



pennsylvania

OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

Erik Arneson, Executive Director

CCAP

May 4, 2018

<https://www.openrecords.pa.gov>

[@ErikOpenRecords](#)

[@OpenRecordsPA](#)

earneson@pa.gov

(717) 346-9903

Two Statewide AORO Surveys

Office of Open Records and the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee

- OOR survey conducted in February 2017
- LBFC survey conducted later in 2017
- Each survey sought info from Agency Open Records Officers (AOROs) across agency types
- Each survey received > 1,000 responses
 - *OOR received 40 county responses*

Full Results from OOR Survey

How many RTK requests did you receive in 2016?

- 0-10 requests, 57.5%
- 11-20 requests, 16.9%
- 21-50 requests, 13.0%
- 51-100 requests, 5.3%
- 101+ requests, 7.2%
- In other words: 87.4% of agencies received fewer than 1 RTK request per week, while 7.2% received more than 2 requests per week

County Results from OOR Survey

How many RTK requests did you receive in 2016?

- 0-10 requests, 5.1%
- 11-20 requests, 10.3%
- 21-50 requests, 18.0%
- 51-100 requests, 30.8%
- 101+ requests, 35.9%
- In other words: 36.4% of counties received fewer than 1 RTK request per week, while 35.9% received more than 2 requests per week

Full Results from OOR Survey

In an average work week, how many hours does your agency spend responding to RTK requests?

- 0-1 hours, 72.8%
- 2-5 hours, 19.0%
- 6-10 hours, 4.7%
- 11-20 hours, 1.7%
- 21-40 hours, 0.9%
- 41+ hours, 0.9%
- In other words: 96.5% of agencies spent 10 hours or less responding to RTK requests each week in 2016, while 1.8% spent 21 or more hours per week

County Results from OOR Survey

In an average work week, how many hours does your agency spend responding to RTK requests?

- 0-1 hours, 12.5%
- 2-5 hours, 42.5%
- 6-10 hours, 27.5%
- 11-20 hours, 10.0%
- 21-40 hours, 2.5%
- 41+ hours, 5.0%
- In other words: 82.5% of counties spent 10 hours or less responding to RTK requests each week in 2016, while 7.5% spent 21 or more hours per week

Results from LBFC Survey

Annual cost to agencies to comply with RTKL

- Almost 54 percent of agencies reported an annual cost of \$500 or less
- About 92 percent of agencies reported an annual cost of \$10,000 or less
- Total statewide cost of responding to RTKL requests 2016 estimated at \$5.7 to \$9.7 million. With more than 6,000 agencies across the state, average cost is \$950 to \$1,617

Results from LBFC Survey

RTKL Requests & Appeals

- An estimated 109,000 RTKL requests were received by all state and local agencies, combined, in 2016
- Median number of requests per agency = 10
- Fewer than 3% of requests are appealed

Results from LBFC Survey

Commercial Requests

- 35% of requests in 2016 were commercial

Inmate Requests

- 7% of requests in 2016 from inmates
- DOC received > 50% of inmate requests

Training from the OOR

Training on the RTKL & Sunshine Act

- OOR website filled with information
 - <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov>
- On-site training: basics, recent cases & more
 - Details on OOR website
 - Or call George Spiess, 717-346-9903

OOR Resources

Website, Twitter, Email Lists & More

- Web: <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov>
- Blog: <https://openrecordspa.wordpress.com>
- Twitter: [@OpenRecordsPA](https://twitter.com/OpenRecordsPA), [@ErikOpenRecords](https://twitter.com/ErikOpenRecords)
- YouTube Channel: Office of Open Records
- Podcast: Open Records in Pennsylvania
- Email lists: Daily FD Digest & General Updates
 - Subscribe at OOR website



pennsylvania

OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

Erik Arneson, Executive Director

THANK YOU

<https://www.openrecords.pa.gov>

[@ErikOpenRecords](#)

[@OpenRecordsPA](#)

earneson@pa.gov

(717) 346-9903