



December 11, 2023

Our multi-partisan Drafting Committee met this afternoon to jointly review the Opinion concerning the Arkansas Government Transparency Amendment released today by Attorney General Tim Griffin wherein he deems government transparency to be a partisan issue. This leaves us greatly perplexed. We have travelled the state during the drafting process, sharing rooms with Arkansans of all party affiliations, working together to ensure access to their government. No one of any party was confused by what “government transparency” means. No one has in any way viewed this as a partisan issue. In fact, the people have repeatedly expressed how refreshing it is to see Arkansans of all parties and perspectives come together on this issue. So, we ask the Attorney General which party opposes government transparency?

As no citizen asked what “government transparency” means, we did not expect our Attorney General to ask for that definition. The Constitutions grant rights through broad terms which the people understand. The Constitutions do not define free speech, free exercise of religion, or the right to bear arms. Our Attorney General’s Opinion indicates that the right to government transparency should be more restricted than our other rights in the Constitution.

Because this Amendment was written for the people and with the people, the Drafting Committee will take any and all appropriate action necessary to empower the citizens of Arkansas and ensure their right to transparency and openness at every level of government.

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