MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

PLEASE HELP US IDENTIFY ACCESS PROBLEMS BY COMPLETING THIS SURVEY
FAX TO 662-915-7765
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Name_____**Title**_____

Newspaper_____**City**_____

E-mail_____**Phone**_____

A. ACCESS TO MEETINGS VS. ACCESS TO RECORDS

Closed meetings constitute a greater problem in my area than access to records. ( ) Yes ( ) No

Access to records is a greater problem in my area than access to meetings. ( ) Yes ( ) No

B. RATING PROBLEMS WITH ACCESS IN MISSISSIPPI:
Please circle the number that best indicates the degree of the problem of access for each issue.

1 = not a problem
2 = minor problem
3 = significant problem
4 = extremely serious problem

I. ACCESS TO MEETINGS

Violations of the Open Meetings Act by local officials.	1	2	3	4
Understanding of requirements of access laws by local officials.	1	2	3	4
Understanding of the law by attorneys for public bodies.	1	2	3	4
Failure to be specific about need to hold an executive session.	1	2	3	4
Taking action in executive session rather than in public meetings.	1	2	3	4
Overuse of the personnel exemption to close meetings.	1	2	3	4
Overuse of the litigation exemption to close meetings.	1	2	3	4
Cite privacy as an excuse to deny access to a meeting.	1	2	3	4
Failure to follow proper procedures to close a meeting.	1	2	3	4
Board of Aldermen close meetings that should be open.	1	2	2	4
Board of Supervisors close meetings that should be open.	1	2	3	4
Mayors close meetings that should be open.	1	2	3	4
Committees close meetings that should be open.	1	2	3	4
City council closes meetings that should be open.	1	2	3	4
School boards close meetings that should be open.	1	2	2	4
Failure to provide adequate notice of a meeting.	1	2	3	4
Timely access to minutes of meetings.	1	2	3	4

PAGE 2—**ACCESS TO RECORDS**

Please circle the number that best indicates the degree of the problem of access for each issue.

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Violations of the Open Records Act by local officials.	1	2	3	4
Failure to respond to a records request.	1	2	2	4
Long delays in producing records.	1	2	3	4
Lack of knowledge of the Public Records Act	1	2	3	4
Lack of support for open government principle.	1	2	3	4
Proprietary attitude that records are government property.	1	2	3	4
Too many confidentiality exemptions in the law	1	2	3	4
Denial of access to police incident reports.	1	2	3	4
Denial of access to arrest records.	1	2	3	4
Overuse of investigatory exemption to deny access to records.	1	2	3	4
Overuse of privacy as a reason to deny access to a public record.	1	2	3	4
Denial of access to electronic records.	1	2	3	4
Excessive charges for copying records	1	2	3	4
Excessive research fees to produce records.	1	2	3	4
Denial of access to court records.	1	2	3	4

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!