings, both in draft and approved form; contact information for elected and appointed officials, including email contact information; performance audits; a database of voting records; ethics, lobbying and conflict of interest disclosures.
- Public records process data shall include a public records policy, a record retention schedule, contact information for public records response personnel, and any forms used, in addition to regular reports on response times, completeness and other public records performance data such as number of requests made.
- Jurisdiction and compliance data shall include any relevant constitutions, charters, intergovernmental agreements, bylaws and other fundamental documents.

I further pledge that, to the extent the government entity of which I hold office does not post such information promptly, for any reason whatever, I will work to cause it to make such information available to any and all publicly open forums where such information is made available to the public without restriction.

I, _____, candidate for the office of _____ for the period _____, hereby affirm and adopt this Pledge for Transparency and Openness in Government.

Signature

Date