

From: [Bill Becker](#)
Subject: Communication from the Council staff during session
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 12:09:51 PM

Members,

As the legislative session goes on some of you ask about our recommendations. Please remember we provide Council members with all the session information we can legally and ethically provide as non-partisan, joint services staff working under the Open Meeting Law. The Open Meeting Law applies to meetings of public bodies such as LSOHC when they make decisions or receive information.

Because of LSOHC staff's non-partisan, joint services status we can't engage in issue advocacy or enable Council members to do so. We can provide individual members with answers to factual questions about our recommendations or our recommendations processes.

Because of the open meeting law information we provide exclusively to members must be available to the public as well. We can distribute information clearly in the public domain solely to all council members without sending the same information to the general public. For example we can distribute non-copyrighted articles or links to public Web pages. If we send exclusive information to a quorum of the Council or Council sub-group we must also distribute this to the public in a timely fashion. We do this by posting information on our website and/or distributing it to our list serve of 800 e-mail addresses.

I appreciate your attention to these requirements and understanding that above all else we must function according to law.

Bill