



UPDATE MARYLAND'S PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT!

Open Government. Greater Accountability.

Maryland citizens deserve access to information. They need fair and open access to data and public records concerning health, safety, natural resources, civil liberties and how government funds and subsidies are spent.

Sadly, important information is too often inaccessible to the public. This lack of access and government accountability threatens Marylanders' public health and civil liberties. Maryland consistently rates poorly on transparency scorecards. In 2013, the State Integrity Investigation gave the state an F for public access to information.

Maryland's Public Information Act is 45 years old. In this digital age when limitless information is only a click away, there is no excuse to keep Marylanders in the dark.

To give Marylanders fair and open access to government-funded data and information, we must update Maryland law to do three key things:

- **Limit and standardize fees** that local governments charge for PIA requests. Inconsistent fees are sometimes so high they deter reasonable requests.
- **Improve oversight** by requiring faster PIA responses and designating a Citizen Access Compliance Board to hear appeals.
- **Close loopholes in its exemptions** by making official documents of entities receiving tax credits or direct subsidies public and establishing a "balance test" to determine whether exemptions are in the public interest.

Open Government is Good Government. Help us update and improve Maryland's Public Information Act for the benefit of all Marylanders

MARYLANDERS FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT is a network of diverse organizations connected by our interest in demanding fair and open access to government-funded data and information. Members of the network include environmental and public health groups, good government groups, consumer advocates and social justice organizations. Find out more at our website: www.mdopengov.org

"Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants"

-Louis Brandeis, Former U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice