



OFFICE *of* GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION SERVICES

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Advisory Committee

March 5, 2026

[archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/2024-2026-term](https://www.archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/2024-2026-term)



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

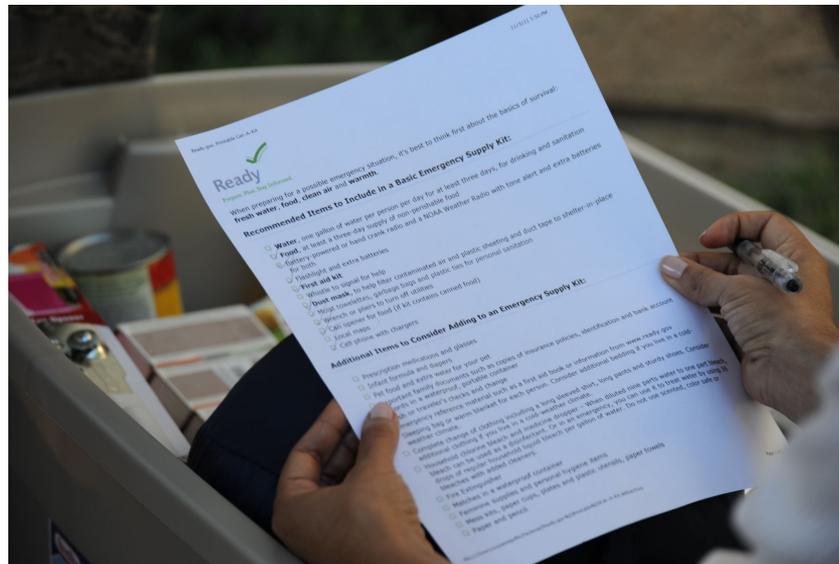


The meeting is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. ET

Implementation Subcommittee Report

Jason R. Baron and
Marianne Manheim, Co-Chairs

Elizabeth Hempowicz
Shelley Kimball
Frank LoMonte
Deborah O. Moore
Ryan Mulvey
Richard Peltz-Steele
Sarah Jones Weicksel



National Archives Identifier 24485143



Results from Focus Groups: Four primary questions

- **Motivations:** Has your agency implemented any of the recommendations outlined on the attached spreadsheet? If so, was doing so in response to FOIA Advisory Committee (FAC) recommendations?
- **Obstacles:** Considering the recommendations your agency hasn't implemented, what are the top barriers to doing so?
- **Successes:** Considering any recommendations your agency has implemented, what were some successful strategies you used to put them into action? What didn't work well?
- **Wishlist:** What are some decisions, actions, or changes, both within your agency and outside of it, that would be most impactful to the implementation of open FAC recommendations?



Participants and confidentiality

- Recruitment process
- 52 participants
- Agencies categorized by number of FOIA requests per year
 - All ranges represented: 1 to 100,000+
 - Most participants received 51 to 5,000 per year
- Confidentiality protections



Motivations for implementing changes

Efficiency

Backlog reduction

Litigation or other risk avoidance

Leadership priorities

DOJ/OIP guidance



Obstacles to implementing changes

- Resource constraints
 - Staff
 - Budget
 - Time (collateral duty)
- Low institutional priority (not mission-critical)
- Rising volume and backlogs eclipse potential for reforms
- Institutional processes for change are slow
- Employee turnover



Successful strategies for changes

Using FAC recommendations as leverage

Showing metrics: efficiencies or cost savings

Risk mitigation

Leadership support



Wishlist to increase efficiency

- Increased funding and staffing
- Leadership buy-in, supportive internal culture
- Appropriate technology
- Well-organized structural systems and processes
- Access to trainings
- Awareness building of FAC recommendations
- AI-assisted redaction and analytics
- Interagency coordination and community building



FOIA Advisory Committee Recommendations

- Need wider communication
- Are not relevant to all agencies
- Are useful for legitimizing change
- Can be used to justify use of resources



Volume & Frequency Subcommittee Report

Nieva Brock and Nick Wittenberg, Co-Chairs

David Cuillier
Shelley Kimball



National Archives Identifier 6472630



Survey: Unduly burdensome or AI-generated requests

We invite current and recent federal access professionals to share their perspectives in a brief, anonymous survey to understand the challenges of managing certain public records requests.

Your insights will directly inform the committee's recommendations. For more information, contact Shelley Kimball, Johns Hopkins University, *Kimball@jhu.edu*

Survey link: <https://tinyurl.com/FOIASurvey>





Designated Federal Officer reminder

Bylaws: Article 5. Voting

- Any Committee member, including the Chairperson, may move that the Committee vote
- No second required (but is habit)
- Three types of passing votes:
 - Unanimous: every member (except abstentions)
 - General Consensus: at least 2/3 of total votes cast
 - General Majority: majority of the total votes cast



Statutory Reform Subcommittee Report

Ryan Mulvey and Whitney Frazier-Jenkins, Co-Chairs

David Cuillier
Elizabeth Hempowicz
Scott Hodes
Margaret Kwoka
Frank LoMonte
Marianne Manheim
Deborah O. Moore



National Archives Identifier 7820533



Proposed Recommendation SR-1

Congress should amend FOIA to establish the FOIA Advisory Committee as a statutory federal advisory committee.



Proposed Recommendation SR-2

Congress should require executive branch departments and agencies to implement a funding model that requires them to allocate a portion of their operating budget to fund FOIA operations proportional to the size of the workforce served by the agency's FOIA Office.



Proposed Recommendation SR-3

Congress should amend FOIA to mandate regular publication of agency FOIA logs to contain 13 fields generally maintained in agency FOIA tracking systems.



FOIA Advisory Committee



National Archives Identifier 350486639

Public Comments

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



FOIA Advisory Committee

Mark your calendars!

The next meeting of the
2024-2026 term is scheduled for
Thursday, April 2, 2026



National Archives Identifier 44267671