

# Making the grade: public record access

College students worked to access government records from city halls, police and sheriff's departments, county councils and school districts in Utah. The students then graded the government entities on attitude and their ability to meet the request. Government Records Access Management Act (GRAMA) requires a written request for inspection and copying of public records. It gives government entities 10 business days to respond to a citizen's request.

## WHAT THE GRADES MEAN

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>A+ (4.3)</b> | Awarded to governments that went above and beyond what GRAMA requires, by producing public information on the spot per oral request.  |
| <b>A (4.0)</b>  | Awarded to governments that followed the letter of the law, which requires a written request and that the document be produced within 10 business days.   |
| <b>B (3.0)</b>  | Given if the agencies orally briefed the citizen on the requested information but did not produce the document, even though the document existed.   |
| <b>F (0.0)</b>  | Given if the agencies refused to accept a written GRAMA request, or refused to let the person submit his own GRAMA request (as opposed to their standard form). Failure to respond to a written request within 10 business days also produced this grade. |



|                         | ATTITUDE  | COMPLIANCE |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| City governments        | <b>A-</b> | <b>A-</b>  |
| City police departments | <b>C+</b> | <b>D+</b>  |
| County governments      | <b>A-</b> | <b>A-</b>  |
| Sheriff's departments   | <b>C+</b> | <b>C-</b>  |
| School districts        | <b>B-</b> | <b>B-</b>  |

## 0.6 POINTS OUT OF 4.0 DEDUCTED FROM GRADES IF THE CITIZEN WAS ASKED . . .

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| . . . to identify him or herself beyond name, mailing address and daytime phone number, which is what GRAMA requires. | . . . to show his or her driver's license or other form of ID, which GRAMA does not require. | . . . to state a reason for the request for a public document, or to explain how it would be used. |
|---|--|--|

**0.6 points were also deducted if the citizen was charged a fee to inspect the document and if the government worker had to seek permission or advice from superiors before responding.**

## WHAT WAS ASKED FOR

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>City hall</b>                 | The mayor's most recent expense report, such as the mayor's city credit card statement. If no such report exists, the recent minutes from a City Council meeting was requested. |
| <b>Police/sheriff</b>            | The most recent dispatch log that is available, which is a list of calls police were dispatched to.   |
| <b>County council/commission</b> | The commission chairman's most recent expense report that is available.   |
| <b>School district</b>           | A copy of the superintendent's employment contract.   |

## WHAT THEY RECEIVED ON GIVING PUBLIC RECORDS

| CITY HALL |             |       |           |                |       | COUNTY COUNCIL/COMMISSION |       |            |       |        |       |
|-----------|-------------|-------|-----------|----------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|
| BEST      |             |       | WORST     |                |       | BEST                      |       |            | WORST |        |       |
| COUNTY    | CITY        | GRADE | COUNTY    | CITY           | GRADE | COUNTY                    | GRADE | COUNTY     | GRADE | COUNTY | GRADE |
| Beaver    | Beaver City | A+    | Salt Lake | Riverton       | F     | Beaver                    | A+    | Washington | F     |        |       |
| Carbon    | Price       | A+    | Weber     | Ogden          | C+    | Carbon                    | A+    | Box Elder  | C+    |        |       |
| Iron      | Parowan     | A+    | Cache     | Logan          | B-    | Duchesne                  | A+    | Cache      | B-    |        |       |
| Kane      | Kanab       | A+    | Davis     | Farmington     | B-    | Iron                      | A+    | Davis      | B-    |        |       |
| Rich      | Randolph    | A+    | Morgan    | Morgan City    | B-    | Morgan                    | A+    | Garfield   | B-    |        |       |
| Salt Lake | Holladay    | A+    | Salt Lake | Salt Lake City | B-    | Rich                      | A+    | Daggett    | B     |        |       |
| Salt Lake | Sandy       | A+    | Salt Lake | South S.L.     | B-    | Summit                    | A+    | Grand      | B+    |        |       |
| San Juan  | Monticello  | A+    | Utah      | Provo          | B-    | Wasatch                   | A+    | —          | -     |        |       |
| Sanpete   | Manti       | A+    | —         | —              | -     | Wayne                     | A+    | —          | -     |        |       |
| Uintah    | Vernal      | A+    | —         | —              | -     | Weber                     | A+    | —          | -     |        |       |

  

| CITY POLICE |              |       |           |                |       | COUNTY SHERIFF |       |            |       | SCHOOL DISTRICT |       |          |       |
|-------------|--------------|-------|-----------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------|
| BEST        |              |       | WORST     |                |       | BEST           |       | WORST      |       | BEST            |       | WORST    |       |
| COUNTY      | CITY         | GRADE | COUNTY    | CITY           | GRADE | COUNTY         | GRADE | COUNTY     | GRADE | COUNTY          | GRADE | COUNTY   | GRADE |
| Box Elder   | Brigham      | A+    | Carbon    | Price          | F     | Emery          | A-    | Box Elder  | F     | Wayne           | A+    | Beaver   | F     |
| Tooele      | Tooele City  | A+    | Salt Lake | Draper         | F     | San Juan       | A-    | Grand      | F     | Rich            | A+    | Kane     | F     |
| Salt Lake   | Sandy        | B+    | Salt Lake | Murray         | F     | Sanpete        | A-    | Iron       | F     | Box Elder       | A     | Sanpete  | C-    |
| Salt Lake   | South Jordan | B+    | Salt Lake | Salt Lake City | F     | Tooele         | A-    | Uintah     | F     | Tooele          | A     | Morgan   | C+    |
| Davis       | Farmington   | B     | Salt Lake | South S.L.     | F     | Daggett        | B     | Utah       | F     | Summit          | A-    | Daggett  | B-    |
| Utah        | Provo        | B-    | Salt Lake | West Jordan    | F     | Rich           | B-    | Washington | F     | Grand           | B     | Davis    | B-    |
| Cache       | Logan        | C+    | Weber     | Ogden          | F     | —              | -     | —          | -     | Washington      | B     | Garfield | B-    |

## WHAT THEY RECEIVED ON ATTITUDE

| CITY HALL  |                 |       |           |                 |       | COUNTY COUNCIL/COMMISSION |       |            |       |        |       |
|------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-----------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|
| BEST       |                 |       | WORST     |                 |       | BEST                      |       |            | WORST |        |       |
| COUNTY     | CITY            | GRADE | COUNTY    | CITY            | GRADE | COUNTY                    | GRADE | COUNTY     | GRADE | COUNTY | GRADE |
| Beaver     | Beaver City     | A+    | Salt Lake | Murray          | F     | Carbon                    | A+    | Davis      | C+    |        |       |
| Daggett    | Manila          | A+    | Weber     | Ogden           | C     | Duchesne                  | A+    | Box Elder  | B     |        |       |
| Duchesne   | Duchesne City   | A+    | Cache     | Logan           | B-    | Iron                      | A+    | Emery      | B     |        |       |
| Morgan     | Morgan City     | A+    | Davis     | Farmington      | B-    | Morgan                    | A+    | Uintah     | B+    |        |       |
| Salt Lake  | Midvale         | A+    | Salt Lake | South Salt Lake | B-    | Wayne                     | A+    | Washington | B+    |        |       |
| Salt Lake  | North Salt Lake | A+    | Box Elder | Brigham         | B     | Beaver                    | A     | —          | -     |        |       |
| San Juan   | Monticello      | A+    | Salt Lake | Salt Lake City  | B     | Daggett                   | A     | —          | -     |        |       |
| Uintah     | Vernal          | A+    | Sanpete   | Manti           | B     | Salt Lake                 | A     | —          | -     |        |       |
| Wasatch    | Heber           | A+    | —         | —               | -     | San Juan                  | A     | —          | -     |        |       |
| Washington | St. George      | A+    | —         | —               | -     | Summit                    | A     | —          | -     |        |       |

  

| CITY POLICE |             |       |            |                |       | COUNTY SHERIFF |       |            |       | SCHOOL DISTRICT |       |            |       |
|-------------|-------------|-------|------------|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| BEST        |             |       | WORST      |                |       | BEST           |       | WORST      |       | BEST            |       | WORST      |       |
| COUNTY      | CITY        | GRADE | COUNTY     | CITY           | GRADE | COUNTY         | GRADE | COUNTY     | GRADE | COUNTY          | GRADE | COUNTY     | GRADE |
| Box Elder   | Brigham     | A+    | Weber      | Ogden          | F     | Tooele         | A+    | Davis      | F     | Wayne           | A+    | Iron       | D     |
| Salt Lake   | North S.L.  | A-    | Salt Lake  | Salt Lake City | D     | San Juan       | A-    | Beaver     | D-    | Summit          | A     | Kane       | D+    |
| Tooele      | Tooele City | A-    | Washington | St. George     | D     | Iron           | B+    | Washington | D-    | Tooele          | A     | Morgan     | D+    |
| Davis       | Farmington  | B     | Salt Lake  | West Valley    | D+    | Box Elder      | B     | Garfield   | D     | Beaver          | A-    | Davis      | C-    |
| Salt Lake   | Draper      | B     | Cache      | Logan          | C-    | Daggett        | B     | Sanpete    | C-    | Box Elder       | A-    | Daggett    | C     |
| Salt Lake   | Sandy       | B     | Carbon     | Price          | C     | Grand          | B     | Summit     | C     | Rich            | A-    | **Utah     | C     |
| Uintah      | Vernal      | B-    | Salt Lake  | Murray         | C+    | Uintah         | B-    | —          | -     | *Salt Lake      | A-    | Washington | C     |
| Wasatch     | Heber       | B-    | Salt Lake  | Midvale        | C+    | Utah           | B-    | —          | -     | Sanpete         | A-    | Emery      | C+    |

\*Granite School District \*\*Alpine

SOURCE: UFOG (Utah Foundation for Open Government)