

## Transparency

*Citizen participation in the elections process and citizen confidence in open government are two huge principles that were re-emphasized in the 2014 legislative session.*

### More transparency for lobbyists' activities

**Electronic-filing for lobbyists / [HB 1005](#)** –The legislation requires lobbyists, lobbyist employers, and certain government entities that lobby to file lobbying reports over the Internet. It also requires the Public Disclosure Commission to develop a computer system to accommodate electronic filing of lobbying reports compatible with the current system. *(Died in Senate)*

### Training for open government

**Training for public officials to re-emphasize open government [HB 2121/SB 5964](#)**– This bill requires that members of a governing body of a public agency be trained on the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act; local and statewide elected officials be trained on the requirements of the Public Records Act (PRA) and records retention and destruction procedures; and public records officers and agency records retention officers be trained on the PRA and records retention and destruction procedures. *(Delivered to Governor)*



### Making tax breaks more accountable and transparent

**Improving fiscal accountability and transparency in tax preferences / [HB 2201](#)** – There are more than 650 tax preferences – exemptions, credits, deductions, and special rates for certain groups or industries – on the books in Washington state. The Legislature has tried to gain a better understanding of which tax preferences work well and which do not. This is a challenge because there is little to no information about how a tax preference is actually utilized. This legislation is a measured, incremental step to get that information. It simplifies and improves tax data collection by the Department of Revenue, streamlines and consolidates existing tax preference reports, and gives lawmakers and the public real information about tax breaks: how much they cost, who claims them and whether they really generate the promised return on the public's investment. *(Died in Senate)*

### Accountability for hired signature-gatherers

**Initiative, referendum, and recall-petition paid signature-gatherers / [HB 2552](#)** –Requires paid signature gatherers and signature gathering businesses that use

paid signature gatherers to register with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Requires the declarations on petitions for recall elections, referenda, and initiatives be signed by the signature gatherer. *(Died in Senate)*