



Pennsylvania
Office of Open Records

2025 Annual Training

December 17, 2025

<https://openrecords.pa.gov>
openrecords@pa.gov
(717) 346-9903

Latest Developments in the Right-to-Know Law

Nathan Byerly, Deputy Director
Kyle Applegate, Chief Counsel

OOR has a new mailing address



New physical location

555 Walnut Street, Suite 605
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1925

- Phone Number – remains same
- Webpage – remains the same
- Portal – remains the same

Confirm agency forms and webpages have the new address

- Double check pre-filled addresses in software, apps, and templates
- Double check any guides, postings, or documents used to train or assist employees or the public

Training Roadmap

OOA Appeal Numbers – why they matter

➤ Practice Tips

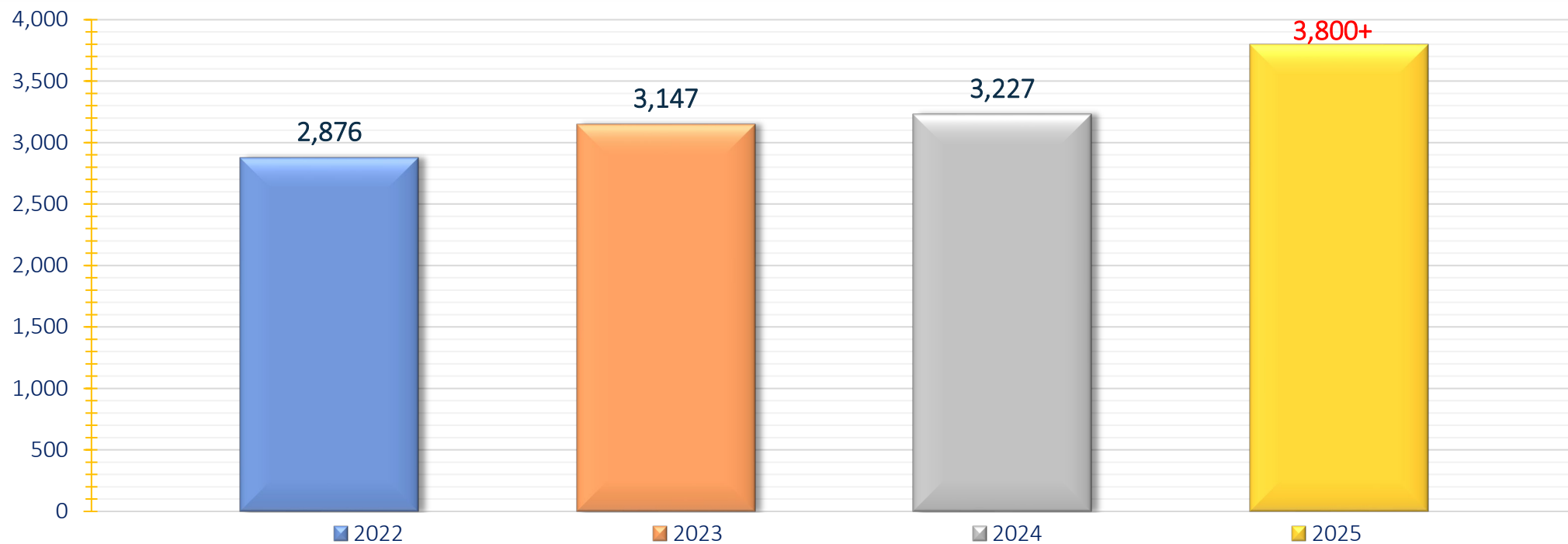
Impact of Artificial Intelligence

➤ Agency/Requester Tips

2025 RTKL Case Law Update



Annual Appeal Numbers



Why the Numbers are Important

30 calendar day statutory deadline to issue a Final Determination (FD)

As soon as the Appeals Officer (AO) gets the appeal the clock starts

Agencies and requesters can make the process more efficient

Practice Tips – Help us Help you

1

Submit a well organized and concise argument

2

Submit a thorough well organized, concise nonconclusory attestation/affidavit

- Watch the OOR's presentation on evidence – review the OOR's PowerPoint
- Use the facts from argument to form basis for the affidavit or even the affidavit itself

3

Be proactive – ask yourself what would you need to resolve the appeal– limits the # of times the AO needs ask follow-up questions

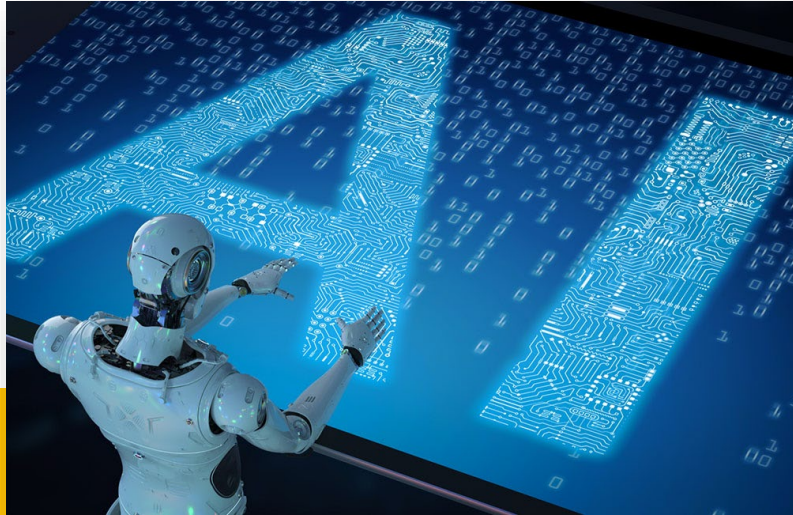
- Explain the facts, previous appeals, history to the AO
- Why, what, when, where, how

4

Avoid use of Generative AI

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Different things to different people

For the discussion today

- Does not mean automation
- Does not mean grammar check or editing
- Does not mean the AI built into apps/software like Word, Excel, legal research platforms

Focus today is Generative AI

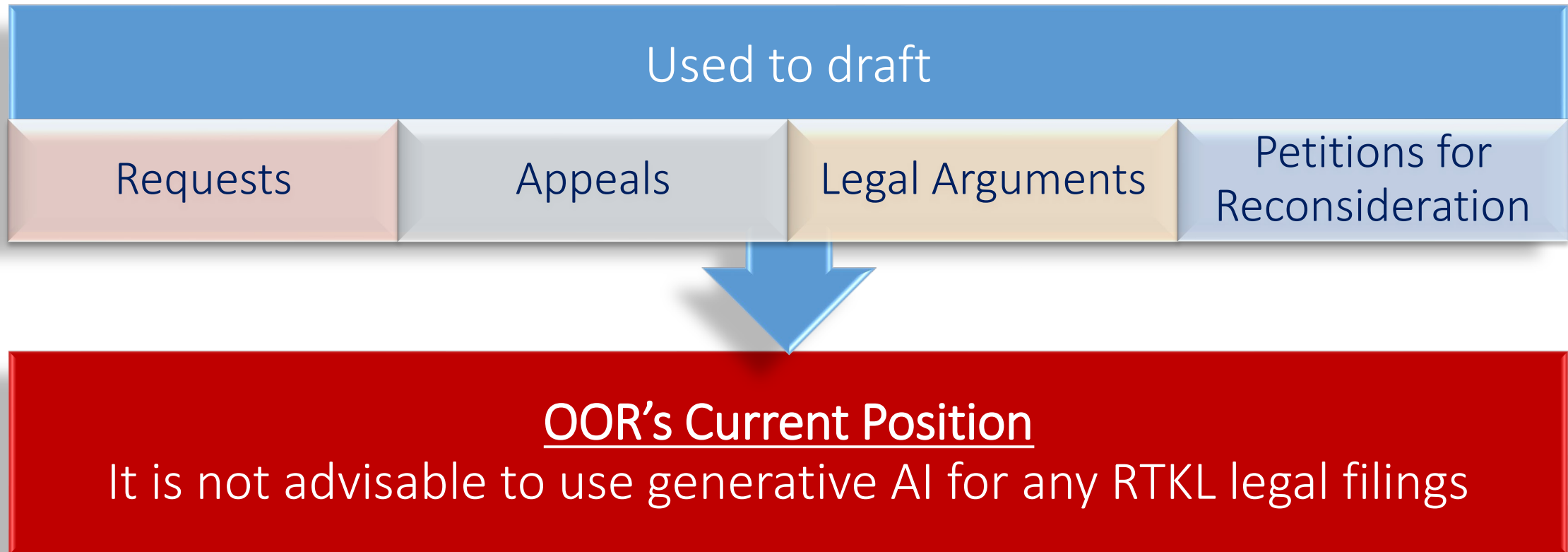
- ChatGPT, Grok, Google Gemini, etc.

What is Generative AI?

a type of artificial intelligence that creates new content, such as text, images, code, and audio, by learning from existing data

a type of artificial intelligence that can create new content—such as text, images, audio, video, code, or even data—based on the patterns it has learned from large amounts of existing information... based on patterns it has learned from large amounts of data.

Generative AI and the RTKL Process



Why not use Generative AI?

AI is not a reliable substitute for a human attorney. While AI tools can be powerful aids for legal research and document drafting, they lack the critical human judgment, ethical reasoning, emotional intelligence, and accountability required for the practice of law.

Generative AI can be a writing and grammar tool; it is not a legal one

It typically tells you what you want to hear.

Why not use Generative AI?

Completely
Unreliable
in the RTKL
context

Inaccurate Information –
AI “Hallucinations”

Cites to nonexistent cases
and quotes

Outdated Information

Lack of Legal Nuance – misses factual differences

Overbroad Generalization – One Size Fits All

Generative AI Misrepresentation



Will cite to a case and say it stands for a certain legal principle.

Upon review, the case has nothing to do with the legal principle the requester is trying to prove.

The citation may be correct but the proposition is wrong

Examples and Tips



Fake Law

Filtering into a spam folder is **not a valid legal defense**. The RTKL does not condition receipt on an agency's internal email handling or spam filtering. Agencies have a duty to maintain functioning communication systems. As OOR has repeatedly stated:

FALSE

“An agency bears the risk of its own spam filters or technical issues; once a request is properly addressed and sent, it is deemed received.” – *See e.g., Giulian v. Upper Darby Township, OOR Dk. AP 2016-1537.*



Nonexistent AI Created Quote

While the case name and citation are correct – the quote never appears in the decision and is a creation of Generative AI

In **Commonwealth v. Donahue**, 98 A.3d 1223, 1241 (Pa. 2014), the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held:

FALSE

“It is the agency’s burden to establish that a RTKL request was not received. An agency’s internal failure to properly direct communications does not absolve it from its statutory obligations under the RTKL.”



AI Created Case

Requester cited to this case: PA Office of Gov't Ethics v. Bumsted to support release of records.

The case does not exist

If you google the alleged caption, Google's AI gave/gives a synopsis of it:

FALSE

The PA Office of Government Ethics (OGE) case against [Robert Bumsted](#) involved a dispute regarding the disclosure of information related to the OGE's investigation of Bumsted's employment with the Governor's Office. The OGE sought to make the information public, while Bumsted argued for confidentiality.

AI Generated Policy

Submission incorrectly claimed that OOR policy states:

FALSE

“A business day is any day when the agency is open for the conduct of official business.”

Submission claimed that policy:

further clarifies that “open for business” includes the ability to **receive** RTK requests. It does *not* depend on whether every department employee is physically in the building.

Because Township receives RTK submissions by email, the Township’s RTK office was “open for the conduct of official business” on that date



Requester Tips



OOR recommendation for now: Do not use Generative AI in legal submissions.



It is even risky to use AI to help develop or organize an argument.



WARNING: You are responsible for the accuracy of what you submit in an appeal.



The OOR Appeal Form states

I verify that the statements made herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that false statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904.



Saying a case says X when it actually says Y could be considered a false or misleading statement. You could be subject to sanctions.

Agency Tips

Generative AI's accuracy has impacted the appeal process – OOR is not aware of impact at the request level.

AOROs should still not blindly trust statements from a requester citing a new court case citation/quotation, OOR guidance or FD, policies, statement of policy, etc.

➤ Contact solicitor to confirm it is accurate

Solicitors/agency counsel – be aware that requesters may cite to AI hallucinations that are not accurate or do not exist. Point that out to the AO.

Generative AI FAQs

Can an agency deny a request when a requester uses Generative AI?

Not at this time

Is the OOR denying appeals when generative AI is used?

Not at this time



Generative AI FAQs

How should an AORO handle a request they think is generated by AI?

Like any other request – exemptions do apply

How should a solicitor handle requester legal arguments generated by AI?

The same as any other appeal. Point out to the AO any inaccuracies or fake cites.



2025 Case Law Update

PA Commonwealth Court: Specificity

Griem v. Pa. State Police, 329 A.3d 873

- Request was a 7-Item request; the 7th Item was a request for all emails sent to or exchanged among the Pennsylvania State Police containing certain keyword terms, over two distinct time periods.
- The OOR found that Item 7 was insufficiently specific because that Item was set apart from the prior 6, and thus, the Appeals Officer found that the keywords were too general and unrelated to the other Items' subject matter.
- The Court disagreed and found that Item 7 related to the context of the other Items.
- In other words, "the 14 keywords in Item No. 7 related to one another and to Item Nos. 1-6."
- A request does not need to be perfectly drafted; it only needs to provide enough information to inform the agency of what records are being requested.

PA Commonwealth Court: Specificity

SEPTA v. Anderson, 337 A.3d 575

- The Court affirmed the OOR's determination that part of the request was specific, while part of the request was not.
- In doing so, the Court found that the OOR did not modify or refashion the request.
 - "The OOR did not supply any additional qualifications or limiting language, but rather interpreted the Items in context and parsed out those portions that satisfied the [specificity] test."

PA Commonwealth Court: Affidavits, Evidence and Meeting Burden

Posey v. Pa. Dep't of Corrections, 329 A.3d 864

- This request sought the full names of correctional officers. Based upon a 2010 opinion of the Commonwealth Court (Stein), the OOR issued numerous final determinations denying access to this information.
- In this case, the OOR relied upon Stein and those previous final determinations to deny access.
- However, the Commonwealth Court reversed the OOR and directed access to the records.
- The Court noted that there is no per se rule against the release of this information, and that the Court's holding in Stein was based upon the evidence before the Court at that time.

PA Commonwealth Court: Records of State-related institutions/cloud-based records

Dep't of Education v. Massey, 2025 Pa. Commw. LEXIS 178

- Request sought materials hosted on Diligent (a file-sharing platform) related to a Penn State Board of Trustees retreat and meeting. Access to these materials within Diligent is read-only.
- While Penn State is a State-related institution not subject to the majority of the RTKL, the OOR found that the records were received by the Departments of Education and Agriculture by virtue of their Secretaries' status as *ex officio* members of Penn State's Board of Trustees, and thus found that they were records of the Departments.
- The Court affirmed the OOR, noting that “[h]olding otherwise would perversely incentivize ... agencies ... and affected third parties ... to utilize remote servers and/or cloud-based services, in order to ensure that they would no longer need to disclose what would otherwise constitute public records.”
- “[...]he Departments have constructive possession of the requested materials, despite their read-only nature; this is by virtue of the fact that those materials have been specifically made available to the Secretaries in accordance with their positions as *ex officio* board members.”

PA Commonwealth Court: Third Party Records and Section 506(d)

Mutchler v. Pa. Office of Administration, 334 A.3d 57

- Under the RTKL, certain records in the possession of a third-party contractor may be accessible (Section 506(d) of the RTKL).
- In this case, the Court found that Section 506(d) does not “require one agency to obtain from another agency information that the requester could get from that other agency directly.”
- The Court reasoned that when a contracting party is another agency already subject to the RTKL, “public access is already assured. There is no need or purpose for involvement of an agency that does not possess the records sought, where another agency does possess those records and, indeed, is their originator.”
- The Court further reasoned that the agency here “is not in a position to know what exemptions from disclosure [the other agency] might be entitled to assert regarding the requested information,” so “the surer way to preserve exemptions from disclosure to which [the other agency] may be entitled, would be to avoid making OA a middleman.”
- Notably, the Supreme Court has partially granted a petition for allowance of appeal in this case.

PA Commonwealth Court: Additional Cases of Note

Department of Revenue v. Haverstick, 329 A.3d 834

The Court affirmed the OOR's final determination and found that:

- 1) a spreadsheet containing weekly lottery sales data for each retailer was a financial record and thus not subject to the RTKL's trade secret/confidential proprietary information exemption; and
- 2) the agency did not demonstrate that other RTKL exemptions apply.

Penncrest Sch. Dist. v. Rodgers, 337 A.3d 604

- Emails sent by board members using their personal emails may constitute records of the agency if they are sent in the board members' "official capacities" and discuss agency business.
- It is irrelevant if a single board member cannot bind the agency

PA Commonwealth Court: Additional Cases of Note

Commonwealth Charter Academy Charter Sch. v. Spicka, 339 A.3d 530

- Education records under FERPA may be subject to access, redacted of certain personally identifiable information (PII).
- Under FERPA, while student handwriting may be PII, parent handwriting is not; parent handwriting was also found to not be protected by the right to privacy.
- Further, the agency could not provide the information in an “alternate format”; certain forms were requested, and the forms needed to be provided with redactions.

Bethke v. City of Philadelphia, 343 A.3d 370

- Failure to appeal an OOR final determination granting access to records results in a “mandatory and ministerial duty to provide those records.”
- Further, a failure to appeal results in the loss of an opportunity to raise exemptions or submit new evidence.

PA Commonwealth Court: Additional Cases of Note

Trethewey v. Downingtown Area School District, 331 A.3d 956

- Discusses trade secrets, confidential proprietary information, and copyright law with respect to requested DEI training materials.
- If you have a question concerning those topics, this decision could provide assistance.

Voss v. Pa. Gaming Control Board, 343 A.3d 398 (en banc)

- The government license was not a contract – it is an entitlement to engage in a valuable activity and falls within a regulatory framework, but is not an actual contract.
- Also, adherence to a regulatory framework in this instance was not an agreement to take on a governmental function of the agency.

PA Supreme Court

Penncrest Sch. Dist. v. Cagle, 341 A.3d 720

- Issue – Were social media posts by a board member a record of the agency?
- The Supreme Court affirmed the Commonwealth Court, which set forth a variety of “nonexclusive” factors to consider and remanded to the trial court.
- Takeaway – look at various factors and context when determining whether social media (or any record) is a record of the agency.

PA Supreme Court

Mezzacappa v. Northampton County, 334 A.3d 268

- The Supreme Court reversed the Commonwealth Court and found that mug shots are generally not subject to public access.
- The Court reasoned that mug shots are “identifiable descriptions,” and thus constitute “criminal history record information” under the Criminal History Record Information Act (CHRIA).
- CHRIA limits the disclosure of criminal history record information, and thus, mug shots can only be disseminated as set forth under CHRIA.

Questions?



Today's training has been recorded and will be posted to our website.

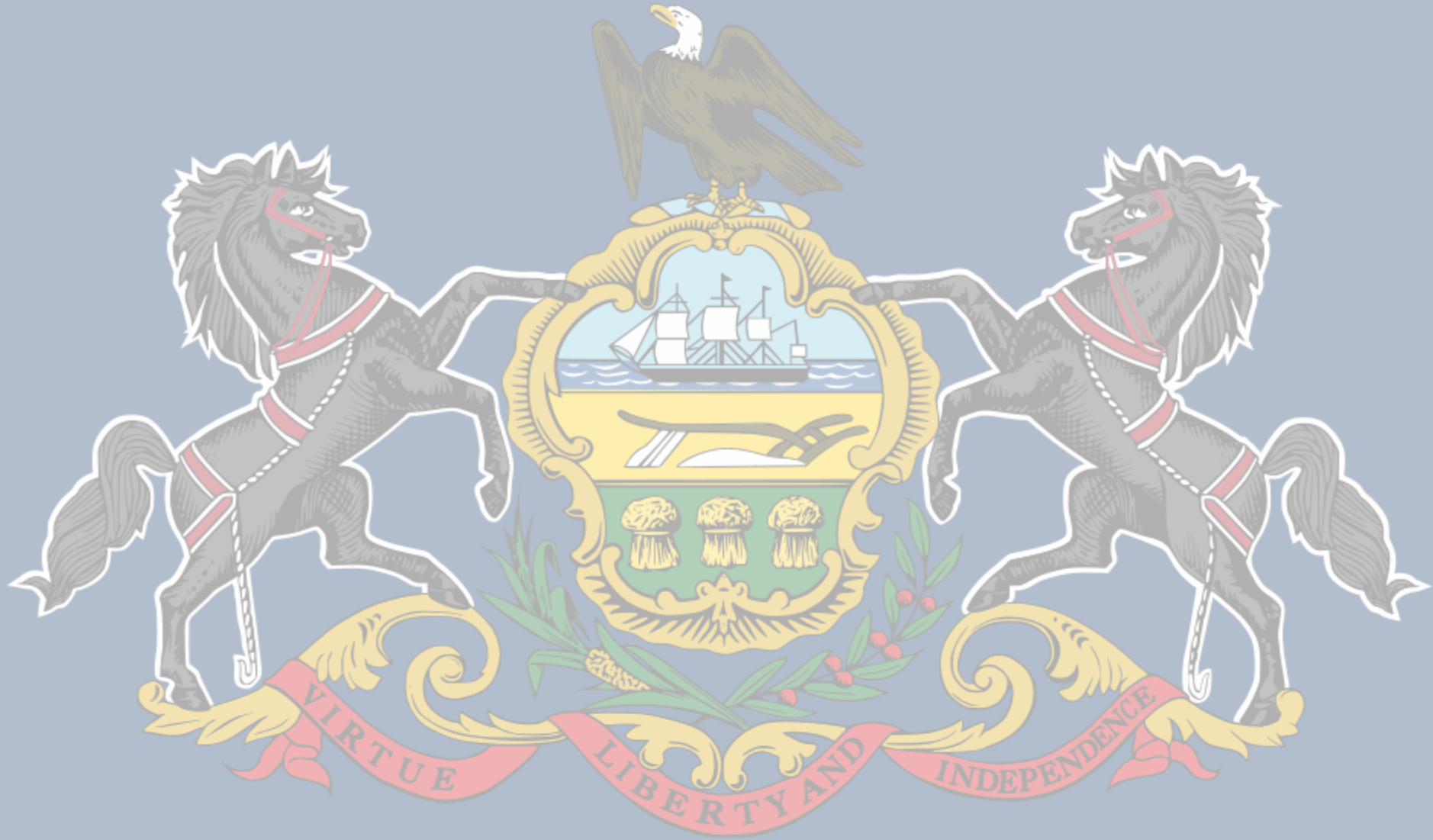
If we did not answer your questions today or you have more questions, contact us:

- Via website form: <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/ContactOOR.cfm>,
- Via email: openrecords@pa.gov, or
- Via phone: 717-346-9903.

Submitted questions are records under the RTKL.

The OORs website has resources for agencies & requesters: <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/>.





Pennsylvania's Sunshine Act

Liz Wagenseller, Executive Director
Dylan Devenyi, Administrative Officer

Why Public Meetings Matter



A Story in Four Parts



“Chick-fil-A proposed for Camp Hill, but residents voice concerns about traffic”



“Chick-fil-A plan denied in Camp Hill; developer vows appeal”



“Council broke open-meetings law in Chick-fil-A talks, ex-Camp Hill manager says in court filing”



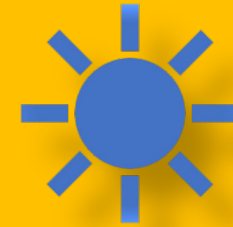
“Camp Hill’s rejection of Chick-fil-A plan upheld by state court”



Notice



The Office of Open Records does not provide legal advice



The OOR has no legal authority on Sunshine Act matters



No content in this presentation is legally binding

When in doubt, use common sense.



Training Roadmap

Today's Topics

- Why a Sunshine Act?
- Advertising Requirements
- Posting of Agenda
- Public Observance of Deliberations and Final Actions
- Challenging Alleged Violations

Why a Sunshine Act?

Give the Public Opportunity to Observe and Engage in Government Deliberation

Not in the U.S. Constitution or Bill of Rights

Movement for open meetings began slowly at state level in 1950

All states and federal government had open meeting laws in place by 1976



History of PA's Sunshine Act

Enacted in 1986

- Last amended in 2021
- Still no provisions directly addressing virtual meetings

“the right of the public to be present at all meetings of agencies and to witness the deliberation, policy formulation and decision making of agencies is vital to the enhancement and proper functioning of the democratic process and that secrecy in public affairs undermines the faith of the public in government and the public's effectiveness in fulfilling its role in a democratic society.”

Essence of Sunshine Act

Deliberations and final actions performed by a quorum of a governing body, the Board of Trustees, must occur at a meeting that was advertised to the public





Facets of the Sunshine Act

The public has a right to:

- Know how to attend
- Know what is being discussed
- *Allow public to speak before vote (school districts and municipalities only)*
- Observe deliberations of a quorum *(with limited exceptions)*
- Observe final actions
- Object to alleged violations and seek relief from court

Advertising Requirements

Public Notices



Regular meeting schedule posted at least three days before first meeting of year



Date, time, and location (including virtual link)



Newspaper of general circulation

Notice is hereby given that the East Lampeter Township Board of Supervisors will hold a Special Meeting on Monday, August 25, 2025, beginning at 7:30am. The meeting will be held in-person at the Township office at 2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602 as well as virtually utilizing the Zoom platform. All interested persons are welcome to attend. Anyone requiring special accommodation should contact the Township Office (717-393-1567) so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please see the Township's website at www.eastlampetertownship.org for information on how to attend via livestream.

Tara Hitchens

Township Manager

EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP

Public Notice - published 08/22/2025

LNP Media Group, Inc.



Unfulfilled Advertising May Require Cancellation

“Judge officially rules XXX School District meeting violated Sunshine Act”

The meeting, which was to discuss the furloughing of over 200 district employees, had 'technical difficulties' making it impossible for the meeting to be viewed by the public.



Special/Added Meetings

At least
24 hours
before
meeting

Date, time,
and location
(including
virtual link)

Newspaper
of general
circulation

Emergency Meetings

There must be a real or potential emergency involving a clear and present danger to life or property

Does not require public notice

Still must be open

Public Comment

Public Comment

Required to be at public meetings

On issues “that are or may be before the board”

Must provide a “reasonable opportunity”



Rules of Public Comment

Agencies may establish basic rules such as time limits

Can limit to residents and taxpayers

Questions can be asked – not required to answer, but may be helpful

Flexibility is encouraged

Agenda Requirements

Posting Requirements

At least 24 hours
before meeting
begins

At meeting place,
main agency office,
and agency website

Hard copies available
at meeting





Does Not Apply To



Conferences



Executive Sessions



Work Sessions

Specificity of Agenda

Related case history

Description of the agenda item must be “*of sufficient specificity to inform...that there is, in reality, a specific, discrete matter or area which the board has determined should be discussed (deliberated and/or decided by official action).*” In sum, avoid general cryptic terms and provide as many specific concrete details as possible.

Consequences to Violating Agenda Provisions

Sunshine Act violation could delay XX City Habitat for Humanity project

“What otherwise would have been a brief, routine meeting on Thursday evening turned into a lengthy discussion of the legal requirements and possible ramifications of the violation — all because the board failed to post the meeting's agenda in a timely fashion.”

Council meeting canceled for Sunshine Act violation

Borough Council fails to post agenda, not for the first time



Changes to Agenda Within 24 Hours

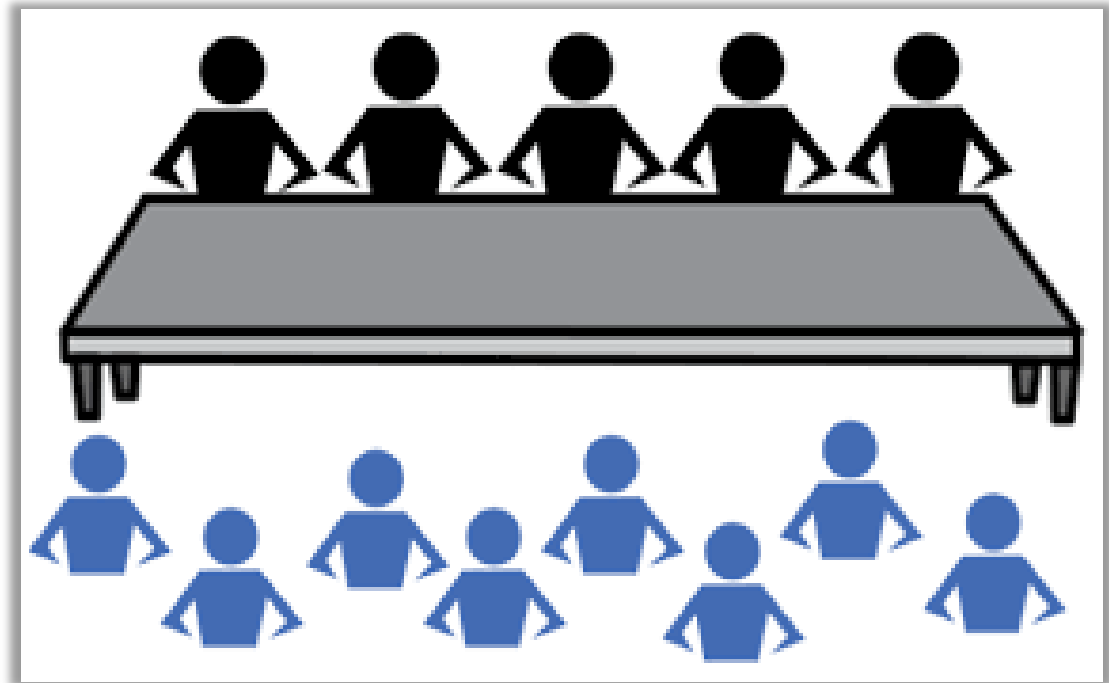
Must be:

Majority vote, the agency must
announce the change and post
updated agenda
(See *Coleman v. Parkland School District*)

Observing Deliberations and Final Actions

What is a Meeting?

"Any **prearranged** gathering of an agency which is attended or participated in by a **quorum** of the members of an agency held for the purpose of **deliberating agency business or taking official action.**"



What is Official Action?



Recommendations made by an agency pursuant to statute, ordinance or executive order.



The establishment of policy by an agency.



The decisions on agency business made by an agency.



The vote taken by any agency on any motion, proposal, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, report or order



Agency Business vs. Administrative Action



Agency Business

“the framing, preparation, making or enactment of laws, policy or regulations, the creation of liability by contract or otherwise or the adjudication of rights, duties and responsibilities.”



Administrative Action

the execution or carrying out of previously approved official action or policies

What Constitutes Deliberation?



"Discussion of agency business held for the purpose of making a decision."

When Can a Quorum Assemble Outside of Public Meeting?

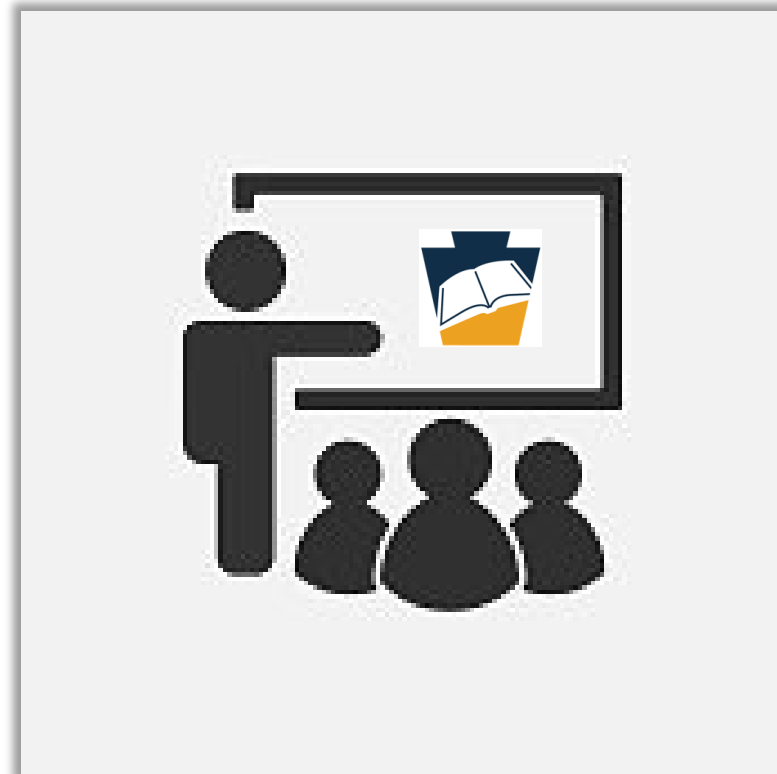
Administrative
Action

Conference/
Work Session
(with no deliberation or
official action)

Executive
Session
(as allowed, no official action)

What is a Conference?

Any training program or seminar, or any session arranged by State or Federal agencies for local agencies, organized **and conducted for the sole purpose of providing information to agency members** on matters directly related to their official responsibilities.



Characteristics of a Conference/Work Session

No deliberation or weighing of opinions

No final action

No requirement of advertising or inclusion of public



May Choose to Include Public in Conference/Work Session



Wyoming Valley West School District

450 North Maple Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704-3683
Phone: (570) 288-6551 Fax: (570) 714-4525
E-mail: dtosh@vwvsd.org

Office of the Superintendent

August 28, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Valley West School District Board of Directors has scheduled a **Work Session** on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Middle School, Kingston, is open to the public and also on Zoom.

The **Regular September Board Meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 11, 2024** at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Middle School, Kingston, is open to the public and also on Zoom.

The agenda will be on the WVW website for public review. A link to join the virtual meeting will be posted on the WVW website. Any member of the public may view the meeting by using that link. The meeting will be live streamed through YouTube and that link will be on the District website.

Individuals wishing to address the Board must sign in five (5) minutes prior to the start of each meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Bullock".

Jennifer Bullock
Board Secretary
Wyoming Valley West School District

Miscellaneous

Committees that take official action or provide advice on agency matters are subject to all provisions of the Sunshine Act

Public can record meetings

Agency must maintain minutes of meetings, but not recordings

Executive Sessions

Allowable Reasons for Executive Sessions



Discuss Personnel matters (hiring, firing, discipline)



Discussing labor negotiations



Considering purchasing, leasing or selling property



Consulting with counsel about litigation



Avoiding violating privilege or confidentiality



Discussing university admission standards



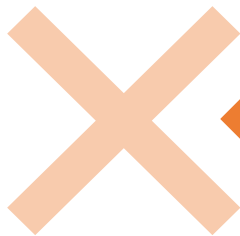
Discuss emergency preparedness

Public Not Completely Shut Out



Can be held before, during, or after an open meeting, or announced for some future time.

Specific reason for executive session must be announced



No official action can be taken during an Executive Sessions – votes must occur in a public session

How Specific Should Reason for Executive Session Be?



Commonwealth Court quoted Supreme Court of Mississippi in relevant case:

“The reason given, of course, must be meaningful. It must be more than some generalized term which in reality tells the public nothing. To simply say “personnel matters” or “litigation” tells nothing. The reason stated must be of sufficient specificity to inform those present that there is, in reality, a specific, discrete matter or area which the board had determined should be discussed in executive session”

How Specific Should Reason for Executive Session Be?



For litigation matters, the Commonwealth Court has approved of a trial court's order that the agency must name the parties, docket number of the case, and the court in which it was filed. For identifiable complaints or threatened litigation, the agency was required to state the nature of the complaint, but not the identity of the complainant.

Personnel Matters



To *discuss any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee* or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the agency, or former public officer or employee, provided, however, that the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected may request, in writing, that the matter or matters be discussed at an open meeting. The agency's decision to discuss such matters in executive session shall not serve to adversely affect the due process rights granted by law, including those granted by Title 2 (relating to administrative law and procedure). The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any meeting involving the appointment or selection of any person to fill a vacancy in any elected office.

Personnel Matters Exception

Does not apply to

filling vacancy of elected office

a discussion of a “class” of employees
(ex. give raise to all in certain pay grade)

independent contractor
or consultant

Employee at subject of discussion may request for discussion to be public

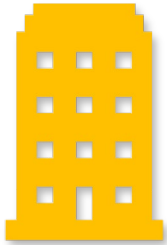
Any decision on final action—termination, hiring, etc.—must be public

Collective Bargaining



To hold information, strategy and negotiation sessions related to the negotiation or arbitration of a collective bargaining unit, related to labor relations and arbitration.

Property Procurement




To **consider** the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease the real property is obtained or up to the time an agreement to purchase or lease such property is obtained if the agreement is obtained directly without an option.

Property Procurement Exception

Does not explicitly permit negotiation sessions, like the collective bargaining exception



No more executive session once option or agreement reached



Any decision on final action—ex. purchase at X price—must be public

Litigation



To consult with its attorney or other professional advisor regarding information or strategy **in connection with litigation** or with issues on which identifiable **complaints are expected to be filed.**

Litigation Exception

1

An attorney or other professional advisor must be present in order to use the exception. However, the presence of any other party may render the exception inapplicable.

2

Mere possibility of litigation being filed may not justify moving discussion to executive session.

3

Any decision on final action—ex. filing lawsuit—must be public.

Confidential Information



To review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations.

Confidential Information Exception



Limited to information made confidential by law that is relevant to agency business

Academic Admission or Standings



For duly constituted committees of a board or council of trustees of a State-owned, State-aided or State-related college or university or community college or of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education to discuss matters of academic admission or standings.

Public Safety



To discuss, plan or review matters and records that are deemed necessary for emergency preparedness, protection of public safety and security of all property in a manner that if disclosed would be reasonably likely to jeopardize or threaten public safety or preparedness or public protection.

Public Safety Exception



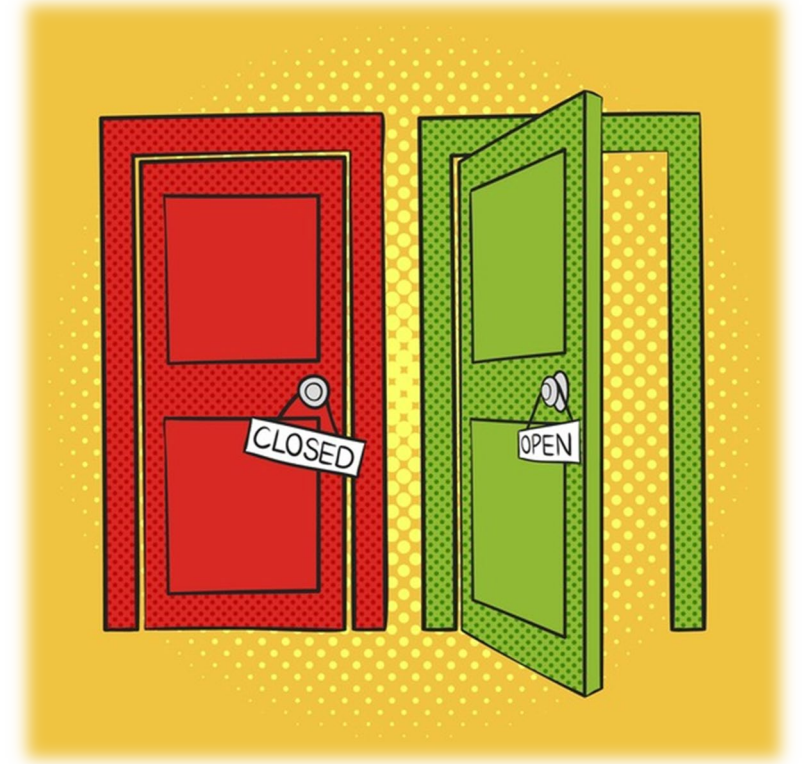
Many aspects of public safety
still should be discussed publicly

(ex. hiring of security consultant)

May Not Stay Behind Closed Doors

“Leaked audio: XX school board conspired to deliberate privately on superintendent search”

Board President XX arranged a series of one-on-one telephone conversations with members in a deliberate attempt to avoid public scrutiny and circumvent the open-meetings law, the audio recording of a closed-door meeting held Thursday night, Jan. 28, reveals.



Situations That Might Violate Sunshine Act

Quorum
deliberating in an
email chain

Deliberation at a
conference or work
session

Executive session
evolving beyond
scope of announced
topic

Conducting one-on-
one deliberation
with each member
to avoid deliberating
as a quorum

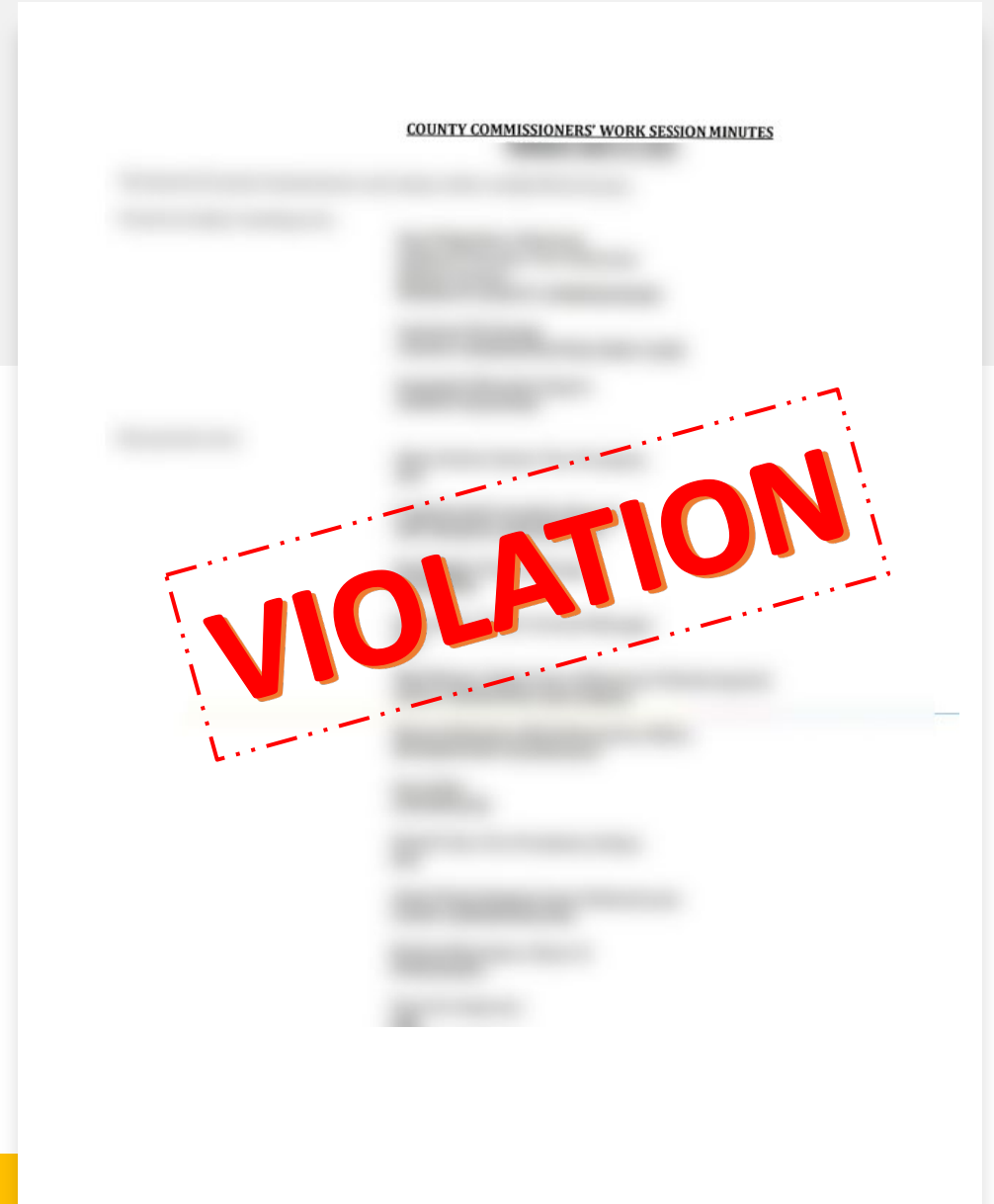
Quorum Problems

“XX DA Will Investigate Commissioner’s Breakfasts”

It will investigate allegations that two county commissioners -- who formed a bipartisan alliance after they were elected -- may have violated Pennsylvania's "Sunshine Law" because of twice-a-month breakfast meetings at a XX area restaurant.

“Supervisors Violated Sunshine Act: District Attorney”

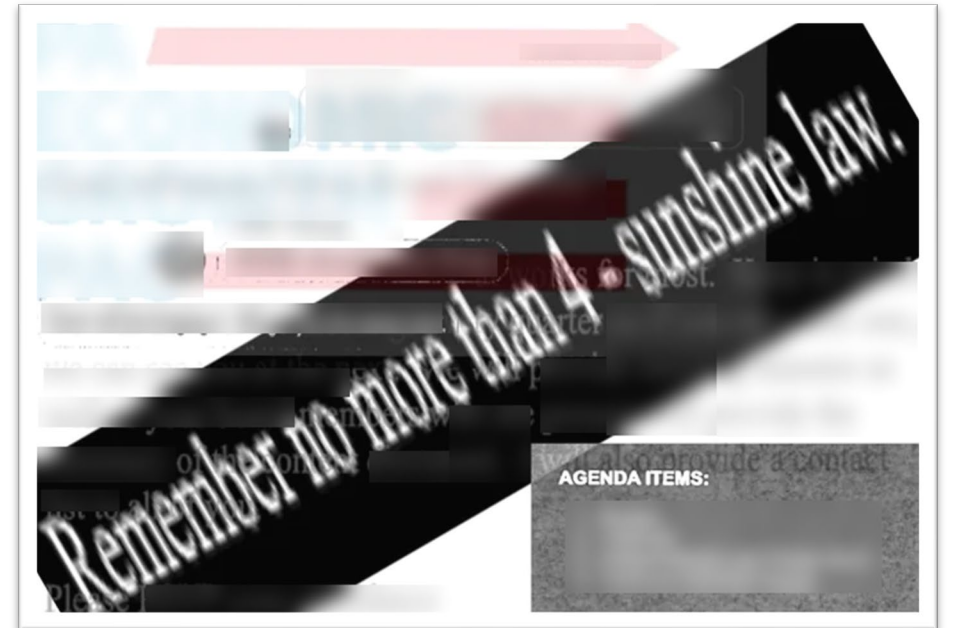
The board members violated the Sunshine Act by agreeing to hire a management consultant through a private e-mail vote



Consider Spirit of Law

“PAC met secretly with board members from across XX County, documents show”

“Remember, no more than 4 – sunshine laws,”



Alleging Violations



Scope

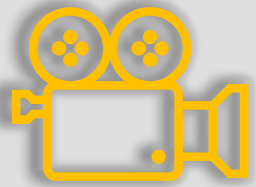
Civil and criminal penalties may be pursued by individual

Fines and fees may be imposed

Decisions found to violate law may be voided

Civil complaint must be filed within 30 days of discovery of perceived violation

Questions?



Today's training has been recorded and will be posted to our website.

If we did not answer your questions today or you have more questions, contact us:

- Via website form: <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/ContactOOR.cfm>,
- Via email: openrecords@pa.gov, or
- Via phone: 717-346-9903.

Submitted questions are records under the RTKL.

The OORs website has resources for agencies & requesters: <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov/>.



Additional Resources



www.OpenRecords.pa.gov

- Sunshine Act
- FAQ
- Recorded Trainings



717.346.9903



