

IPIB Monthly Column

Iowa Public Information Board selects Renee Twedt, Chair; Julie Pottorff, Vice-Chair; to lead the Board for the next year.

The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) met on Thursday, July 18, 2019. At the meeting, the Board elected Renee Twedt, Ames, Iowa as Chair for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Also elected as Vice-Chair was Julie Pottorff, Des Moines, Iowa. Both will serve in these roles for the next year.

Renee Twedt was appointed to the IPIB by Governor Branstad in 2016 as a government representative on the Board. Her term ends in 2020. She is the former County Treasurer in Story County. She lives in Story City.

Julie Pottorff was appointed to the IPIB by Governor Branstad in 2017 as a public representative on the Board. Her term ends in 2020. She is retired from the Iowa Department of Justice and lives in Des Moines.

The IPIB was created in 2012 to provide a free, efficient way for Iowans to receive information and resolve complaints related to Iowa Code chapters 21 and 22, Iowa's open meetings and public records laws. The agency's case load has far exceeded expectations since its inception. The vast majority of complaints are settled informally, with the Board staff negotiating a compromise that satisfies both parties, reduces community conflict, and results in increased government transparency. In addition, Board staff conducts training sessions for state, county, and city officials. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year the IPIB handled 782 complaints and inquiries. Of those the Board reviewed a record 149 formal complaints and issued 9 advisory opinions. The IPIB staff fielded an additional 59 informal complaints and 564 inquiries from citizens, governmental bodies and the media.

DID YOU KNOW

The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) was created to provide a free, efficient way for Iowans to receive information and resolve complaints related to Iowa Code chapters 21 and 22, Iowa's open meetings and public records laws.

Did You Know that the Iowa Public Information Board staff is available to assist you with questions or problems involving open meetings and public records in Iowa?

IPIB Facts and Figures for Fiscal Year 2019: 782 contacts were made with the Iowa Public Information Board office.

TYPE

2018 -2019 Fiscal Year

Formal complaints

149

Advisory opinions	9
Declaratory orders	0
Informal complaints	59
Informal requests	475
Miscellaneous	89
TOTALS:	782

Who can contact the IPIB and how long does it take?

Any person can contact the IPIB for assistance by telephone (515-725-1781), by email, or on the IPIB website. In fiscal year 2019, 782 identifiable people contacted the IPIB. Of these, 46% were private citizens, 38% were government officials or employees, and 16% were members of the media.

In fiscal year 2019, 69% of the incoming contacts were resolved the first day, 15% were resolved in one to five days, and 16% were resolved in six or more days.

Opinions, rulings, FAQs, reports, and training documents are available on the IPIB website - <http://www.ipib.iowa.gov/>