

Public hospitals should follow the Sunshine Law.

Some Missouri public hospitals are trying to convince state legislators to allow hospitals to close some of their financial records. We say 'No'!



The Missouri Press Association believes it is in the best interest of citizens to have full access to complete information regarding the business operations of local community public hospitals. Those hospitals were founded by votes of citizens and using tax dollars or bonds guaranteed by taxpayer funds. Those hospitals are permitted to forego paying real estate taxes as a public institution. Nationally, hospitals have seen a severe reduction in federal funding; this is not a time to place such hospitals in a position where the public cannot watch their business operations fully.

The Sunshine Law is a law for everyone, not just the news media. The Missouri Press Association and this newspaper ask you to support openness in local and state government records and meetings. Democracy, after all, does not work well if information is kept secret.



Missouri Sunshine **LAW**