

A hand holding a magnifying glass over the text. The magnifying glass is positioned over the word "GOVERNMENT" in the main title.

ACLU ACTIVIST TIP

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR GOVERNMENT

DID YOU KNOW? You can write a request for information – whether it's budgets, police reports, policies, emails, bail schedules – and in many cases the governmental agency is required by law to hand it over.

Public records laws are an invaluable tool for activists. **Don't let them go unused.**

There are some exceptions, so visit [ACLUOhio.org/PublicRecords](https://acluohio.org/PublicRecords) for a step-by-step guide, including a sample request letter you can use.

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AT A GLANCE:

- Ohio's laws are called public/open records laws or sunshine laws.
- You can request documents from state and local agencies, including jails, city councils, school boards, and the prison system. *Federal government agencies are covered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).*
- You can send a request, whether or not you are a resident of that municipality or a citizen.
- Some common exceptions to these laws are medical records, personnel records, attorneys' private notes, and active law enforcement investigations.
- If you feel a government agency has wrongfully withheld records from you, you can fill out a simple complaint form and someone will review your issue.

See our step-by-step guide for more details:
[ACLUOhio.org/PublicRecords](https://acluohio.org/PublicRecords)

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