

FIRST TWO VISITS: Nov. 14
Nov. 25

Woonsocket

Documents not received



School Committee Minutes:

- Readability: Good
- Thoroughness: Good
- Layout: Good
- Legal Compliance: Full

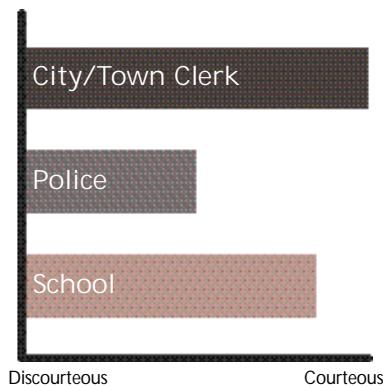
City/Town Council Minutes:

- Readability: Average
- Thoroughness: Poor
- Layout: Poor
- Legal Compliance: Partial

Woonsocket denied access to 30 percent of the materials requested. Compounding this problem were several other factors which also impeded the public access to the city documents. Three visits to the Police Department were made to determine if the arrest reports would be made available, which they were not. The School Department also required multiple visits; three of the five requests required at least two visits to either obtain the documents or be denied. Similarly, it required three visits to determine that the school contract settlement was not going to be made available to the public. Finally, Woonsocket is one of four towns that charges an excessive fee for photocopies. The law clearly stipulates 15 cents per page but both the School Department and the City Clerk's office charged \$1.50 per page as indicated by a prominent sign on the wall that also states the section of the law. The sign cites R.I.G.L. § 34-1309 that pertains to land records which cost \$1.50 per page. This statute pertains only to land records and not to general copies made on legal sized paper. On the positive side, the Woonsocket City Clerk's office complied with all of the requests made. The City Clerk was also given the highest possible ratings for their demeanor, exemplifying a trend among city clerks, who generally comply with the Open Records Law in a consistent and courteous fashion.

“ On the first visit, the office assistants at the city clerk's office were friendly and helpful in fulfilling my request. They asked me no questions and made copies of exactly what I asked for. Receiving the list of tax delinquent lots was just as simple. I walked up to the window, asked for the list and was handed one instantly with no questions asked. ”

How We Were Treated



Comparison: Cities/Towns

