



Editorial

Your right to know – Protect it

Editor's Note: I wrote this editorial for Sunshine Week in 2010. I have modified it for this year's Sunshine Week.

–Diane Everson, publisher

March 14-20 is Sunshine Week. Each year we write about this national initiative to stress the importance of openness and transparency in government. Former Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen described Sunshine Week as “Citizen oversight of the workings of government and our confidence in it. Citizen access to public records and meetings of governmental bodies is a vital aspect of this principle.”



During the coming week, print, broadcast and online news media, as well as others interested in the public's right to know, will accentuate the necessity for transparency and access to records. It is imperative you know what your government is doing on your behalf and with your tax dollars.

For open government to exist, we must preserve public notice, public records and government transparency. Open government is essential to a democracy. This is important at all levels of government.

Money and its influence is also a powerful component of what happens in government. (The money spent with super PACs and campaign spending are examples.) Laws and decisions are made that limit the public's right to know at an alarming rate.

The glass through which the public looks to see what is happening with its government is going from clear to cloudy. It is vital that all of us be vigilant stewards of the public's right to know. Only then can we keep a glass that is getting cloudy from becoming truly opaque.

The Edgerton Reporter editorial reflects the opinion of publisher, Diane Everson and the legacy perspective and worldview of Harland and Helen Everson.