

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, James Madison, the father of our federal Constitution, wrote that "consent of the governed" requires that the people be able to "arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives;" and

WHEREAS, Every citizen in our participatory democracy has an inherent right to access to government meetings and information, and

WHEREAS, An open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence in their government and in the government's ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The protection of every person's right of access to public records and government meetings is a high priority of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Our governments are ones "of the people, by the people, and for the people;" and

WHEREAS, Free flow of information ensures that our governments act fairly, lawfully, and truthfully; and

WHEREAS, Transparency and open decision-making instills trust and confidence in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Equal access to information enhances people's ability to exercise their rights and creates a more active and enlightened community; and

WHEREAS, Our nation, state and county should be committed to continued openness and transparency in all aspects of its operations and seek to set a good standard in this regard; and

WHEREAS, Our state legislators, governor, county commissioners, and municipal officials should commit to continually enhance the public's access to government records and information, to increase information provided electronically, and to ensure that all meetings of deliberative bodies under their jurisdictions are fully noticed and open to the public; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we support the enhancement of the public's access to government records and information; and

RESOLVED, That we support increasing the amount of information provided electronically; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all meetings of deliberative bodies under the national, state and county governments be fully noticed and open to the public.