



July 24, 2020

Senator Andy Billing  
Senate Majority Leader

Representative Laurie Jinkins  
Speaker of the House

Senator Mark Schoesler  
Senate Minority Leader

Representative JT Wilcox  
House Minority Leader

Dear Legislative Leaders,

We write you on behalf of Washington’s 39 counties, 281 cities and towns, and 75 port districts to ask for your action to extend the emergency proclamation 20-28.7 regarding the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and Public Records Act (PRA).

We appreciate your ongoing action to extend this proclamation modifying the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act so we can continue to maintain open and transparent government in a manner that protects public health as well as the health of our staff members and elected officials.

Cities, counties and ports are working hard to maintain open, accessible and transparent government during these unprecedented times. Our jurisdictions have found creative ways to make certain that the public has full access to public meetings. Some even report increased participation as a result of these virtual formats.

However, our jurisdictions have struggled with the short-term extension schedule particularly for OPMA. Given our meeting notice requirements and the amount of planning and coordination each meeting requires, we need certainty in what the requirements will be well ahead of time.

We respectfully ask that the current proclamation 20-28.7 be extended for at least 60 days to provide that certainty for both our government bodies and the members of the public. This would take us through the end of September when we may have a better sense of the public health situation and any additional changes that are needed to accommodate safe, open and accessible meetings.

Thank you very much for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnson  
WSAC

Peter B. King  
AWC

James Thompson  
WPPA