



Idahoans for Openness in Government

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PUBLIC INVITED TO SERIES OF FREE GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY WORKSHOPS

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 four workshops on government transparency, all free to attend, and all streamed live statewide, with the first session set for Nov. 19 to focus on Idaho campaign finance reporting. The campaign finance session, like the others, will take place in the Lincoln Auditorium of the Idaho State Capitol and will be streamed live online in partnership with Idaho Public Television, at idahoptv.org/insession.

The lead presenter for this first session will be Idaho Secretary of State Phil McGrane, assisted by Idaho State Controller Brandon Woolf, IDOG President Betsy Russell, and Attorney Andy Snook, chief counsel for Idaho Gov. Brad Little. The session will run from 1-3:30 p.m. MT.

Three subsequent sessions, scheduled in December and January, will focus on Transparent Idaho/Townhall Idaho and access to state financial data; the Idaho Public Records Law; and the Idaho Open Meeting Law. "We believe that we all benefit when the public, the media and government officials are fully aware of the public's rights to access government information and observe the conduct of the public's business," said Russell, noting that that belief is central to IDOG's mission.

IDOG is a non-profit coalition for open government whose mission is to promote open government and freedom of information. Like 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. Since 2004, IDOG has sponsored more than 50 educational workshops around the state.

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.

The upcoming workshops 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.

Continuing legal education credit is available for attorney participants in each of the sessions (1 credit MCLE per session), pending Idaho State Bar approval.

Questions from the public will be taken during each session via email, 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. Idaho's last series of workshops, in 2023, is available in full on the site now, including slide decks and presentations.

Here are the details on all four sessions in the upcoming series:

► WED. Nov. 19, 1-3:30 p.m. MT ~ **CAMPAIGN FINANCE & LOBBYING**

The rules and how to access data. With: **PHIL MCGRANE**, Idaho Secretary of State

► WED. Dec. 17, 1-3:30 p.m. MT ~ **TRANSPARENT IDAHO/TOWNHALL IDAHO**

How to access public data, meeting info online for free. With: **BRANDON WOOLF**, Idaho State Controller

► FRI. Jan. 16, 10 a.m.-12:30 MT ~ **IDAHO PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

The law and the public's rights. With: **ANDY SNOOK**, General Counsel for Gov. Brad Little, and **BETSY RUSSELL**, IDOG president

► TUES. Jan. 27, 10 a.m.-12:30 MT ~ **IDAHO OPEN MEETING LAW**

The law and the public's rights. With: **ANDY SNOOK**, General Counsel for Gov. Brad Little; **BETSY RUSSELL**, IDOG president; and former longtime Chief Deputy Idaho Attorney General **BRIAN KANE**

IDOG's website, openidaho.org, offers information and resources about public records and open meeting laws and news items from around the state regarding public records, open meetings and 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.

IDOG board members are: Betsy Russell, president; Peter Morrill, vice president; Steve Walker, secretary-treasurer; Butch Alford, Seth Ashley, Elinor Chehey, Melissa Davlin, Scott Graf, Christina Lords, Elizabeth Ramsey, Clay Ritter, Skip Smyser, and Ben Ysursa.

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