

Murray County Right to Access Public Data

The Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13) presumes that all government data are public unless a state or federal law says the data are not public. Government data is a term that means all recorded information a government entity has, including paper, email, DVDs, photographs, etc.

The Government Data Practices Act also provides that Murray County must keep all government data in a way that makes it easy for you, as a member of the public to access public data. You have the right to look at (inspect), free of charge, all public data that we keep. You also have the right to get copies of public data. The Government Data Practices Act allows us to charge for copies. You have the right to look at data, free of charge, before deciding to request copies.

How to Make a Data Request

To look at data or request copies of data that Murray County keeps, make a written request. Make your written request for data to the appropriate individual listed in the Data Practices Contacts document on pages 3 & 4. You may make your written request for data by mail or email using the data request form.

If you choose not to use the data request form, your written request should include:

- That you, as a member of the public, are making a request for data under the Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13;
- Whether you would like to look at the data, get copies of the data or both; and
- A clear description of the data you would like to inspect or have copied.

How We Respond to a Data Request

Upon receiving your written request, we will work to process it.

- If we do not have the data, we will notify you in writing as soon as reasonably possible.
- If we have the data, but the data are not public, we will notify you as soon as reasonably possible and state which specific laws says the data are not public.
- If we have the data, and the data are public, we will respond to your request appropriately and promptly, within a reasonable amount of time by doing one of the following:
 - Arrange a date, time, and place to inspect data, for free, if your request is to look at the data; or
 - Provide you with copies of the data as soon as reasonably possible. You may choose to pick up your copies, or we will mail them to you. If you want us to send you the copies, you will need to provide us with an address. We will provide electronic copies (such as email or CD-Rom) upon request if we keep the data in electronic format.

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Information about copy charges is on Page 5.

We also will arrange for you to pre-pay for the copies.

If you do not understand some of the data (technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms), please let us know. We will give you an explanation if you ask.

The Government Data Practices Act does not require us to create or collect new data in response to a data request if we do not already have the data, or to provide data in a specific form or arrangement if we do not keep the data in that form or arrangement. (For example, if the data you request are on paper only, we are not required to create electronic documents to respond to your request.) If we agree to create data in response to your request, we will work with you on the details of your request, including cost and response time.

In addition, The Government Data Practices Act does not require us to answer questions that are not requests for data.

Requests for Summary Data

Summary data are statistical records or reports that are prepared by removing all identifiers from private or confidential data on individuals. The preparation of summary data is not a means to gain access to private or confidential data. Murray County will prepare summary data if you make your request in writing and pre-pay for the cost of creating the data. Upon receiving your written request- you may use the data request form on page 6 – we will respond within ten business days with the data or details of when the data will be ready and how much we will charge.

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Data Practices Contacts Murray County

Responsible Authority: Data Practices Compliance Official

Murray County

Name: Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator
Address: 2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1148
CMcDonald@co.murray.mn.us

Data Practices Designees

Assessor

Name: Chad Benda, County Assessor
Address: 2500 28th St. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1104
cbenda@co.murray.mn.us

Economic Development

Name: Justine Wettschreck
Address: 2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-6023
jwettschreck@co.murray.mn.us

Emergency Management

Name: Carl Nyquist
Address: 2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1111
cnyquist@co.murray.mn.us

Environmental: Zoning/Water Resources

Name: Jean Christoffels
Address: 2500 28th St. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1166
jchristoffels@co.murray.mn.us

Extension

Name: Mallory Vos
Address: 2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-6927
mailto:carl5049@umn.edu

Highway Department

Name: Randy Groves, County Engineer
Address: 3051 20th St Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1133
rgroves@co.murray.mn.us

Information Technology

Name: Jason Lohrenz
Address: 2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1126
jlohrenz@co.murray.mn.us

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License Center

Name: Terry Beers
Address: 2500 28th St. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1146
<mailto:terry.beers@co.murray.mn.us>

Parks/Fairgrounds

Name: Justin Hoffmann
Address: 2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1195
parks@co.murray.mn.us

Solid Waste and AG

Name: Jon Bloemendaal
Address: 2500 28th St PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1164
jbloemendaal@co.murray.mn.us

Sunrise Terrace

Name: Jessica Bjerke
Address: 2121 Ironwood Ave Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-8980
jbjerke@co.murray.mn.us

Veteran Services

Name: James Reinert
Address: 2500 28th St. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1169
jreinert@co.murray.mn.us

Elected Officials

Responsible Authority: Sheriff's Office

Name: Sheriff Heath Landsman
Address: 2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-6168
hlandsman@murraycountysheriff.org

Responsible Authority: Auditor/Treasurer's Office

Name: Auditor/Treasurer Heidi Winter
Address: 2500 28th St. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1152
hwinter@co.murray.mn.us

Responsible Authority: Recorder's Office

Name: Recorder Karen Brown
Address: 2500 28th St. PO Box 57 Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-1161
kbrown@co.murray.mn.us

Responsible Authority: Attorney's Office

Name: County Attorney Travis Smith
Address: 2651 Broadway Ave Slayton, MN 56172
Phone number: 507-836-6541
tsmith@co.murray.mn.us

Copy Cost – Members of the Public Murray County

Murray County charges members of the public for copies of government data. These charges are authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.03, subdivision 3(c). You must pay for the copies before we will give them to you.

For 100 or Fewer Paper Copies – 15 Cents Per Page

100 or fewer page of black and white, letter or legal size paper copies cost 15¢ for a one-sided copy, or 30¢ for a two-sided copy.

Most Other Types of Copies – Actual Cost

The charge for most other types of copies, when a charge is not set by statute or rule, is the actual cost of searching for and retrieving the data, and making the copies or electronically transmitting the data (e.g. sending the data by email)

The charge for most other types of copies, when a charge is not set by statute or rule, is the actual cost of searching for and retrieving the data and making copies.

In determining the actual cost of making paper or electronic copies, we factor in employee time, the cost of the materials onto which we are copying the data (paper, CD, DVD, etc.), and mailing costs (if any). If your request is for copies of data that we cannot reproduce ourselves, such as photographs, we will charge you the actual cost we must pay an outside vendor for the copies.

The cost of employee time to search for data, retrieve data, and make copies is based on staff time to comply with the request. If, because of the subject matter of your request, we find it necessary for a higher-paid employee to search for and retrieve the data, we will calculate the search and retrieval portion of the copy charge at the higher salary/wage.

Copy Charges for Data with Commercial Value

We calculate copy charges on a case-by-case basis for providing copies of data that have commercial value.

Refer to the Murray County Fee Schedule for a detailed listing of all copy fees.

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Data Request Form – Members of the Public Murray County

Date of Request: _____

I am requesting access to data in the following way:

Inspection Copies Both Inspection and copies Email

These are the data I am requesting:

Note: There is no charge to inspect data or email to you. Copies of data are subject to the fee schedule in place for each department.

Contact information: (Optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email Address: _____

You do not have to provide any of the above contact information. However, if you want us to mail or email you copies of data, we will need some type of contact information. In addition, if we do not understand your request and need to get clarification from you, without contact information we will not be able to begin processing your request until you contact us.

Murray County will respond to your request as soon as reasonably possible.