

Press Release
July 31, 2018
Iowa Public Information Board

The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) recognized the five-year anniversary of the opening of the IPIB office in July 2013 at its board meeting July 19, 2018.

In these five years, the IPIB has received a total of 3,905 inquiries to staff. This number includes 497 formal complaints. The remainder consists of informal complaints, informal requests for information, advisory opinions, declaratory orders, and miscellaneous projects.

Chapter 23 of the Iowa Code outlines the primary purpose of the IPIB: to “provide an alternative means by which to secure compliance with and enforcement of the requirements” of Iowa laws concerning open meetings and public records in an “efficient, informal, and cost-effective process.”

With that goal in mind, the IPIB has been able to resolve complaints and answer questions within the same day 62 percent of time and within five calendar days 19 percent of the time. More complex and formal issues and projects (19 percent) require more time to reach completion.

Who contacts the IPIB? In the last five years, 47 percent of inquiries were from citizens, 39 percent from government officials and employees, and the remaining 14 percent from the media.

The IPIB has a nine-member board, each appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. By statute, board membership consists of three representative from the media, three from government, and three representing citizens. The IPIB was established in 2012, and the office was funded and opened the next year.