



FTP/SIS Steering Committee


Government in the Sunshine Briefing

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Sunshine Law Purpose

- Provides the public a right of access to governmental meetings.
 - Allows the public to observe each preliminary step leading to a final decision.
 - Protects the public from “closed door” decision making.
 - (Sec. 286.011, F.S., and Fl. Constitution Art. I Sec. 24)
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Sunshine Law Application

- All meetings of any Board or Commission
- Where Official Acts are to be taken, votes are recorded
- Are Noticed Public Meetings Open to the Public at all times
- Minutes of the Meeting shall be Promptly Recorded, open to inspection
- Knowing Violations by a Board of Commission member
 - Noncriminal infraction with a fine not exceeding \$500
 - Misdemeanor of the second degree
 - Reasonable attorney's fees may be imposed

Committee type determines the applicability of these laws

➤ **Steering Committee**

- A Decision Making Committee
- Sunshine Act applies

➤ **Technical Advisory Committee**

- A Decision Making Committee
- Choose alternatives and direction
- Narrow or eliminate options for the Board's Consideration
- Make decisions by voting
- Make recommendations to the Board directly or through staff

Open Meetings of the Steering or Technical Advisory Committees where Public Business is Discussed or Transacted

➤ **Members Cannot:**

- Discuss with any other member of the Committee any item that is under consideration for action by the Committee, except at a duly noticed public meeting.
- Send emails that solicit comments from members or circulate responses from members on Committee business.

➤ **Members Can:**

- Discuss other matters with other members at any time.
- Discuss Committee business with any person who is NOT a member of the Committee, except that person cannot act as a liaison between or among members.