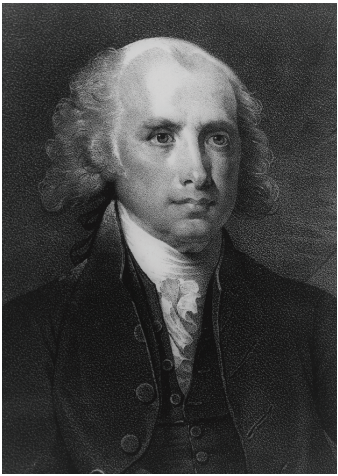

"A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce, or a tragedy, or perhaps both."

**President James Madison**

# Embrace the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

Since 2005, Sunshine Week has been celebrated nationwide in mid-March each year to coincide with James Madison's birthday on March 16, 1751. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

SUNSHINE® WEEK

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

For more information go to *https://opengovernment.ny.gov/*

For editorials and educational content go to *https://nynpa.com/nie/sunshine.html*

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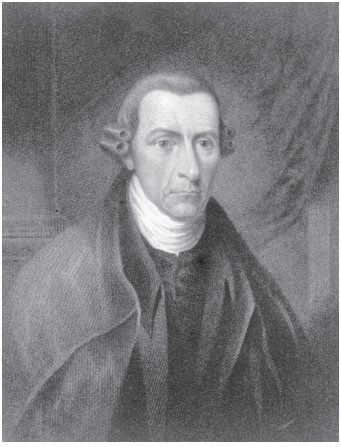

"The liberties of people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them."

**Founding Father Patrick Henry**

# Secure the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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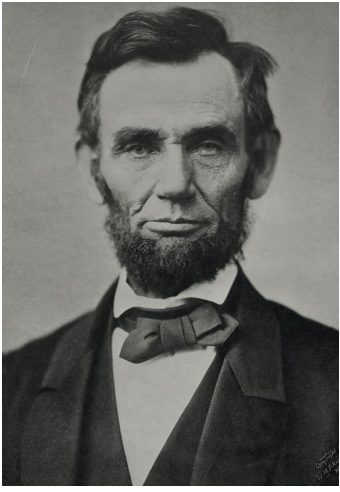

"I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts."

**President Abraham Lincoln**

# Believe in Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

Newspapers and other media set aside Sunshine Week to spotlight the issues of open government and freedom of information. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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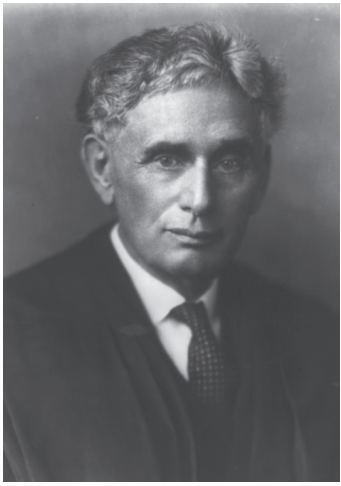

"Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants."

**Supreme Court Justice, Louis D. Brandeis**

# Magnify the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government by promoting access to information and open meetings. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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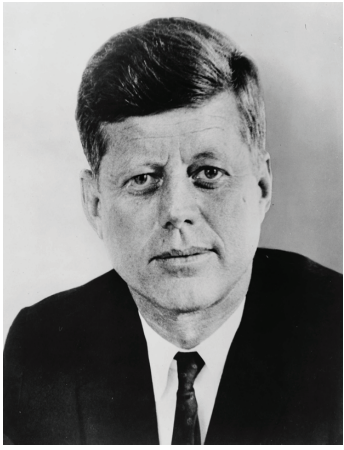

"A nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

**President John F. Kennedy**

# Brave the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

Sunshine Week and the principles of freedom of information and open meetings only work if you seek the truth. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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"A democracy works best when the people have all the information the security of the nation permits."

**President Lyndon Johnson**
Statement upon signing the Freedom of Information Act into law, 1966

# Ensure the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

The federal FOI Act signed by President Johnson in 1966 does not provide access to records of state or local government agencies. Each state has its own statutes governing access. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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"When information which properly belongs to the public is systematically withheld by those in power, the people soon become ignorant of their own affairs, distrustful of those who manage them, and - eventually - incapable of determining their own destinies."

**President Richard M. Nixon**

# Remember the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

Ironically, the struggle to gain access to Nixon's tapes related to the Watergate scandal prompted Congress to expand FOIA protections in 1974. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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"Public records are one portal through which the people observe their government, ensuring its accountability, integrity, and equity while minimizing sovereign mischief and malfeasance."

**Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor**

# Uphold the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

FOIA does not apply to records of Congress and the Supreme Court, or archival records created by the Legislative and Judicial branches. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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"We must never forget that the free flow of information is essential to a democratic society."

**President Bill Clinton**

# Inspire the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

Sunshine Week is set aside each year to focus on the cleansing nature of conducting the government's business in bright sunlight rather than under a shroud of secrecy.
The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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"Assurances mean little without accurate information and accountability. The principle that government information belongs to the people is more than a quaint idea."

**Journalist and Author, Joy Horowitz**

# Report the Sunshine!

Celebrate Sunshine Week – March 15-21, 2026

Sunshine Week was initiated by journalists, but freedom of information is the right of every citizen nationally and every person according to NYS Open Meetings and FOI Law. The New York News Publishers Association and its members support New York's Freedom of Information Law and Open Meetings Law and will continue to help educate you on the public's right to know.

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