



OFFICE *of* GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION SERVICES

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Committee

July 16, 2026

archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/2024-2026-term



Chief Operating Officer Welcome



Jay Trainer

Chief Operating Officer



Welcome and Updates

Alina M. Semo

Director, Office of Government
Information Services
and Chairperson,
FOIA Advisory Committee



Housekeeping



Use Zoom for Government chat for housekeeping/procedural matters only. Submit substantive comments to: archives.gov/ogis/public-comments



YouTube chat is not on. Submit comments to: archives.gov/ogis/public-comments



Oral public comments will be heard before the Committee adjourns



Minutes & transcript will be posted on the OGIS website



The meeting is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. ET



Final Report and Recommendations

The work of the 2024–2026 term of the FOIA Advisory Committee resulted in **11** recommendations.



Final Report and Recommendations

7 recommendations: Congress

4 recommendations (one each):

- Federal agencies
- Chief FOIA Officers Council
- Office of Information Policy
- Office of Government Information Services



Statutory Reform Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-01

Congress make the FOIA Advisory Committee a non-discretionary federal advisory committee.

(Passed April 2, 2026)



Statutory Reform Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-02

FOIA'S affirmative disclosure provisions should mandate the ongoing publication of agency FOIA logs on at least a quarterly basis, unless the agency receives fewer than 100 requests per year in which case it could publish them semiannually. The logs should be posted in machine-readable format and transmitted to the Department of Justice for additional posting on [foia.gov](https://www.foia.gov). Congress should include an appropriate effective date for this requirement that allows agencies reasonable time for implementation including interim milestones while not unduly delaying compliance.

(Passed April 2, 2026)



Statutory Reform Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-03

In its annual appropriation language to federal agencies, Congress should require federal agencies to fund their FOIA function at a level sufficient to enable them to fulfill their FOIA requests timely. In determining appropriate funding direction it would provide, Congress should consider an agency's average workforce size, including any contract staff; changes in the volume and complexity of its requests over the past five years; its average backlog over the past five years; and its operational structure, among other influencing factors.

(Passed May 7, 2026)



Statutory Reform Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-04

Congress should create new, FOIA-like disclosure laws to ensure public access to records controlled by legislative and judicial branch agencies.

(Passed May 7, 2026)



Volume and Frequency Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-05

Federal agencies should align standard staffing levels and technological resources to meet the increasing levels of FOIA requests by analyzing existing backlogs, the volume and complexity of requests, and the workload assigned to employees. Specifically, agencies should consider the total work that includes requests and backlog and the capacity for employees to respond to these requests.

(Passed June 11, 2026)



Implementation Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-06

To increase collaboration and connection among federal agency FOIA professionals, the Chief FOIA Officers Council's Committee on Cross-Agency Collaboration and Innovation's (COCACI) Resources Working Group, assisted by the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) and the Office of Information Policy (OIP), as appropriate, should establish a process for creating and maintaining small, self-governing cohorts of federal FOIA professionals interested in collaboration, support, and sharing of best practices.

(Passed June 11, 2026)



Implementation Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-07

In an effort to increase the awareness and adoption of FOIA Advisory Committee recommendations, the Department of Justice's Office of Information Policy should require status reporting from agencies on implementation of recommendations, either through questions in annual Chief FOIA Officer reports or through another appropriate publicly available reporting mechanism.

(Passed June 11, 2026)



Implementation Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-08

To make recommendations more useful to agency FOIA professionals, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) should create a resource for agency use presenting FOIA Advisory Committee recommendations in an easy-to-access manner, enabling FOIA professionals to quickly identify actionable improvements to their FOIA programs.

(Passed June 11, 2026)



Statutory Reform Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-09

We recommend that Congress create a new “FOIA Court” with specialized jurisdiction over FOIA claims.

(Passed June 11, 2026)



Statutory Reform Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-10

Congress should amend FOIA's judicial-review provision:

- 1) To reaffirm the statute's *de novo* standard; and
- 2) To specify the remedial authority of the courts, including the power to order an agency to comply with its affirmative-disclosure obligations, provided that a requester has exhausted administrative remedies prior to filing suit.

(Passed June 11, 2026)



Statutory Reform Subcommittee Recommendation 2026-11

Congress should allocate funding to commission a feasibility study to examine the costs and benefits of improving the FOIA support infrastructure to better serve taxpayers, records requesters and public agencies.

(Passed June 11, 2026)

FOIA Advisory Committee



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Public Comments

[archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-
committee/public-comments](https://archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/public-comments)



Thank You Committee Members

Jason R. Baron
Kevin Bell (2024-2025)
Nieva Brock
David Cuillier
Whitney Frazier-Jenkins
Sean Glendening (2026)
Elizabeth Hempowicz
Scott Hodes
Shelley Kimball
Margaret Kwoka
Frank LoMonte

Marianne Manheim
Deborah O. Moore
Ryan Mulvey
Joan Mumbleaux (2024-2025)
Melissa Pickworth (2024-2025)
Richard Peltz-Steele
Alina M. Semo
Bobak Talebian (2024-2025)
Sarah Jones Weicksel
Nick Wittenberg



FOIA Advisory Committee



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Thank you for joining us.
Best wishes for an enjoyable
summer!