



STATE OF INDIANA

MIKE BRAUN, Governor

**PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR
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TO: Indiana State Senate
Indiana State House of Representatives

FROM: Jennifer Ruby, Public Access Counselor (PAC)

DATE: June 30, 2025

RE: Annual Report by Counselor per IC 5-14-4-12

I was appointed as the Indiana State Public Access Counselor by Governor Mike Braun on March 31, 2025. Attached is my first annual report, submitted to meet the mandated deadline. However, please note that the data is currently incomplete. A revised and comprehensive report will be submitted at a later date.

Since my appointment in March, I have been working diligently to assess the status of 2024 and 2025 matters: evaluating what has been reviewed, processed, or inadvertently omitted. I have completed a review of all 2024 complaint files and uploaded 88 Advisory Opinions. I am now turning my attention to the 2024 informal opinion requests.

While the office was understaffed since February 2024, I am on-boarding staff to improve our responsiveness and restore full operations. With additional support, I am confident we will make substantial progress in addressing the 2025 backlog and reach a sustainable pace by the calendar year's end. This will also allow us to expand educational efforts and proactive transparency initiatives.

A revised report covering July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, will be submitted as soon as practical after the staffing additions are in place.

I am honored to serve in this role and look forward to working with you.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDIANA PUBLIC ACCESS COUNSELOR

To the Indiana General Assembly

July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Pursuant to Ind. Code § 5-14-4-12, the Indiana Public Access Counselor (“PAC”) hereby submits this annual report of activities for the time period covering July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.¹

(1) Total number of formal complaints received (includes pending complaints): 141

(2) Number of formal complaints received each from the public, media and government agencies (includes pending and withdrawn complaints):

(A) Public: 128

(B) Media: 9

(C) Government: 4

(3) Total number of complaints that were resolved:

Resolved: 21

Withdrawn: 2

Rejected²: 2

Void: 5

(4) Number of formal complaints received about each of the following (includes pending and withdrawn complaints but not rejections):

(A) State agencies³: 12

(B) County agencies: 43

(C) City agencies: 37

(D) Town agencies: 18

(E) Township agencies: 5

(F) School corporations: 22

(G) Other local agencies⁴: 4

(5) Number of formal complaints received concerning each of the following (includes pending and withdrawn complaints):

(A) Public records: 112

(B) Public meetings: 25

(C) Both: 4

¹ All data were compiled as of 8:30 a.m. on DAY, June 30, 2025.

² Rejected complaints are those which lack grounds for a complaint or are otherwise unmeritorious.

³ The bulk of state agency filings are against the Indiana Department of Correction. A significant majority are dismissed for reasons stated in the narrative.

⁴ Conservation districts; regional boards, etc.

(6) Total number of written formal advisory opinions issued (does not include written informal opinions):

(A) Opinions Issued: 17 Advisory Opinions, 9 Opinion Letters

(B) Opinions Pending: 93