

# Your Transparency Watchdog

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BGA OpenGov is the Illinois affiliate of the National Freedom of Information Coalition

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# OpenGov



Transparency is a foundational principle of democracy, and the BGA is here to advocate on your behalf. Without access to information about the workings of government, it would be impossible for citizens to determine whether taxpayer dollars were being spent responsibly, efficiently and equitably or to hold public servants accountable for their actions.

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## About NFOIC

The National Freedom of Information Coalition works with state member organizations to promote laws, policies and practices that ensure access to public records and meetings.

NFOIC members represent nonprofit FOIA organizations, academic and

First Amendment centers, journalistic associations, attorneys and civic groups.

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## **Freedom of Information Act**

The Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is the state law that governs access to public records. FOIA is based on the principle that citizens are entitled to information on how their governments work. FOIA allows citizens to monitor the actions of public officials and hold them accountable.

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## **Open Meetings Act**

The Illinois Open Meetings Act is the state law that requires governments to conduct their business in public — including providing advance notice so citizens can attend, allowing for public comment, and maintaining written minutes.

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## **What Can You Do About FOIA/OMA Violations?**

You have the right to seek a review from the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor (PAC) OR you can file a lawsuit in Circuit Court.

[Read More](#)

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## **Additional Resources**

- [NFOIC Policy Priorities](#)

Ensuring open meetings and increasing police transparency top the list.

- [NFOIC Coalition Survey](#)

The public too often is denied access to government emails, electronic data and police bodycam videos.

- [How to file a federal FOIA](#)
- [First Amendment Coalition](#)