



## KENNETH BUNTING AWARD NOMINATION FORM

The coalition's annual Kenneth Bunting Award recognizes organizations or individuals for journalistic work that utilizes, advances or educates citizens about the state's Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act.

Entries for the Bunting Award may come from anywhere, but the submitted work must be substantially about Washington state to be eligible for consideration. The award can go to either journalists or their organization, although we prefer to honor individuals.

Nominations are open until Aug. 1, 2021, and include any work published, broadcast or posted between June 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. The award will be presented at the coalition's annual Sunshine Awards Breakfast tentatively scheduled Sept. 17.

Journalism can support and demonstrate the importance of open government in many ways. Some examples include:

- Reporting high-impact stories that could not have been written without using open government laws, such as Washington state's Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act.
- Reporting stories that cite – either explicitly or implicitly – the Public Records Act, the Open Public Meetings Act or similar laws.
- Reporting stories that show how government transparency and accountability serve the public interest. This may include instances in which citizens, organizations and public officials use or support open government laws for the public's benefit.
- Aggressively using open government laws to gain access to public records and meetings.
- Exposing instances where the government inappropriately withheld public information or access to it.
- Showing persistence, especially against resistance, in gaining access to public records and meetings.
- Taking legal action in response to government attempts to inappropriately block access to records and meetings.
- Publishing commentary that informs the public about important issues concerning government transparency and accountability.

Transparent, accountable government was a priority for Ken Bunting. He was former executive editor of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and a founding WCOG board member. Late in his career

he was executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition. This award honors his life's work.

**Please return this form by mail or email to the WCOG office.**

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**I nominate the following people and/or organizations for a Bunting Award:**

Nominee:

Title:

Affiliation:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP code:

Phone:

**I am the person submitting this nomination:**

Name:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

**Reason for nomination:**

**(Use as much space as necessary. Please include links to the published work or attach pdfs.)**