

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: Freedom of Information Act Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency
National Archives and Records Administration

2. Fiscal Year
2026

3. Committee or Subcommittee
Freedom of Information Act Advisory Committee

3b. GSA Committee No.
2493

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? No

5. Current Charter 04/02/2026

6. Expected Renewal Date 04/02/2028

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year? No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate? Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending? Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority Second Open Government National Action Plan

13. Effective Date 12/05/2013

14. Committee Type Continuing

14c. Presidential? No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates
No Meetings

	Current	Next
	FY	FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee serves as deliberative body to advise on improvements to FOIA administration by studying the current FOIA landscape across the Executive Branch and may recommend legislative action, policy changes or executive action, among other matters.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee consists of 20 voting members considered to be FOIA experts from both inside and outside government. Government members of the Committee will include, at a minimum, three FOIA professionals from Cabinet-level Departments; three FOIA professionals from non-Cabinet agencies; one representative from the Department of Justice, Office of Information Policy; and one representative from the National Archives and Records Administration, Office of Government Information Services.

Non-governmental members of the Advisory Committee will include, at a minimum, two individuals representing the interests of non-governmental organizations that advocate on FOIA matters; two individuals representing the interests of FOIA requesters who qualify for the “all other” FOIA requester fee category; one individual representing the interests of requesters who qualify for the “news media” FOIA requester fee category; one individual representing the interests of requesters who qualify for the “commercial” FOIA requester fee category; one individual representing the interests of historians and history-related organizations; and one individual representing the interests of academia.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee meets quarterly to hear from experts on FOIA issues as well as hear updates from subcommittees and discuss new and emerging issues. Additional meetings occur at the beginning and end of each two-year term. In FY25, the Committee met four times.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this

committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Committee brings together two vital communities in the FOIA ecosystem -- requesters and FOIA professionals -- and tasks them with working collaboratively to discuss FOIA's toughest challenges. The Committee was established in accordance with the National Action Plan (NAP) and its work ties directly to the directive in the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(h)(2)(C), that the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) "identify procedures and methods for improving [FOIA] compliance."

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Not Applicable

21. Remarks

As part of the Open Government Partnership, the United States issued its second Open Government National Action Plan (NAP) on December 5, 2013, that sets forth several specific initiatives the Administration would undertake in the coming two years. One flagship initiative includes efforts to modernize the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), including creating a FOIA Federal Advisory Committee to be "comprised of government and non-governmental members of the FOIA community, to foster dialog between the Administration and the requester community, solicit public comments, and develop consensus recommendations for improving FOIA administration and proactive disclosures." Since 2016, the Committee has made a total of 67 recommendations for improving FOIA administration across the government.

Designated Federal Officer

Kirsten B. Mitchell Compliance Team Lead

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Baron, Jason	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	University of Maryland	Representative Member
Brock, Nieva	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Cuillier, David	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	University of Florida	Representative Member
Frazier-Jenkins, Whitney	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Hempowicz, Elizabeth	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	American Oversight U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security	Representative Member
Hodes, Scott	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	American Historical Association	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Jones Weicksel, Sarah	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	Johns Hopkins University	Representative Member
Kimball, Shelley	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law	Representative Member
Kwoka, Margaret	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	CNN	Representative Member
LoMonte, Frank	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Manheim, Marianne	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	Department of Education	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Moore, Deborah	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	Americans for Prosperity Foundation	Representative Member
Mulvey, Ryan	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	University of Massachusetts School of Law	Representative Member
Peltz-Steele, Richard	08/12/2024	06/11/2026		

			Director, Office Regular of Government Government	
Semo, Alina	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	Information Services, NARA	Employee (RGE) Member
Wittenberg, Nick	08/12/2024	06/11/2026	Armedia	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 16

Narrative Description

As part of the Open Government Partnership, the United States issued its second Open Government National Action Plan (NAP) on December 5, 2013, that set forth several specific initiatives the Administration would undertake. One flagship initiative included various efforts to modernize the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This initiative included creating a FOIA Federal Advisory Committee, which is “comprised of government and non-governmental members of the FOIA community. This committee fosters dialog between the Administration and the requester community, solicits public comments, and develops consensus recommendations for improving FOIA administration and proactive disclosures.” The Committee was established in accordance with the NAP and operates in accordance with the directive in the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(h)(1)(C), which states that the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) “identify procedures and methods for improving [FOIA] compliance.” This advisory committee serves as a deliberative body to advise on improvements to FOIA administration. The Committee studies the current FOIA landscape across the Executive Branch and may recommend legislative action, policy changes or executive action, among other matters.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes

- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

Not Applicable

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

Unable to Determine

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

67

Number of Recommendations Comments

During its first two terms (2014-16) and (2016-18), the Committee made a total of 8 recommendations—one in the first term and seven in the second. All 8 have been implemented. Details are available here:

<https://www.archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/dashboard> During its third term

(2018-2020), the Committee made 22 recommendations: 73% of which have been implemented and 23% that have been partially implemented. Details are available here:

<https://www.archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/dashboard> During its fourth term

(2020-2022), the Committee made 21 recommendations: 29% of which have been implemented, 33% have been partially implemented, and 14% are pending implementation. One of the recommendations pending implementation states, “the Archivist of the United States should commission a feasibility study, incorporating input from requesters and agencies, to more deeply explore the costs and benefits of recommendations 2022-15 through 2022-18, and refine the proposals to aid Congress in drafting legislation,” and those four recommendations (19%) have been paused pending the completion of a resourcing study. One recommendation (5%), that recommends that the “Archivist of the United States (AOTUS) should restore OGIS as a direct report to AOTUS,” was rejected. In the fifth term (2022-2024) the Committee made 16 recommendations: 19% of which have been implemented, 31% have been partially implemented, and 50% are pending implementation. In the sixth term (2024-2026) the Committee has yet to make any recommendations. Details are available here: <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/dashboard>

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

51%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

One-hundred percent of the 8 recommendations made by the first two terms of the Committee (2014-2016) and (2016-2018) have been implemented. Seventy-three percent of the 22 recommendations made in the third term (2018-2020) have been implemented, while 23 percent been partially implemented. Twenty-nine percent of the 21 recommendations made in the fourth term have been implemented, 33% have been partially implemented, and 14% are pending implementation. From the 16 recommendations from the fifth term (2022-2024), 19% have been fully implemented, 31% have been partially implemented, and 50% are pending implementation. Although not a stand-alone recommendation per se, OGIS has, in its Annual Report to Congress and the President, and in its blog, highlighted best practices identified by the committee. No recommendations from the 2022-2024 term were directed at Congress, and OGIS has submitted to Congress all recommendations made before 2022.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

27%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

For an up-to-date look at the status of all recommendations, see

<https://www.archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/dashboard>.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Committee made no recommendations in FY 2025. Details:
<https://www.archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/dashboard>

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Not Applicable

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

Information about the committee is available on the Committee's webpage at <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee> and on the Office of Government Information Services blog at <http://foia.blogs.archives.gov/> and the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter) account @FOIA_ombuds. A recommendations dashboard, <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/foia-advisory-committee/dashboard>, describes all 67 recommendations made since 2016, actions taken to fulfill each, and links to reports, correspondence and other related material.