



Brief Mayoral Candidate Q-and-A on Open Records

Nathan Fletcher

1. In your administration, would emails sent and received from private email accounts by elected officials and city employees related to public business be treated as public records? Why or why not?

In my administration, I will lay out a policy on Day One that staff must obey both the letter and the spirit of the California Public Records Act. Under the law, any documents pertaining to the public's business is a public document, no matter the network it's sent over. Because of the difficulty of accessing records sent over private accounts, it will be the requirement of my administration that all of the public's business is done on the city networks, in order to make it searchable by the IT department independently. This will not only ensure a full response, but also will serve to expedite our responses to public requests.

2. In your administration, would text messages sent and received from private and city-owned cell phones by elected officials and city employees related to public business be treated as public records? Why or why not?

Text messages pertaining to the execution of the public's business are public records and would be treated as such. Again, I would ask employees to use city-owned networks to conduct the city's business, and I'd work with IT on a text log or other mechanism to capture information to make it possible to turn over that information in a timely manner.

3. If you answered yes to either question, how would you ensure compliance?

Like any workplace policy the city's management sets for employees, I'd make my expectations clear to employees, with the understanding that violation of any administrative policy could lead to disciplinary action. Our city employees care a great deal about serving the public, and I'd ensure they have clear expectations and the tools needed to fulfill them.