

New York Coalition



For Open Government, Inc.

Advocating for timely access to information & meaningful citizen participation

www.nyopengov.org

Candidate Questionnaire

Name of Candidate: Harry Wilson

1) Enforcement of open government laws

In New York unlike other states, the only way to address compliance issues with open government laws is for a private citizen to retain an attorney. Connecticut has a government appointed commission with the power to mediate complaints and to impose fines on public bodies. In Massachusetts the state attorney general has the power to investigate complaints, order compliance, impose fines and sue public bodies that violate the law. There is no entity in NY that has the power to monitor compliance with open government laws and to impose sanctions for violations of the law. The New York State Committee on Open Government is a great resource but only has advisory power.

Do you support empowering the attorney general or some other entity with the ability to address compliance issues with open government laws?

Yes No Unsure

2) Mandating public bodies to hear public comments at meetings

New York's Open Meetings Law provides the public the right to observe their