



Open At Your Own Risk: Some Practical, Legal, and Ethical Considerations for Open Government

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Is Openness Always A Good Thing?



Elijah Fields
Starting Linebacker, Pittsburgh Panthers, 2009

IS OPENNESS ALWAYS A GOOD THING?



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Never knew Football was gon get me all this money Sike I Knew
haha

Removed from the team February 22, 2010

Legislative Advertising

- **Chapter 305, Texas Government Code**

"legislative advertising" means a communication that supports, opposes, or proposes legislation and that:

- (1) in return for consideration, is published in a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or is broadcast by radio or television; or
- (2) appears in a pamphlet, circular, flier, billboard or other sign, bumper sticker, button, or **similar form of written communication**.

- Very few opinions that interpret this statute
- Requires disclosure
- Class A misdemeanor

Political Advertising

- **Chapter 25 I, Texas Election Code**

"Political advertising" means a communication supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to a public office or office of a political party, a political party, a public officer, or a measure that:

(A) in return for consideration, is published in a newspaper, magazine, or other periodical or is broadcast by radio or television; or

(B) appears:

(i) in a pamphlet, circular, flier, billboard or other sign, bumper sticker, or similar form of written communication; or

(ii) **on an Internet website.**

- **Class A misdemeanor**

Records Retention

Chapter 44I, Texas Government Code

In this subchapter, "state record" means a document... *regardless of physical form or characteristic*, made or received by a state department or institution ... in connection with the transaction of official state business....

Public Information

Chapter 552, Texas Government Code

DEFINITION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION; MEDIA CONTAINING PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) In this chapter, "public information" means information that is collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business:

- (1) by a governmental body; or
- (2) for a governmental body and the governmental body owns the information or has a right of access to it.

Open Meetings

Chapter 55I, Texas Government Code

(a) A member or group of members of a governmental body commits an offense if the member or group of members knowingly conspires to circumvent this chapter by meeting in numbers less than a quorum for the purpose of secret deliberations in violation of this chapter.

(b) An offense under Subsection (a) is a misdemeanor punishable by:

- (1) a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500;
- (2) confinement in the county jail for not less than one month or more than six months; or
- (3) both the fine and confinement.

Approach of Ethics Bodies

- **Florida Supreme Court Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee Opinion Number 2009-20**
 - The Committee believes that listing lawyers who may appear before the judge as “friends” on a judge's social networking page reasonably conveys to others the impression that these lawyer “friends” are in a special position to influence the judge.
 - “Fan” okay.
 - Can still contribute to judicial campaigns.

Confidentiality

Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill tweets regarding Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet:

Lunch w/ Lily in the Senate dining room. Sen. Bennet at large table surrounded by journalists. Don't know whether to say congrats or try and save him. [sic]



Platform for Others

Live Broadcast started 2 minutes ago

embed codes | pop out | flag

With the Social Stream you can chat with your friends over Twitter

Chat Social Stream

we-texas-town-hall-meeting

6:49 zachthomas1-1: refresh again

6:49 helnofs: YES!! NULLIFY THE EPA!! ALSO, THE DEPT OF EDU

6:49 nateforliberty: have you hit "play"

6:49 nateforliberty: 😊

6:49 kmcarter57: i live in harris

6:49 zachthomas1-1: hahaha

6:49 JDDoe: DEBRA MEDINA NEEDS TO CLEAN UP THE CHILD SUICIDE IN TEXAS!!!

6:49 sarge27: Use the refresh at the bottom left of the video w

6:49 carolewanski: looking for signs, go to her facebook page, help

Audience

Texas lap-band center - Lap-Band weight loss program in Houston. Find a center near you.

510 Viewers / Broadcasting Live

Media Stream View All

Does Adding Information Also Add Substance?



CoachColey

Walking into the DOAK - no place better to be in COLLEGE FOOTBALL - SEMINOLES, pick this world UP and CLAIM it!!!

5:54 AM Feb 10th from mobile web

CHANGE: It just ran U over..... TWICE

5:52 AM Feb 10th from mobile web

We ARE... We ARE... UNCONQUERED!

6:06 PM Feb 9th from web

picking up the WORLD and dropping it on UR HEAD - UNCONQUERED!

6:26 AM Feb 8th from mobile web

Woke up this morning in the 305, made my ritual stop at La Carretta for some Cuban Coffee. MINDSET - CHARGE!!!

7:41 AM Feb 8th from web

FULL, go!!! DEVELOPMENT now begins!!!! SEMINOLES pack the DOAK!

7:05 AM Feb 4th from mobile web

WE ARE FLORIDA STATE!!!

1:52 PM Feb 3rd from web

20 minutes until Wednesday - UNCONQUERED!!!!!!!!

8:45 PM Feb 2nd from web

TRIBE UP!!!!

3:19 PM Feb 2nd from mobile web

No place better on SATURDAYS than the DOAK in front of the GREAT SEMINOLE nation!!!!

3:16 PM Feb 2nd from mobile web

ha! Check yourself at the door - cause this is OUR world!

3:16 PM Feb 2nd from mobile web

Substance

Sign-Up | Login

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

SEARCH go ▶

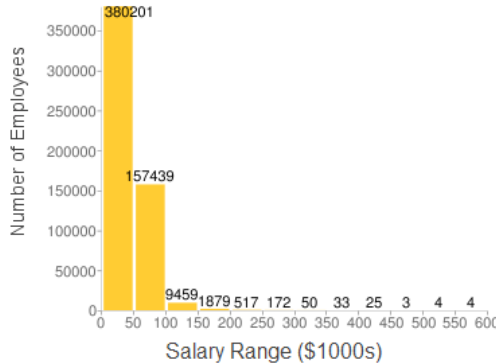
Friday, July 23, 2010

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Government Employee Salaries

SEARCH SALARIES go ▶

Find the **annual base salaries** of more than 550,000 public employees, including those working at the largest state agencies as well as individual universities, public schools, cities and mass-transit operators. Find salaries by searching for names, or by browsing for a specific [agency](#) or [job title](#). Read [more about this data](#), and [send us](#) any questions, comments or corrections.



Top 25 Salaries

| Name | Agency | Title | Salary |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| Mack Brown | The University of Texas at Austin | Head Coach | \$5,100,000 |
| Richard D Barnes | The University of Texas at Austin | Head Coach | \$2,150,000 |
| Michael F Sherman | Texas A&M University | COACH | \$1,700,000 |
| Thomas Tuberville | Texas Tech University | Head Coach | \$1,500,000 |
| Gail A Goestenkers | The University of Texas at Austin | Head Coach | \$1,040,000 |

Noise

Friday, July 23, 2010

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GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE SALARIES

SEARCH SALARIES [go](#)

Search Results: "department of public safety"

◀ 1 2 3 4 ... 270 271 272 273 **274** 275 276 277 278 279 ▶

| Name | Agency | Department | Title | Salary |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|----------|
| Vicki Milam | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Security Officer I | \$20,532 |
| Denise Neuman | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Security Officer I | \$20,532 |
| Louis Ramos | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Groundskeeper II | \$20,532 |
| Anthony Rodriguez | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Groundskeeper II | \$20,532 |
| James Smith Jr | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Security Officer I | \$20,532 |
| Thomas Soto | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Groundskeeper II | \$20,532 |
| Olegario Torres Jr | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Groundskeeper II | \$20,532 |
| Bertha Trevino | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Security Officer I | \$20,532 |
| Olga White | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Security Officer I | \$20,532 |
| James Birdow | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| Dale Bishop | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Food Service Worker II | \$19,656 |
| John Brown | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| Ronald Cannon | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| Vilma Cobos | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| William Cole | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| Sylvia Conrad | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Food Service Worker II | \$19,656 |
| Pablyn Cook | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| Aqustina Cortez | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| Antonia Davis | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Food Service Worker II | \$19,656 |
| Carolyn Davis | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| Russell Duncan | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |
| Jamal El-Amin | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Food Service Worker II | \$19,656 |
| Jackie Estrada | State of Texas | Department of Public Safety | Custodian II | \$19,656 |



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