



# Washington Coalition *for* Open Government

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## *News Release*

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Washington Coalition for Open Government

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**SEATTLE---**As we watch journalists and citizens fight in Michigan for the release of information on the Flint water crisis from a state government that wants to hide that information, The Washington Coalition for Open Government reminds us the cause of transparency in government is critical. We are dedicated to making sure government in Washington State remains accessible to the public, despite efforts to dilute transparency laws. In this quest, it is important to honor and recognize those on the front lines of transparency. **WCOG is currently taking nominations for all its major awards to be presented at the 2016 Annual Madison Andersen Awards Breakfast in September.**

**The James Madison Award** is named for the James Madison, the Fourth President of the United States who is viewed as the Father of the Constitution. He once opined “a popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce.” The Award is given to an individual or organization whose long-term commitment to the cause of open government has been demonstrated through exemplary words or deeds. **DEADLINE IS JUNE 31<sup>ST</sup>.**

**The James Andersen Award**, named for former Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice, James Andersen, is given to an individual or organization that has done something extraordinary to advance the efforts of the Washington Coalition for Open Government. **DEADLINE IS JUNE 31<sup>ST</sup>.**

**The Kenneth F. Bunting Award**, named for former Seattle Post-Intelligencer Associate Publisher and WCOG founding board member, is given to individuals or organizations that have produced journalistic works that demonstrate the use of the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Records Act or expose violations of transparency laws. **DEADLINE IS JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>.**

Nomination forms for all awards can be found at [www.washingtoncog.org](http://www.washingtoncog.org). The awards will be presented on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Madison Andersen Awards breakfast at the Washington Athletic Club. We are also looking for sponsors for this awards breakfast. Sponsorship information can also be obtained on the website