

# Texas Public Information Act & Texas Open Meetings Act: How They Work

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Jim Hemphill  
Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody, P.C.  
401 Congress, Suite 2700  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512-480-5762 phone  
jhemphill@gdhm.com



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1

## The Statutes

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- Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA):  
Chapter 551, Texas Government Code
  
- Texas Public Information Act (TPIA):  
Chapter 552, Texas Government Code
  - Formerly known as the Texas Open Records Act



2

## TOMA Basics

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- When a quorum of a governmental body meets, it must do so in public
- The governmental body must give sufficient prior notice of the time, place, and subject of the meeting

## What is a “governmental body”?

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- Definition in § 551.001
- Includes general definitions and specific examples
- Examples: county commissioners court; municipal governing body; school board

## Descriptive definitions

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- “a board, commission, department, committee, or agency within the executive or legislative branch of state government that is directed by one or more elected or appointed members”
- “a deliberative body that has rulemaking or quasi-judicial power and that is classified as a department, agency, or political subdivision of a county or municipality”

## TOMA's scope

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- Does not cover the judiciary
  - Public access to judicial proceedings sometimes mandated by the Constitution
  - See also Rule 12, Rules of Judicial Administration
- Covers certain property owners' associations
  - Only in Harris and adjacent counties

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## Title search: Texas Public Information Act and Texas Open Meetings Act: How They Work

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