



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Instructions for completing the Open Meeting Law Complaint Form

The Attorney General's Division of Open Government interprets and enforces the Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, Sections 18-25. Below is the procedure for filing and responding to an Open Meeting Law complaint.

Instructions for filing a complaint:

- o Fill out the attached two-page form completely. Sign and date the second page. File the complaint with the public body within 30 days of the alleged violation. If the violation was not reasonably discoverable at the time it occurred, you must file the complaint within 30 days of the date the violation was reasonably discoverable. A violation that occurs during an open session of a meeting is reasonably discoverable on the date of the meeting.
- o To file the complaint:
 - o For a local or municipal public body, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body AND to the municipal clerk.
 - o For all other public bodies, you must submit a copy of the complaint to the chair of the public body.
 - o Complaints may be filed by mail, by email, or by hand. Please retain a copy for your records.
- o If the public body does not respond within 14 business days and does not request an extension to respond, contact the Division for further assistance.

Instructions for a public body that receives a complaint:

- o The chair must disseminate the complaint to the members of the public body.
- o The public body must meet to review the complaint within 14 business days (usually 20-22 calendar days).
- o After review, but within 14 business days, the public body must respond to the complaint in writing and must send the complainant a response and a description of any action the public body has taken to address the allegations in the complaint. At the same time, the body must send the Attorney General a copy of the complaint and a copy of the response. The public body may delegate this responsibility to an individual member of the public body, its counsel, or a staff member, but only after the public body has met to review the complaint.
- o If a public body requires more time to review the complaint and respond, it may request an extension of time for good cause by contacting the Division of Open Government.

Once the public body has responded to the complaint:

- o If you are not satisfied with the public body's response to your complaint, you may file a copy of the complaint with the Division by mail, by email, or by hand, but only once you have waited for 30 days after filing the complaint with the public body. Mail may be sent to: The Division of Open Government, Office of the Attorney General, One Ashburton Place - 20th Floor, Boston, MA 02108. Emails may be sent to: openmeeting@state.ma.us.
- o When you file your complaint with the Division, please include the complaint form and all documentation relevant to the alleged violation. You may wish to attach a cover letter explaining why the public body's response does not adequately address your complaint.
- o The Division will not review complaints filed with us more than 90 days after the violation, unless we granted an extension to the public body or you can demonstrate good cause for the delay.

If you have questions concerning the Open Meeting Law complaint process, we encourage you to contact the Division of Open Government by phone at (617) 963-2540 or by email at openmeeting@state.ma.us.



OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

Your Contact Information:

First Name: Amy Last Name: Proietti

Address: 53 Madison Circle

City: Greenfield State: MA Zip Code: 01301

Phone Number: 4132444402 Ext. _____

Email: amypro1@gpsk12.org

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): Greenfield School Committee

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

Individual Organization Media

Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

City/Town County Regional/District State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Greenfield School Committee

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Mayor Roxann Wedegartner

Date of alleged violation: 4/20/23 and 5/15/23

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

Thursday 4/20/2023 - At 4:37pm on this day, Mayor Roxann Wedegartner, a voting member of the School Committee, sent the attached email to all School Committee members, concerning the matter of the School Budget, which at that time, and still, is a topic up for deliberation within the School Committee. She expresses a personal opinion and shares it in an email, and makes no attempt to make the information public, or share the information publicly at a meeting of the School Committee.

Tuesday 5/16/2023 - At 1:06pm on this day, Mayor Roxann Wedegartner, a voting member of the School Committee, forwarded an email thread to all School Committee members, containing a legal opinion she sought, related to ongoing Fiscal Year 2024 School Budget discussions. She initiates deliberation and expresses an opinion on a topic we should only be discussing publicly, as a full body. As with the Thursday 4/20 email, she makes no attempt to make the information public, or share the information publicly at a meeting of the School Committee.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

I would like the Greenfield School Committee to discuss this complaint, as an agenda item, at an upcoming public meeting of the body. At that time, I feel it is appropriate for the Committee as a whole to discuss appropriate remedy.

Review, sign, and submit your complaint

I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

Public Record. Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

Publication to Website. As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to openmeeting@state.ma.us.

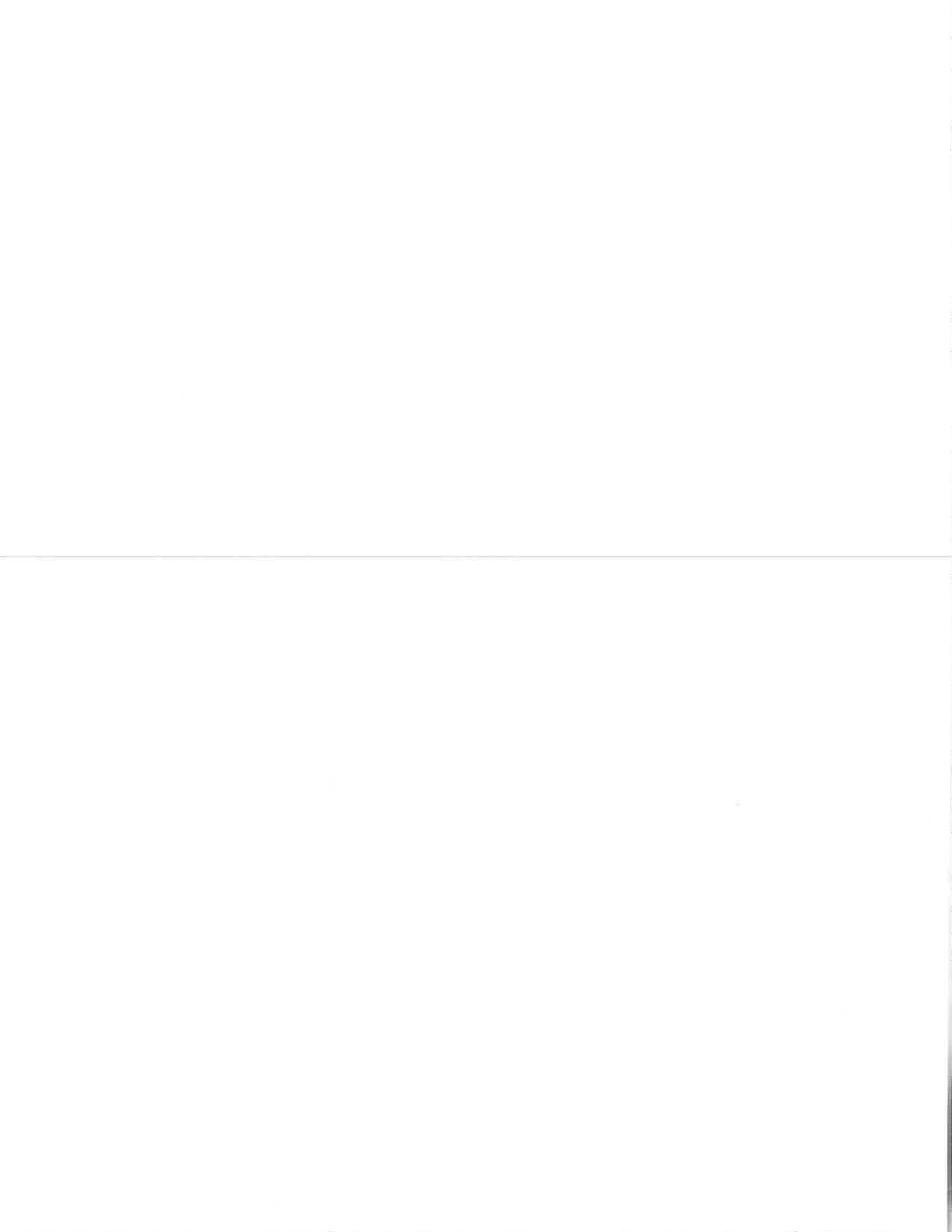
By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

For Use By Public Body
Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO
Date Received by AGO:





Amy Proietti <amypro1@gpsk12.org>

Greenfield School Enrollment

1 message

Roxann Wedegartner <roxann.wedegartner@greenfield-ma.gov>

Thu, Apr 20, 2023 at 4:36 PM

To: Councilor Guin <Councilor.Guin@greenfield-ma.gov>

Cc: Councilor Bullock <councilor.bullock@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Forgey <Councilor.Forgey@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor helie <councilor.helie@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor terounzo <councilor.terounzo@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Elmer <Councilor.Elmer@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Golub <councilor.golub@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Sheila Gilmour <councilor.gilmour@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Bottomley <councilor.bottomley@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Ricketts <councilor.ricketts@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Mayo <councilor.mayo@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Lapienski <councilor.lapienski@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor DeSorgher <councilor.desorgher@greenfield-ma.gov>, Kathy Scott <kathy.scott@greenfield-ma.gov>, Tammy Marciel <tammy.marciel@greenfield-ma.gov>, Amy Proietti <amypro1@gpsk12.org>, Jean Wall <jeawal1@gpsk12.org>, Susan Eckstrom <suseck1@gpsk12.org>, "Dr. Christine Debarge" <chrdeb1@gpsk12.org>, eliden1@gpsk12.org, katmar2@gpsk12.org, Glenn Johnson <glejoh1@gpsk12.org>

Hello, Councilors,

At last night's City Council meeting during the Superintendent/School Committee remarks, unfortunately Chair Proietti chose to say that she had no idea where I came up with the number 158 as the reduction in enrollment in the City of Greenfield. Her clear implication, if not actual statement, was that I made up the number. Naturally, I don't appreciate this type of conjecture in a public meeting under any circumstances, but I have come to expect all manner of half-truths and worse on the Council floor, sad as that is.

For your information, the enrollment numbers exist on the DESE website. I have provided links to the relevant information in this email. The first link shows the 2022 enrollment at 1604. The second link shows the 2022-2023 enrollment at 1446. Simple math tells us that the difference from 2022 to 2023 is 158. Math is math. Now it is true that some of the number is attributed to the declining population in Franklin County with some people moving out of the city and state and some is attributed to School Choice, Charter and enrollment in local private schools. However, the fact remains that when state aid to schools is calculated it is calculated on a bottom line number.

I believe I've stated multiple times that the funding situation with our FY24 budget is impacted by a drop in the City's state aid along with less state aid to the Schools because of declining enrollment. So while the Governor's proposal for Chapter 70 revenue for the City was an increase of approximately \$500,000, that is coupled with an increase in state assessments for Charter and Choice students of nearly \$300,000, which leaves us with slightly *under* \$200,000 in additional revenue dedicated to GPS. Math is math.

2022: <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/analysis/default.aspx?orgcode=01140000&orgtypecode=5&>

2023: <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgtypecode=5&fycode=2023&orgcode=01140000>

--Mayor Wedegartner

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Roxann Wedegartner

Mayor

City of Greenfield

14 Court Square

Greenfield, MA 01301

413-772-1562

413-834-1813

Please take a minute to learn more about Greenfield.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=991lDqTdoFY>

"I strongly believe being mayor is the public post in which you have the greatest opportunity to change people's lives for the better."

---Eduardo Paes, former mayor of Rio de Janeiro

5/16/23, 2:27 PM

Greenfield Public Schools Mail - Greenfield School Enrollment

413-772-1560

roxann.wedegartner@greenfield-ma.gov

Public Record Statement/Confidentiality. Under Massachusetts Law, any email created or received by an employee of the City of Greenfield is considered a public record. All email correspondence is subject to the requirements of M. G. L. Chapter 66. This email may contain confidential and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. Any review or distribution by others is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient please contact the sender and delete all copies.



Amy Proietti <amypro1@gpsk12.org>

Fwd: May 15, 2023 Opinion Letter Update

1 message

Roxann Wedegartner <roxann.wedegartner@greenfield-ma.gov>

Tue, May 16, 2023 at 1:05 PM

To: Kathy Scott <kathy.scott@greenfield-ma.gov>

Cc: Tammy Marciel <tammy.marciel@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Guin <Councilor.Guin@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Bullock <councilor.bullock@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Forgey <Councilor.Forgey@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor helie <councilor.helie@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor terounzo <councilor.terounzo@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Elmer <Councilor.Elmer@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Golub <councilor.golub@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Sheila Gilmour <councilor.gilmour@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Bottomley <councilor.bottomley@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Ricketts <councilor.ricketts@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Mayo <Councilor.Mayo@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor Lapienski <councilor.lapienski@greenfield-ma.gov>, Councilor DeSorgher <councilor.desorgher@greenfield-ma.gov>, Jesse Belcher-Timme <jtimme@dwpm.com>, "Dr. Christine DeBarge" <chrdeb1@gpsk12.org>, School Committee 2022 <schoolcom@gpsk12.org>

Good Afternoon, All,

Please see Attorney Belcher-Timme's revision to his legal opinion which was sent recently.

Best regards.

Mayor Wedegartner

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jesse Belcher-Timme** <jtimme@dwpm.com>

Date: Tue, May 16, 2023 at 12:59 PM

Subject: May 15, 2023 Opinion Letter Update

To: Roxann Wedegartner <roxann.wedegartner@greenfield-ma.gov>

Mayor:

In reviewing my opinion letter dated May 15, 2023 and related materials this morning, I noticed that while my letter referenced the 45-day window for the City Council to act on your recommended budget as imposed by G.L. c. 44, § 32, the Charter provides for a 60-day window for action. My letter should have noted that the Charter provision, in this case, applies rather than the provisions of G.L. c. 44, § 32.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jesse

Jesse W. Belcher-Timme (he/him)

Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury and Murphy, P.C.

One Monarch Place, Suite 1900

Springfield, MA 01144-1900

(413) 233-9570 (direct)

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Roxann Wedegartner

Mayor
City of Greenfield
14 Court Square
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-772-1562
413-834-1813

Please take a minute to learn more about Greenfield.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=991lDqTdoFY>

"I strongly believe being mayor is the public post in which you have the greatest opportunity to change people's lives for the better."

---Eduardo Paes, former mayor of Rio de Janeiro

413-772-1560
roxann.wedegartner@greenfield-ma.gov

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