



Government Committee Description

Board Approved December 14, 2007

The Government Committee shall:

1. Maintain relationships with government officials.

- Maintain open and positive relationships with government officials on behalf of the Coalition, with particular focus on the chairs and ranking members of legislative committees with responsibility for open government laws, legislative caucus leaders, the Governor and policy staff, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State.
- Establish the Coalition as a trusted source of factually correct, current, and accurate information and advice on open government issues, so that government officials consult with the Coalition on changes to open government laws, rules, or processes and seek our advice and support when proposing such changes.

2. Promote open government principles to government officials and agencies at all levels.

- In collaboration with the Outreach Committee, educate government officials about open government issues through public forums, training materials, and other resources.
- Seek to obtain pledges of support for open government principles from candidates and government officials, and publicize those expressions of support.
- Develop and maintain a code of best practices for agencies including a system for self-assessment, promote the code to agencies and the public, and publicly recognize agencies that meet the standards established in the code.
- Ensure that the Coalition is represented in stakeholder groups and advisory boards on open government issues, such as, but not limited to, the Sunshine Committee, the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Bench-Bar-Press Committee. Provide testimony or other input to such groups to advance the Coalition's goals, principles, and positions.

3. Maintain and promote the Coalition's legislative agenda.

- Propose amendments to the Coalition's legislative agenda and submit to the Board for approval.
- Present the legislative agenda to government officials and seek their support in implementing its provisions.
- Identify proposed legislation that impacts, positively or negatively, on open public records, meetings, courts, and legislative or rulemaking processes.

- Summarize proposed legislation and its impacts, propose Coalition positions on legislation including amendments necessary to align legislation with open government principles, and prioritize for action.
- Monitor the progress of legislation and report on the same to the Board and Coalition members.
- Communicate Coalition positions on bills to legislators at key points in the legislative process, in private meetings, committee testimony, and broad messaging.
- Encourage Coalition members to communicate with their own legislators on open government issues.
- In collaboration with the Media Committee, prepare news releases, opinion articles, and other communications to Coalition members, the public, and the news media regarding proposed legislation.
- Coordinate legislative activities with aligned groups undertaking similar activities, including but not limited to Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington, Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, Society of Professional Journalists, Washington State Association of Broadcasters, Washington Library Association, American Civil Liberties Union of Washington, Evergreen Freedom Foundation, and Washington Policy Center.
- Conduct all Coalition legislative activities with honesty and integrity, and in a manner consistent with all reporting requirements and other laws, regulations and rules applicable to such activities and with the Coalition's standing as a 501(c)(3) educational foundation.
- Promote open government principles through similar legislative activities at other levels of government including counties and cities, and through rulemaking activities in government agencies at all levels.

4. Advise the Board on legislative and government processes.