

## Mark Welch

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**From:** John Fleming  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 16, 2014 2:17 PM  
**To:** A. Ralph Mollis  
**Cc:** Mark Welch; Stacy DiCola; Michael Narducci  
**Subject:** Re: Public records request under the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act

Obviously this is about putting the projected cost of the Con Con in the Referendum Guide.

It's amazing in this day and age of transparency and open government that they would not want to inform the voters that there is a projected cost for this.

Secondly, it was recommended by the Bi-partisan Preparatory Commission that the \$ amount be in the explanation in the guide

Lastly, it was in the guide when it was last placed on the ballot 10 years ago so we are only following what was previously done.

I would want to be on our side of the argument every day of the week

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 16, 2014, at 1:13 PM, "Raina C. Smith" <[rsmith@sos.ri.gov](mailto:rsmith@sos.ri.gov)> wrote:

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**From:** "J.H. Snider" <[snider@RhodeIslandConCon.info](mailto:snider@RhodeIslandConCon.info)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 1:08 PM  
**To:** "A. Ralph Mollis" <[aralphmollis@sos.ri.gov](mailto:aralphmollis@sos.ri.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public records request under the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act

September 16, 2014

A. Ralph Mollis, Secretary of State  
c/o Public Information Office  
82 Smith Street,  
State House, Room 217  
Providence, RI 02903-1119

Dear Secretary of State Mollis:

Under the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act, §38-2-1 et seq., I am requesting a copy of all the e-mail correspondence concerning Question #3 in the 2014 Voter Information Handbook from July 29, 2014 to September 16, 2014 on the computers of two officials: Mark Welch, Executive Counsel to the Secretary of State, and Mike Narducci, Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division.

As I understand it, this records request should include all the correspondence between the Bi-partisan Preparatory Commission and the Office of the Secretary of State. July 29, 2014 was the

date the Bi-partisan Preparatory Commission was publicly appointed; September 16, 2014 was the day the 2014 Voter Information Handbook was publicly released.

Both the Bi-partisan Preparatory Commission and the constitutional convention referendum are mandated by Rhode Island's Constitution. The Office of the Secretary State informed the Bi-partisan Preparatory Commission that it would need to provide its Report, if it were to be included in the 2014 Voter Information Handbook, by August 25, 2014. This deadline was later extended.

The requested public records are in an electronic format. Under the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act, § 38-2-3(h), please forward them to me in the same format. If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$50. However, I would also like to request a waiver of all fees in that the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of Rhode Island's upcoming statewide constitutional convention referendum.

If the estimated cost exceeds \$50, please divide it into two separate estimates: 1) all correspondence with the phrase "preparatory commission" and 2) all correspondence as described above. With modern email programs, it should take less than five minutes to search on a given computer for all emails with the phrase "preparatory commission," select the resulting emails between July 29, 2014 and September 16, 2014, and then forward them to me.

I have co-authored three articles in the *Providence Journal* on the upcoming referendum and regularly publish news and blog posts on it at RhodeIslandConCon.info, which is the leading information clearinghouse in Rhode Island on this constitutionally mandated referendum.

The Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act requires a response time within ten business days. If access to the records I am requesting will take longer than this amount of time, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies or the ability to inspect the requested records.

If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law.

Please send all correspondence to [snider@rhodeislandconcon.info](mailto:snider@rhodeislandconcon.info).

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

J.H. Snider, Editor  
RhodeIslandConCon.info