

**COMMITTEEMEMBER NOLAN OFFERED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION  
AND MOVED ITS ADOPTION:**

**TOWNSHIP OF SHREWSBURY**

**RESOLUTION #2017-107**

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS  
REGARDING THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT AND OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee took action on Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, which amend the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act, respectively, on June 29, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee released the bills to the full Senate without recommendation because the bills are unnecessary, unpopular with the public, and would result in significant financial and administrative burdens on municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills fail to adequately protect taxpayers, municipalities and, especially, municipal clerks from abusive, harassing, and purposefully confrontational individuals who submit voluminous requests for no legitimate reason; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation would expand the Open Public Meeting Act to create impractical and burdensome requirements with respect to subcommittees and working groups established by the entire governing body, which would effectively limit the ability of small groups of local officials discussing issues of public concern for the purposes of informing the governing body; and

**WHEREAS**, under the bills, the responsibilities of municipal clerks, who the Legislature has already loaded with responsibilities beyond the scope of their office, would be stretched even further than current law requires without a single dollar of additional resources provided to, or authorized to be collected by, municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills would impose a financial burden on municipalities that would not be offset by a revenue source other than the property tax, making the bills unfunded mandates prohibited by the New Jersey Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, some municipalities are more equipped than others to meet the burdens that would be imposed by Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, however, without assistance of any kind from the States or the courts, every municipality would be on its own to meet the myriad new requirements of the law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Shrewsbury, County of Monmouth, that the Legislature is strongly urged to reject Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and draft new legislation to modernize OPRA and OPMA while

providing municipalities and clerks with the resources to effectuate these changes for the benefit of the public.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution be filed with the legislative sponsors of Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and Assembly Bill Nos. 2697 and 2699, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the President of the Senate, and the Governor, and all parties are urged to listen to the concerns of local officials and prevent Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 from becoming law.

**Seconded by Committeemember BAILLY and adopted on roll call by the following vote:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Bailly</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Puhak</b>			<b>X</b>			
<b>Nolan</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>			

I, Teri Giercyk, Township Clerk of the Township of Shrewsbury, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution duly passed by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Shrewsbury at a regular meeting held on the 10th day of October 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Shrewsbury this 10th day of October, 2017.

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Teri Giercyk, RMC  
Township Municipal Clerk