

The logo for the Washington Coalition for Open Government. It features a stylized outline of the state of Washington in grey to the left of the text. The text "Washington Coalition for Open Government" is in a serif font, with "Washington" in a smaller size and "Coalition for Open Government" in a larger size. Below the main text, the website address "washingtoncog.org" is written in a smaller, lowercase sans-serif font.

Washington Coalition for Open Government

washingtoncog.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Washington Coalition for Open Government recently honored the efforts of three citizens who rallied on short notice to urge legislators to practice transparency and promote open government.

The occasion was a work session during the 2018 legislative session, scheduled on less than 24 hours notice and in lieu of the usual hearing, about SB 6617, which would exempt the state legislature from the Public Records Act.

“It was almost impossible for anyone to respond quickly enough to show up at the work session and object. But a few people *did* make it. We’re grateful to those who spoke against the bill at that work session,” said Toby Nixon, president of WCOG.

The Coalition honored those three with Key Awards, which are given periodically to recognize a single good act promoting open government.

Receiving Key Awards for their efforts were Kasia Pierzga of Olympia; David Zeeck, publisher and president of the News Tribune in Tacoma; and Gordon Padget, a retiree from Vancouver.

Although the legislature passed SB 6617, Gov. Inslee vetoed the bill after continued efforts by people throughout the state, including media outlets that ran front-page editorials and broadcast spots against the measure.

Pierzga and Zeeck separately received their Key Awards from the Coalition; Padget received his in September at WCOG’s annual awards event.

The Washington Coalition for Open Government presents Key Awards to individuals and organizations throughout the year for using or furthering the state’s OpenPublic Meetings Act/Public Records Act.

WCOG was founded in 2002 by a group of individuals representing organizations with a broad spectrum of opinions and interests but all dedicated to the principles of strengthening the state’s open government laws and protecting the public’s access to government at all levels. WCOG stands for the principle that transparency and public participation are essential building blocks of good government.

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