

From: [Dawn Albright](#)
To: [Kron Michael C](#)
Subject: Re: Open Records Issues - Klamath County
Date: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:44:54 PM

Thank you. Having records available online, while it requires a lot of initial effort, can reduce the response burden for office staff in many cases.

On Thu, Feb 4, 2016 at 11:50 AM, Kron Michael C <michael.c.kron@doj.state.or.us> wrote:

Ms. Albright,

Thank you for this email, and the links. We are certainly very interested in what other states are doing. And the goal of having as much information as possible available without the need to make a request is one that has come up a few times in or around our meetings. I haven't yet decided how to best deliver comments like yours to the larger task force, but it will be delivered.

Sincerely,

Michael

From: Dawn Albright [mailto:dawnalbright512@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 3:55 PM
To: Kron Michael C
Subject: Open Records Issues - Klamath County

Hello Michael,

I understand you are chairing the committee on updating open records policies. I used to work for the Texas Comptroller as a public information officer, and I'm a former journalist, so I care about these things.

Recently I discovered that the property tax appraisal roll in Klamath County was not available online through a searchable database. I did a bit of research, and it looks like six of the 35 counties have no online property search available.

So I contacted the Klamath County Assessor's office about getting a copy of

the tax roll on a CD, which they advertised on their website. Turns out this CD costs \$150. We exchanged a lot of emails, and the bottom line is this: If I want online access to the property tax roll, I have to pay \$100 per month. I can get a printout of one account for five dollars. I could afford these fees, but it's ridiculous. This almost seems like constructive denial.

The assessor said I could go to his office during business hours and look up what I want on the computer there. Easy for me -- I live in town and have a car. But many people don't have this advantage. He also offered to email me info on one or two properties -- but not all of them.

So, I have a few suggestions that I hope your committee can consider:

- Open records training for elected officials and administrative staff of local governments
- Make it an eventual requirement that property tax assessment info be available for free to everyone on the web
- Review the laws with a view to making sure public information is easily available to all levels of society

Here is a link to the some Texas open government info. I know Texas has Rick Perry and some other goofballs, but we also had excellent leaders like Attorney General Jim Mattox and Governor Ann Richards. Texas has a pretty well-developed open government system.

[-https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/og/open-government-related-publications-](https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/og/open-government-related-publications-)

Well, good luck with the committee, and thank you for your service.

Dawn Albright

428 Owens St

Klamath Falls OR 97601

[512-354-5760](tel:512-354-5760)

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Dawn Albright
512-354-5760