

## Washington Transparency Rankings

Ranking the states studies 2002 to the present

By David Cuillier, Brechner FOI Project, University of Florida, [cuillierd@ufl.edu](mailto:cuillierd@ufl.edu)

Nov. 17, 2025

**Green** = Better than most (1-15); **Yellow** = OK (16-25); **Red** = Bottom half (26-50)

### 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> (Rating: 2.50, C+ grade, tied with two other states)

#### **BGA-IRE 2002: Journalists rate their own states**

Better Government Association and Investigative Reporters and Editors rated effectiveness of state laws according to a survey of investigative journalists.

Uses a GPA scale (0-4 points) and total points (0-20 with 20 best).

<http://www.ire.org/foi/bga/> Link broken but available at Wayback Machine:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20020803103004/http://www.ire.org/foi/bga/>

### 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> (Rating of 53 out of 100, tied with six other states)

#### **BGA-NFOIC 2007: Rating five legal provisions in state laws**

Better Government Association and National Freedom of Information Coalition. States Failing FOI Responsiveness.

Available at <https://www.nfoic.org/states-failing-foi-responsiveness>

### 23<sup>rd</sup> (Rating of 62 out of 100)

#### **Good Jobs First 2007: Online records on economic development, lobbying**

Rates the quantity and quality of state government online information about economic development, subsidies, contacts, and state lobbying activities. Overall rating 1-100 with 100 best. <http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/pdf/statedisclosure.pdf>. Link broken but available at

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080717222904/http://www.goodjobsfirst.org/pdf/statedisclosure.pdf>

### 1<sup>st</sup> (94.5 out of 100 points)

#### **CPI 2007: Proactively post financial interests of governors**

Rated states by amount of information provide about financial interests of governors  
Points 1-100 with 100 best.

<http://projects.publicintegrity.org/StateDisclosure/Default.aspx?act=executive>

### 13<sup>th</sup> (3.85)

#### **Brechner 2008: Brechner Center state FOI law ratings (ended in 2008)**

Citizen Access Project (2008). Do you live in the sunshine or the shade? University of Florida Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, rating the strength of various provisions in the public records and open meeting laws. Available through the Wayback Machine at

<https://web.archive.org/web/20090402105406/http://www.citizenaccess.org/>

**8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> (15 points out of 20, tied with five other states)**

**Sunshine Week 2009: Rating records posted proactively on government websites**

Each state rated 1-20 with 20 being best (all 20 records found on state website). Data provided by the coordinator.

**1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> (tied with 9 states with grade of A)**

**Open States 2013: Rating of legislative transparency**

Ballotpedia's Open States Legislative Data Report Card, rating states on legislative transparency (Grades A, B, C, D, F).

[https://ballotpedia.org/Open\\_States%27\\_Legislative\\_Data\\_Report\\_Card](https://ballotpedia.org/Open_States%27_Legislative_Data_Report_Card)

**32<sup>nd</sup> (42 points out of 100)**

**CPI 2015: Journalists rate the states on their FOI laws and compliance**

Center for Public Integrity. Based on survey of journalists. Available at

<https://publicintegrity.org/accountability/how-does-your-state-rank-for-integrity/>

**32<sup>nd</sup> (71 points out of 100)**

**USPIRG 2018: State websites rated for proactive posting of financial records**

Follow the Money. U.S. Public Interest Research Group report available at

<https://uspirgedfund.org/reports/usf/following-money-2018>

**“Good” rating (one of 16 states rated good)**

**Logikcull 2019: Responses to requests regarding eDiscovery**

Logikcull submitted requests to all states regarding eDiscovery tools and litigation spending from every state. Rated as either Good, Average or Poor.

<https://www.logikcull.com/blog/state-open-records-heat-map>

**1<sup>st</sup> (65% of requests fulfilled)**

**MuckRock 2019: Ranking the states' compliance with FOI law**

Cuillier, D. (2019). Bigger stick, better compliance: Testing strength of public record statutes on agency transparency in the United States. Presented at the Global Conference on Transparency Research, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 26, 2019. Available at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R9PBjTreetcD-epJEq-o8ZSWZPKRjv/view>

**3<sup>rd</sup> (50% of requests were fulfilled)**

**MuckRock 2025: Ranking the states' compliance with FOI law – success rate**

Success rate available at MuckRock for each state (Google “MuckRock” and the state to get the page, then scroll down toward bottom for stats).

**45<sup>th</sup> (132 days, on average, to complete request)**

**MuckRock 2025: Ranking the states' compliance with FOI law – average days**

Days available at MuckRock for each state (Google “MuckRock” and the state to get the page, then scroll down toward bottom for stats).

**44<sup>th</sup> (18% of requests come with a copy fee)**

**MuckRock 2025: Ranking the states' compliance with FOI law – average copy fee**

Average fees available at MuckRock for each state (Google "MuckRock" and the state to get the page, then scroll down toward bottom for stats).

**12<sup>th</sup> (\$288 average fee charged, when a fee is charged)**

**MuckRock 2025: Ranking the states' compliance with FOI law – average copy fee**

Average fees available at MuckRock for each state (Google "MuckRock" and the state to get the page, then scroll down toward bottom for stats).