



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

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July 27, 2010

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

The image shows a screenshot of a live broadcast on the Ustream platform. The main video area displays a woman with short brown hair, wearing a red jacket, speaking at a podium. Behind her are two flags: the United States flag on the left and the Texas state flag on the right. A banner in the background features the name "DEBRA MEDINA" in large letters, with "TEXAS" and "GOVERNOR" partially visible. The Ustream logo is in the top right corner of the video frame.

Below the video, a black banner contains the text "Texas lap-band center -" and "Lap-Band weight loss program in Houston. Find a center near you." with a share icon.

At the bottom of the video player, a red circle highlights the viewer information: "510 Viewers / Broadcasting Live".

To the right of the video is a chat window titled "we-texas-town-hall-meeting". It includes a "Social Stream" tab and a list of viewer comments. A red circle highlights a portion of the chat messages:

- 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 SUIC

Below the chat window, there is an "Audience" section which is currently empty.

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 ▶

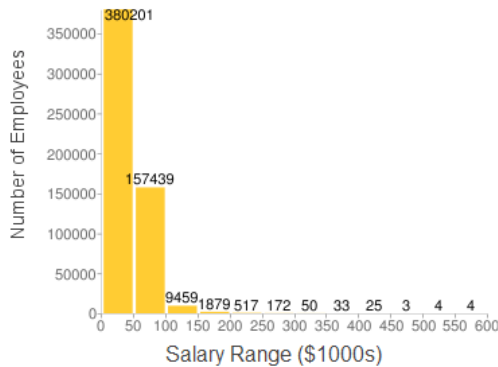
Friday, July 23, 2010

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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

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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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