

Taking a Look at Transparency

A Community Discussion with
Jason Donati and Brad King

Before We Begin - Ground Rules

Jason and Brad are here as private citizens, not as representatives of any public or private organizations.

Everyone who wants to speak, gets to speak. Do NOT speak over others.

Do NOT assume anyone's intentions.

Do NOT ridicule anyone. Doing so will get you yelled at by Brad.

Be open and willing to disagree and to accept the disagreement. We may not like someone else's question or response but we will only engage in limited control debate.

Before We Begin - Ground Rules

Jason and Brad have set up a live poll to help everyone engage in the conversation.

We will on occasion ask for you to respond using the live poll. TEXT **22333**

Responses to the live poll are completely anonymous. Anyone may choose an anonymous response to discuss.

We will also ask and expect some face-to-face engagement. We will try to return to our seats when it is your time to talk. You do not have to stand but it is welcomed.

We have one hour. Let brevity be our ally.

Live Poll Question #1

What is Transparency as it pertains to government bodies and functions?

Text Answer to: **22333**

Live Poll Question #2

What is Accountability as it pertains to government bodies and functions?

Text Answer to: **22333**

Who Are These Two Knuckleheads?

Jason Donati (Duh-NET-ee)

Preferred Pronouns He, Him, His
Husband

Father

Officiant

Property owner

Volunteer

Community Advocate

Stormwater and Recycling

Educator for Muncie Sanitary District

Brad King

Preferred Pronouns He, Him, His
Husband

Father

Celebrant

Property owner

Volunteer

Community Advocate

Planner 1 for the City of Muncie

Live Poll Question #3

Why are you in attendance? What do you look to come from this discussion?

Text Answer to: **22333**

Why Are These Two Knuckleheads Here?

Unique history and experience in searching for transparency and accountability with local governments.

A desire to participate, educate, and generally help.

To listen and learn from others.

Four topics: policy, procedure, authority, responsibility

Policy

Policy

Guiding principles and rules that govern an organization.

Normally governs how an entity acts: voting, membership, terms, meeting times and dates, etc.

Usually created by that organization. Some governing entities have their policies codified in State or Local law.

Can be amended by that organization (unless codified by another authority).

Live Poll Question #4

How can Policy help support transparency and accountability?

Text Answer to: **22333**

Procedure

Procedure

Method on how an organization interacts with others through their offered service, program, or projects.

Can help create equitable interactions with a variety of others.

Usually created by that organization. Some governing bodies have certain procedures codified in State or Local law.

Can be amended by that organization (unless codified by another authority).

Live Poll Question #5

How can Procedure help support transparency and accountability?

Text Answer to: **22333**

Authority

Authority

Governments can have a wide arrange of authority.

In Indiana that is granted to political subdivisions by Indiana Code Title 36.

To perform their duties, they may delegate that authority.

Elected officials implement their plan(s) with this authority.

Voters elected their officials every 2 to 4 years.

Live Poll Question #6

How can Authority help support transparency and accountability?

Text Answer to: **22333**

Responsibility

Responsibility

Governments have the responsibility to provide access to their meetings and documents.

Some bodies are granted the ability to have limited, closed, Executive meetings.

Some documents that are personal in nature or are not generated by a government body may be exempt.

Capacity often times affects the timeliness of information requests.

Citizens should try to learn the policies, procedures, and the authority of different government bodies to more efficiently access open information.

Live Poll Question #7

How can Responsibility help support transparency and accountability?

Text Answer to: **22333**

What Does This All Mean?!

The only way for governments to fulfill its responsibility by using authority to direct various parts to

enact clear policies that provide for fair governance, and

enact clear procedures that provide people access to information,

is **PARTICIPATION.**

Participate in:

Elections

Public meetings

Public boards and commissions

Great Resources



An Open Door into Local Government Finance. Gateway collects and provides access to information about how taxes and other public dollars are budgeted and spent by Indiana's local units of government.

<https://gateway.ifionline.org>



ITP is an online solution designed to bring better visibility, openness and accountability to Indiana State Government. The ITP contains information ranging from agency budgets to state contracts and agency performance measures. We strive to utilize your tax dollars as efficiently and effectively as possible and we look forward to sharing this information with you.

<https://www.in.gov/itp/>

Last Poll Question

Comment about the session.

Text Answer to: **22333**

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for attending!

Thank you Shafer Leadership Academy, Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University, and Muncie Action Plan for hosting the conference!

Thank you Ivy Tech for the location!

Thank you Mitch Isaacs for reaching out and encouraging us to participate!

Enjoy the rest of the conference.