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Texas on the Potomac

Washington news with a Texas accent

TexMessage: Cornyn chides Obama administration for failing to meet transparency standards of his 2007 law

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

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TexMessage

Wednesday, December 5

Good morning, TexMessagers! Has President Obama kept his promise to make the U.S. government more open, honest and transparent?

TEXclusive



(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Sen. John Cornyn is not happy with the current administration.

No, we are not talking about fiscal cliff again.

This time, it's this: It turns out that a number of federal agencies are not in compliance with the 2007 law co-sponsored by the Texas Republican and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., streamlining the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request process.

An audit by the [National Security Archive](#) found that:

- 62 out of 99 agencies have not update their FOIA regulations since U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder issued a memorandum asking them to
- 56 agencies have not updated their FOIA regulations since the passage of the [OPEN Government Act of 2007](#)

The report went on to say that while President Obama promised during his first day in office to improve FOIA, saying, "A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency," only [13 agencies](#) could point to concrete changes to their FOIA practices within the first year of his administration.

"Outdated agency regulations really mean there's an opportunity here for a second-term Obama to standardize best practices and bring all the agencies up to his day-one openness pledge," said Tom Blanton, director of the National Security Archive.

Is that too little too late?

"When President Obama took office, he pledged that his administration would be the most transparent in history. This report reveals how hollow that pledge was, and can be added to the long list of broken promises from his Administration," [wrote Cornyn in a statement](#).

Headlines from TxPotomac's top articles:

- ★ [Poe, Cornyn push bipartisan bills to speed up testing of rape kits](#)
- ★ [George W. Bush urges lawmakers to approach immigration with a "benevolent spirit"](#)
- ★ [Texas will not secede, will remain "a beacon for all the people that want to live free," says Gov. Perry](#)
- ★ [Michael McCaul says border security is his No. 2 goal \(after battling terrorists\)](#)
- ★ [The Week Ahead: A change in White House negotiating strategy led to stalemate on fiscal cliff](#)
- ★ [Twitter talk: Obama answers questions about fiscal cliff, tax cuts](#)

- ★ [Birth rate at a record low, especially among nation's immigrants](#)
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- ★ [Ted Poe compares Obama administration to a monarchy](#)
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- ★ [What Ted Cruz did not say about the Hispanic unemployment during his big speech](#)
- ★ [Ted Cruz says '47 percent' mindset, lack of faith in GOP principles, cost Republicans among Hispanic voters](#)

Reader Comment of the Day

In response to our post, [George W. Bush urges lawmakers to approach immigration with a "benevolent spirit"](#), "Killing_Time2" wrote in the comments forum:

Why build a dynamic tomorrow when the government will steal enough from honest folks to give you a moderately better today?

Texas Watch

TxPotomac lets you know what stories to look out for.

Today:

- ★ Economic indicators: weekly mortgage applications, weekly petroleum status report, and manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders
- ★ Homeland Security Subcommittee (Chairwoman Landrieu, D-La.) of Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on Superstorm Sandy and the recovery efforts at 10 a.m.
- ★ National Council of La Raza will hold a news conference call on the impact of the fiscal cliff on Latino families at 1 p.m.
- ★ Europe and Eurasia Subcommittee (Chairman Burton, R-Ind.) of House Foreign Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Iranian Influence in the South Caucasus and the Surrounding Region" at 2 p.m.
- ★ Atlantic Council of the United States will hold a discussion titled "Can the World Live Without Iranian Oil?" at 2 p.m.

Tomorrow and beyond:

- ★ Dec. 6. Safety and Security Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will a hearing on Superstorm Sandy and the recovery efforts at 10:30 a.m.
- ★ Dec. 6. The House will vote on the Agricultural Disaster Assistance Act of 2012, which would qualify time spent serving as a translator in the military in Iraq or Afghanistan as time spent in the United States for naturalization purposes.
- ★ Dec. 6. The House Science, Space and Technology Committee, led by Rep. Ralph Hall, R-Texas, will hold a full committee hearing on the outlook of NASA at 9:30 a.m. in Room 2318 of the Rayburn Building.

Today in Texas History

Benjamin Milam, a hero of the Texas Revolution, asked on Dec. 5, 1835, the famous question; "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?" [More>>>](#)

Categories: [Barack Obama](#), [John Cornyn](#)

Tags: [FOIA](#) | [freedom of information act](#) | [government transparency](#)

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- Awesome or Atrocious? 4 Bizarre Car Accessories that Used to Be Cool** (Allstate Blog)
- 10 Insanely Overpaid Public Employees** (The Fiscal Times)
- 1966 Mini Cooper Found In Storage After 36 Years** (MotorAuthority)
- ADP Reports 118,000 Jobs Created in November** (Bloomberg)

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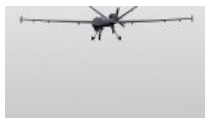
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