



Idahoans for Openness in Government

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 19, 2023

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GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY SESSIONS SET,
PUBLIC INVITED; NEXT IS SEPT. 27

Idahoans for Openness in Government, Idaho Secretary of State Phil McGrane, and Idaho State Controller Brandon Woolf invite the public to attend a series of workshops on government transparency, all free to attend, and all to be streamed live statewide.

Each of the sessions will take place in the Lincoln Auditorium of the Idaho State Capitol, and will be streamed online in partnership with Idaho Public Television, at idahoptv.org/insession. The first, on Aug. 30 with Woolf as lead presenter, focused on Transparent Idaho and Townhall Idaho, and how to use them to access public data and public meeting information for free online, any time. The full video of that session is now available online at openidaho.org.

The second, Sept. 27 with McGrane as lead presenter, will focus on campaign finance and lobbying, including what the rules are, how to comply with the law, and how the public can access all the data. Registration is now open at openidaho.org.

The third, Oct. 25 with former Idaho Chief Deputy Attorney General Brian Kane and IDOG President Betsy Russell as lead presenters, will focus on the Idaho Open Meeting Law. The fourth, Nov. 28 with the same two lead presenters, will focus on the Idaho Public Records Act. Kane is the state's foremost expert on these two laws; he, Russell, and former Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden have conducted more than 50 educational seminars on this topic around the state since 2004.

These sessions are intended for citizens, members of the news media, local and state public officials and their staffs who are interested in the public's rights under Idaho law for access to public records and meetings, the rules, and how to access the information. The sessions are endorsed by the Association of Idaho Cities, the Idaho Association of Counties, Attorneys for Civic Education and the Idaho Press Club.

IDOG is a non-profit coalition for open government whose mission is to promote open government and freedom of information. Like

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numerous such state coalitions around the country, it is affiliated with the National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFOIC). IDOG is a 501c3 nonprofit, and is funded entirely by grants and donations.

The upcoming sessions are free to attend, either in-person or virtually, but participants are asked to please register in advance at www.openidaho.org or by calling the State Controller's Office at 208-334-3100, ext. 0; say you're calling to register for an IDOG workshop. Registration is now open for all sessions. Continuing legal education credit is available for attorney participants, pending Idaho State Bar approval.

Questions from the public will be taken during each session at idogquestions@gmail.com, and will be answered by the presenters during the sessions as time permits. Within a few days after the completion of each session, the full recording will be posted online at IDOG's website, www.openidaho.org, for future public viewing.

The IDOG website also offers information and resources about public records and open meeting laws, an online "User's Guide" to Idaho's open government laws, and news items from around the state regarding public records, open meetings and matters involving openness in government. During the Idaho legislative session, the site features a bill tracker for legislation affecting the Idaho Open Meeting Law or the Idaho Public Records Act.

You can find more information about IDOG online here:
<https://openidaho.org/about-us/>.

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