



## **Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Michigan Governor and Legislature Now Exempt Amend FOIA**

Citizen access to government held information is vital in order for democracy to work properly. Michigan enacted its first FOIA in 1976 following the Watergate scandal. The Act was [updated](#) in January, 2015. A sample Michigan FIOA request form can be found [here](#). A guide to the Michigan FOIA can be found [here](#). A 69 page [pamphlet](#) about FOIA prepared in 2007 by the Michigan Attorney General contains many rulings about FOIA. Although the pamphlet is now not current it shows that FOIA is a complex law.

### **Governor Synder does not have to release emails**

The Michigan FOIA has been in the news in 2016 due to the recent problem with Flint's water and the outbreak of Legionnaire's Disease in Genesee County. The news media whose job is to report events such as the above state that access to important public records is denied because the Michigan FOIA protects the records of the governor and the legislature. We are informed by the news media that Michigan is only one of two

states that denies its citizens access to the records of the governor and legislature. Governor Synder stated that he would release **all** his e-mails and other records concerning the Flint Water Crisis, which he did? But, only after spending five million taxpayers dollars on having his hired attorneys filter all the records. What did they hide? The politicians in Michigan are on the wrong side in denying its citizens access to this information.

### **Legislation to Make Governor and Legislature Release Records**

I will propose legislation to the FOIA that will make the records of the governor and the legislature available to the public. They should not be filtered, and certainly not at taxpayer expense. Citizens in the rest of the country have access to this type of information and so should Michigan.

### **What About Other State Agencies?**

I should also add that more withheld information from government agencies whose job is to protect the public should be subject to FOIA. For example Dr. Fata harmed a lot of patients in my House District. It was reported that a substantial complaint was filed against him to a state agency. He harmed patients for three additional years until the feds arrested him. The specifics and file concerning the inadequate state investigation have been protected information. The public was never properly informed concerning the complaint and state investigation of Dr. Fata. I want that information in order to determine the deficiencies at that state agency. I will formulate new statutes if needed in order to protect the public from future *Dr. Fatas*.

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