



**Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller**

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## **Tennesseans Invited to Comment on Charging to Inspect Public Records**

The [Office of Open Records Counsel](#) (OORC) has been asked by the Tennessee General Assembly to review issues surrounding the inspection of public records, and the office is asking Tennesseans to weigh in.

Legislation was introduced in the 2015 Session of the 109<sup>th</sup> General Assembly that would permit charges for inspecting public records. While a records custodian is permitted to charge for *copies* of public records, inspection is generally free of charge. The OORC will prepare a report with recommendations on this issue to the General Assembly by January 15, 2016.

The OORC has prepared brief online surveys to help gather input from citizens and government entities. The responses from these surveys will help in the preparation of the final report.

Tennessee citizens can submit a survey by clicking [here](#).

Representatives of government entities can submit a survey by clicking [here](#).

Additionally, the OORC will hold three public hearings, in conjunction with the Advisory Committee on Open Government, to gather additional feedback on five specific questions related to these issues. Tennessee citizens, government entities, and advocacy group representatives are invited to participate by sending written comments to [comments.open.records@cot.tn.gov](mailto:comments.open.records@cot.tn.gov) and by attending one of the public hearings.

- Tuesday, September 15, 2015 (4-6 pm) in Knoxville, TN  
12 Oaks Executive Park, 5401 Kingston Pike, Building 2, Suite 350
- Wednesday, September 16, 2015 (10 am-12 noon) in Nashville, TN  
James K. Polk State Office Building, 505 Deaderick Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Video Conference Center
- Thursday, September 17, 2015 (3-5 pm) in Jackson, TN  
Lowell Thomas State Office Building, 225 Martin Luther King Drive, Tower B, Conference Room 1

Additional information and guidelines regarding the public hearings can be found on the OORC website by clicking [here](#).

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