

Sun e-Briefs • March 2013

NCOCG News

N.C. Open Government Coalition releases mobile application

The Sunshine Center of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition released a mobile application that provides citizens of the state information about public records and open meetings wherever they are. The app was made available at the start of the state's Sunshine Day workshop March 11 at N.C. State University.

N.C. Open Government Coalition releases mobile application:

www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965200

Be an open government watchdog with smartphone app (*Burlington Times-News*): www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965232

Open government laws now fit in your hands (*Gaston Gazette*):

www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965231

Sunlight Foundation releases new Open States app: www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964863

Turnage Conference postponed

The Turnage Conference, which was to be sponsored, in part, by the Sunshine Center of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition, has been postponed because of a scheduling conflict with a speaker. A new date for the conference hasn't been set, but it won't happen during Elon University's spring semester. When and if the conference is rescheduled, we will let you know.

Celebrating Sunshine in North Carolina

North Carolina celebrated Sunshine Week in the state March 11-15. Media organizations throughout the state wrote stories, columns and editorials about openness in government. The NCOGC also hosted a Sunshine Day conference with N.C. State Student Media at N.C. State March 11. Below is a brief roundup of Sunshine Week coverage.

Is North Carolina the new Sunshine State? (*Port City Daily*): www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965334

Boone council's closed meetings vary (*Watauga Democrat*): www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965335

The innards of state government, courtesy of public record and sunshine laws (*Progressive Pulse*): www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965333

'Full Disclosure' workshops shine light on public information, open data (*Mountain Xpress*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965294>

Sunshine Week: A look at the N.C. Open Meetings Law (*Port City Daily*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965233>

Help keep government open and transparent (*New Bern Sun Journal*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965230>

Your right to know vs. colleges (*USA Today*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965229>

Open government is the best government (*Burlington Times-News*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965228>

Exercise your right to know! (*High Point Enterprise*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964921>

Goolsby bill would put 'teeth' in open meetings, public records laws (*Wilmington Star-News*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964920>

N.C. Supreme Court splits in police records decision

An Elon University graduate brought the issue of whether private college police records are public to the North Carolina State Supreme Court. The state's high court ultimately split its decision 3-3, reaffirming the lower court's ruling that private college police records are not considered public records.

Supreme Court issues divided opinion on issue of private school police records (*Student Press Law Center*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965227>

NC court split on whether private-college police records are public (*News & Observer*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965226>

NC Supreme Court votes 3-3 in Ochsner case (*The Pendulum*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965225>

Court: Private universities not subject to public records law (*WRAL.com*):
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965224>

NC Supreme Court split on public records case (*WECT6*):
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965222>

No matter the arresting agency, arrests records should be open to the public
(*Gaston Gazette*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964837>

WFU police department, others watch case in N.C. Supreme Court (*Winston Salem Journal*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964797>

Fight continues about whether gun records should be public

The argument about gun records also being public records has stirred tension in North Carolina. Some sheriffs and county officials are refusing to hand over information related to permit holders. And some politicians are looking to make gun records private.

N.C. sheriffs wage fight over gun records (*Charlotte Observer*):
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965039>

N.C. law: Handgun permits are public records (*Charlotte Observer*):
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965040>

Private N.C colleges lobby to amend campus police records law before court rules (*Student Press Law Center*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965002>

Local Paper Very, Very Sorry for Asking Questions About Guns (*Atlantic Wire*):
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964923>

Newton: Make gun permits private (*Wilson Times*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964798>

Town: Want public records? Pay our wages (*Wilson Times*):
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964942>

Confidential gun records debated in NC Senate (*WRAL.com*):
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964795>

State senator introduces public records bill with teeth

N.C. Senator Thom Goolsby of Wilmington sponsored a bill that would make it a criminal misdemeanor for an official to violate North Carolina's public records and open meetings laws. The issue is making headlines across the state, as the state Senate becomes more involved.

Bill seeks open government rule violation as crime (*WRAL.com*):

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965234>

Burlington Times-News: State Senate bill strikes blow for the public

(*Burlington Times-News*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=965038>

Goolsby files bill to strengthen state's public records, open meetings laws

(*Port City Daily*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964862>

Wilson Times: Bill adds teeth to state laws on open meetings, records

(*Wilson Times*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964861>

Goolsby wants to punish open records, meeting violators with jail

(*WWAY.com*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964860>

N.C. Senate weighs public access to gun permit info (*Winston-Salem Journal*):

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=964796>

Sun-e Briefs are a service of the Sunshine Center made possible through a grant from the Knight Foundation. This monthly news update will keep you in the open-government loop by bringing you news about access issues from across the state and updates on the Sunshine Center and North Carolina Open Government Coalition. Coming to you from Elon University, home of the Sunshine Center, we think you'll find **Sun-e Briefs** a valuable addition to your inbox. If you would like to contact us to let us know about a story or to remove your name from our list, please write ncopengov@elon.edu.

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