

3RD ANNUAL
PARTNERS IN GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY:
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY
REYNOLDS ALUMNI CENTER-BALLROOM
APRIL 12, 2017

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Missouri Governance Institute Credit: 2 hours

8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. to 8:35 a.m. Welcome by Dr. Barton Wechsler, Dean of the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri - Columbia

8:35 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. Introduction and Overview
Dr. Wally Siewert, Director of the Center for Ethics in Public Life,
University of Missouri - St. Louis

9:10 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. “Rumor Has It” - Transparency and the Community

Panelists:

Matt Dulin, Director of Community Outreach, Columbia Missourian, University of Missouri

Kara Roberson, Communications Manager/Public Information Officer, City of Wentzville

Michael Martin, Publisher and President, The Columbia Heart Beat, Heart Beat Publications, LLC

A growing number of citizens are engaging in citizen journalism and contributing to the news dissemination process through social media, blogs and vlogs. When a journalist writes a story, an unlimited number of readers can publish their reactions—for good and bad. In instances where public institutions choose not to share information, or make it difficult to access, citizens and interest groups may provide their own narrative to fill in the blanks. How do you engage in a constructive dialogue with citizens using technology? What are the best ways to avoid the rumor mill without oversharing? This session will discuss the impacts citizen journalism has had on the way public institutions disseminate information, and the level of transparency citizens expect of their elected officials and government offices.

10:20 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. BREAK

10:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. “This Was Paid For By…” - Transparency and Campaign Funds

Panelists:

James Klahr, Executive Director, Missouri Ethics Commission

Susan Goldammer, Senior Director, Employment and Labor Relations, Missouri School Board Association

Angela Bingaman, St. Louis Mayor Slay's Finance Director & Democratic Political Fundraiser

There are many rules for local elected leaders, during and after the election process. The information offered during this session will help local governments and candidates navigate the landscape of financial disclosure and management. What are some of the changes to the campaign money laws and how do they have an impact on local government? Join us as we discuss the rules that dictate campaign funds and how to ensure transparency for the public.

11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

12:40 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. “Show Me the Money” - Transparency and Finance

Panelists:

Trysta Herzog, Director of Communications and Public Engagement, Greene County

Dr. Charles Menifield, Associate Dean of Academic Programs, Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri

Craig Owens, City Administrator, City of Clayton

The financial stream of public administration includes a vast variety of revenue sources, allocations, dedicated funds, discretionary funds, and procurement processes. Making these complex processes both visible and understandable to the public is a daunting task. However, the idea that citizens should know how their public dollars are spent is indispensable to the idea of public transparency. New online tools are changing this landscape. This panel will discuss how public finances can be best available for public scrutiny. What are the pitfalls and best practices? What are the public's expectations? Where are the legal difficulties?

1:50 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. “Let the Sun Shine In” - Transparency and the Sunshine Law

Panelists:

Rachel Lippmann, Reporter, St. Louis Public Radio

Dr. Sandy Davidson, Professor, Missouri School of Journalism, University of Missouri

Steven Sapp, Community Relations, City of Columbia

Missouri's Sunshine Law has been around since 1973; yet, there is still a great deal of debate and discussion of what the law requires of elected officials and government offices. Meetings and records for the most part are open to the public. What do you do when citizens decide they want access to ALL documents? With the advent of new technologies, what is open to the public? Is information posted on Facebook an open record, are police body cameras included in the Law as well?