

April 13, 2026

To the Members of the Weirton Sanitary Board (WSB) and Weirton Area Water Board (WAWB),

The West Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guarantees the public’s right to remain informed about the affairs of their government. A critical component of this transparency, and a strict legal mandate, is the required reporting of FOIA request data to the state.

Under W. Va. Code §29B-1-3a and W. Va. Code R. §153-52-2, public bodies are required to enter specific information regarding FOIA requests into the Secretary of State (SOS) FOIA Database no later than the 10th day of the month following the completion of a request. Furthermore, W.Va. 153 CSR 52 mandates this information remain available in the database for a period of five years. This centralized oversight is essential for documenting how public agencies process and resolve requests statewide.

A recent review by Bloodhound Media indicates that neither the WSB nor the WAWB is complying with these statutory reporting requirements.

Specifically, we observed a complete absence of FOIA entries for your agencies in the FOIA Database. To verify this, Bloodhound Media submitted a FOIA request to the SOS on March 18, 2026, seeking all database submissions made by the WSB and WAWB. On March 26, 2026, the Office of the SOS fulfilled this request, confirming that zero entries exist under either agency's name.

As of April 13, 2026, Bloodhound Media has submitted seven FOIA requests to these agencies. Of those, **five have passed their statutory reporting deadlines** and remain entirely absent from the database.

Request Date	Completion Date	Fee	Resolution	Resolution Comments	Status
2/13/2026	2/23/2026	\$7.50	Partial	Response stated no public requests exist for the requested reporting structure.	<i>Past Due</i>
2/25/2026	3/3/2026	\$0.00	Rejected	Response stated the request failed to follow the required procedures for these entities.	<i>Past Due</i>
3/10/2026	3/17/2026	\$0.00	Rejected	Response stated no public records were responsive to the request.	<i>Past Due</i>
3/18/2026	3/25/2026	\$20.00	Partial	Response stated no public records exist for items 1b and 3.	<i>Past Due</i>
3/19/2026	3/26/2026	\$8.00	Granted	All requested items were provided.	<i>Past Due</i>
3/25/2026	4/1/2026	\$6.50	Partial	Response indicated bylaws do not exist for the WSB or the WAWB.	Upcoming

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Request Date	Completion Date	Fee	Resolution	Resolution Comments	Status
4/2/2026	4/8/2026	\$0.00	Rejected	Response indicated that no public records exist for the agreements referenced in the employment contracts.	Upcoming

Because the WSB and WAWB appear to be operating out of compliance with W. Va. Code §29B-1-3a and W. Va. Code R. §153-52-2, we respectfully request immediate corrective action. Particularly, we request the agencies identify and upload information associated with all completed FOIA requests over the past five years in alignment with the FOIA Database retention schedule.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter of public transparency and statutory compliance.

Respectfully,

Wesley Holloway

Bloodhound Media LLC