



21ST CENTURY RIGHT TO KNOW PROJECT

The 21st Century Right to Know Project has the central mission of developing open government policy recommendations for the next President and Congress. Over the past several years, the release and disclosure of government information, whether it be health, safety, environmental, financial, or national security information, has taken a backseat to misguided homeland security policies and efforts to protect special interests. With a new President and Congress, we expect there will be increased awareness of the need for greater disclosure of federal government practices and information.

Anticipating the opportunities of a new President and Congress, OMB Watch launched the 21st Century Right to Know Project to develop recommendations on how to improve government openness. The long-term goal of the project is to develop a proactive agenda to change the underlying policies, priorities, and practices regarding public access for all branches of government. The project is divided into four phases.

Phase 1: Developing an Initial Framework.

- Launched the project in convening a small meeting of key stakeholders interested in the public's right to know to
- Laid out a framework of categories to be covered by a next generation disclosure policy, as well as a methodology for collecting and refining ideas for the agenda.

Phase 2: Questions and Listening.

- Develop list of top open government questions to ask candidates for elected office.
- Conduct a series of five local 21st Century Right to Know meetings across the country involving advocacy groups, media and government officials.

Phase 3: Developing the Agenda for Improving Public Access.

- Convene expert panels.
- Review the results of the regional meetings and develop recommendations addressing long-term proposals as well as ideas the next president can implement quickly.

Phase 4: Promote Agenda and Pursue Improvements.

- Arrange a meeting with members of the Presidential Transition Committee or other relevant players to discuss the recommendations.
- Arrange meetings with key members of Congress.
- Promote the recommendations with the media and advocacy groups.

To get involved or find out more about the project, please contact Clay Northouse, Information Policy Analyst at cnorthouse@ombwatch.org or 202-683-4834.