

In searching the publicly accessible web, we found a webpage of interest and provide a snapshot of it below. Please be advised that this page, and any images or links in it, may have changed since we created this snapshot. For your convenience, we provide a hyperlink to the current webpage as part of our service.

The screenshot shows the top portion of the Augusta Free Press website. At the top left, there is a blue banner with the text "AUGUSTA FREE PRESS" and "Get News Delivered to your Phone! Download our new Augusta Free Press App!". To the right of this banner are logos for "Google play" and "Available on the App Store". On the far right of the banner is a dropdown menu labeled "AFP Quick Links". Below the banner is a navigation bar with links for "Home", "News", "Politics", "Business", "Sports", "Calendar", "Events", "Web Design, Marketing", "WVPT Viewpoints", "Chris Graham", and "Advertise". On the left side of the main content area, there is a blue box with the text "AUGUSTA FREE PRESS" and "marketing & PR" in a large, stylized font. A circular button with the text "CLICK HERE" is positioned to the right of the "marketing & PR" text. Below this text is the text "BY AUGUSTA FREE PRESS LLC". To the right of the blue box is a large image of a lightbulb. The lightbulb is shown in profile, with its base on the left and its glass globe on the right. Inside the glass globe, there is a detailed scene of a green field with a single tree in the foreground and a cloudy sky in the background. The background of the entire page is a light blue color.

Patrice McDermott: We need more sunlight

Published Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016, 12:00 am
Front Page » Government/Politics » Patrice McDermott: We need more sunlight


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Less than one-third of Americans **view** elected officials as "honest," and a lack of transparency lies at the core of this distrust. Government secrecy has been a driving force behind many of the most salient political issues in this election cycle, ranging from disclosures on Flint's water crisis, to debates on revelations made by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, to questions on campaign finance, and more. Secrecy and lack of disclosure are raised frequently in the midst of a high-profile controversy, but candidates are rarely asked about their underlying open government beliefs and the specific policy proposals they would implement to strengthen the accountability of government to the public.



A broad coalition of open government advocates, privacy groups, civil rights defenders, and news editors have crafted a collection of **open-government-related questions** that should be posed to **all** candidates for federal office. We're sharing the questions across the country, and, as the election draws near, we hope that editorial boards, reporters covering the 2016 campaigns, debate moderators, and interested members of the public who have an opportunity to speak with candidates present these questions to get the candidates on the record.

A fundamental first question on transparency: what policies would candidates implement to guarantee and advance public access to government information and sources? This question is being promoted by a **coalition of journalist groups**, including the Society of Professional Journalists and the American Society of News Editors, as well as the OpenTheGovernment.org coalition.

Other pressing questions relate to transparency and accountability for law enforcement – namely, how would candidates support measures to improve the accuracy and consistency of use-of-force data from law enforcement across the country? A **recent study** has shown that police departments with restrictive use-of-force policies – including comprehensive reporting requirements – have fewer officer-involved shootings. Common sense policies such as these seem self-evident, yet our candidates have not been faced directly with questions about what they would put the weight of their office behind.

The questions also relate to transparency in trade negotiations, such as the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which has been shrouded in secrecy. Both presidential candidates have stated that they are against the TPP in its current form, yet neither candidate has been asked about what she or he would do to ensure future trade deals are not conducted in such extensive secrecy – and would thus be subject to greater public oversight.

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As this list consists of **questions** is related to federal open government issues, it is most relevant to candidates for President, United States Senate, or the United States House of Representatives. We also encourage the use of the questions as a model for those interested in transparency when speaking with candidates for state or local office.

Justice Louis Brandeis wrote in 1913 that "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants," and this still rings true today. Transparency is vital for democratic participation and a necessary first step toward open and accountable government. Before Americans cast their votes this November, we have a right to know where candidates stand on making the government more open and accountable to the public. They won't answer if you don't ask, though – so, ask early and often.

Patrice McDermott is executive director of OpenTheGovernment.org.



Discussion

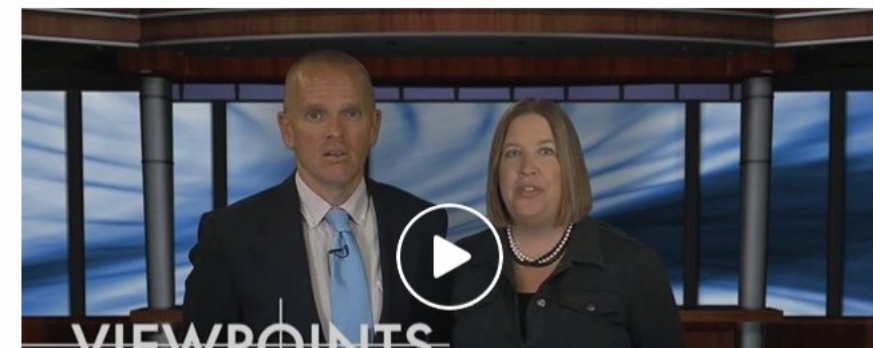
Top Stories

Patrice McDermott: We need more sunlight
Patrice McDermott is executive director of OpenTheGovernment.org. She is sponsoring a video contest to promote the message "Living Alcohol and Drug Free."

Recent News

- ▶ This weekend's college football TV schedule
- ▶ VMI guard Q.J. Peterson named Preseason All-SoCon
- ▶ Eastern Mennonite University signs agreement with NASA to collaborate in research
- ▶ UVA experts help write new guidelines for reducing sudden infant death syndrome
- ▶ Virginia Tech ethics class students, Flint residents team up for fourth round of water testing
- ▶ Herring concluding series of regional trainings on fair, impartial policing
- ▶ Sale of Champions raises nearly \$74,000 for 2016 youth livestock exhibitors
- ▶ Patrice McDermott: We need more sunlight
- ▶ Viewpoints: One-on-one with Kai Degner
- ▶ Men's soccer: Bridgewater secures spot in ODAC Tournament
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Viewpoints




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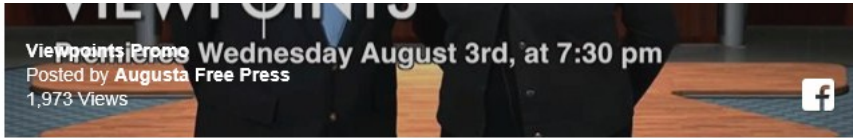
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Hosts Chris Graham and Crystal Graham of Augusta Free Press highlight local news and newsmakers with an emphasis on the Shenandoah Valley on **Viewpoints** on WVPT.

Join the conversation on WVPT's Facebook page.

Chris Graham is the editor of Augusta Free Press, ESPN3 baseball broadcaster and the author of five books. Crystal Graham is the award-winning former host of WVPT's Virginia Tonight.

Show airs Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m.

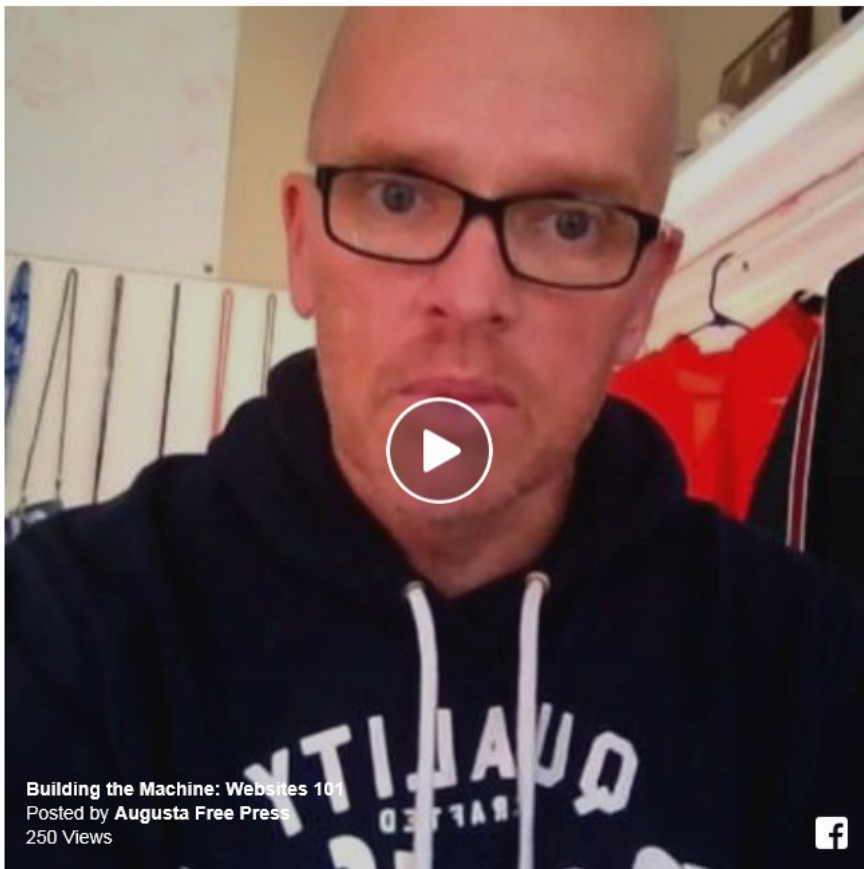
Want to see what's coming up on Viewpoints? [Click here](#).

Missed a show? [Watch OnDemand](#) and on our [YouTube channel](#).

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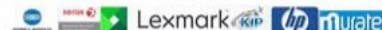


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