
IOWA PUBLIC INFORMATION BOARD

Ch 23

Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines 50319;
515.725.1781;

www.ipib.iowa.gov

Erica Eckley, Executive Director Serves at Pleasure of Board

| <i>Name</i> | <i>City</i> | <i>Term Ending</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Monica McHugh, Chair | Zwingle | April 30, 2026 |
| Daniel Breitbarth..... | Des Moines | April 30, 2026 |
| Joan Corbin | Pella | April 30, 2024 |
| E. J. Giovannetti..... | Urbandale..... | April 30, 2026 |
| Barry Lindahl..... | Dubuque..... | April 30, 2024 |
| James McCreath..... | Pleasant Hill..... | April 30, 2026 |
| Julie Pottorff..... | Des Moines | April 30, 2024 |
| Jackie Schmillen | Urbandale..... | April 30, 2026 |

The Iowa Public Information Board was created to provide an official, efficient, and free legal resource for citizens and government officials with questions about Iowa open meetings and public records laws, and for citizens with complaints about alleged violations of the laws. The board is one of the few such agencies in the nation with the authority to not only advise but to enforce the state “sunshine” laws by imposing civil penalties and any other appropriate remedies calculated to terminate or remediate a violation.

The nine board members are appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. No more than three members shall represent the media, and not more than three represent cities, counties, or other local governments. The members serve staggered four-year terms. The board appoints a chair from its members, and it is authorized to hire at least one employee, an attorney who serves as executive director.

The board is authorized to issue formal and informal advice, or declaratory orders with the force of law, regarding the applicability of the open meetings and public records laws, chapters 21 and 22 of the Iowa Code. It can receive and investigate complaints alleging violations of the laws and seek resolution through informal assistance, mediation, and settlement. If a complaint cannot be resolved informally, and the board has probable cause to believe the law has been violated, the board may prosecute the government body or official in a contested case proceeding under the Administrative Procedures Act. The board can issue subpoenas to investigate complaints and prosecute cases, and it can also issue orders with the force of law to require compliance with the sunshine laws. The board offers training, disseminates information to the public, and submits an annual report to the Governor and Legislature.

The board does not have jurisdiction over the judicial or legislative branches, or over the Governor or Governor’s Office.