IS THE GOVERNMENT SECRETIVE?

How Americans feel about government secrecy, spying on the public and political candidates’ positions on open government:

Is your local government open or secretive?
- Somewhat or very secretive: 40%
- Somewhat or very open: 56%
- Don’t know: 4%

Do you think the public should be allowed to see with whom lawmakers meet?
- Yes: 82%
- No: 11%
- Don’t know/other: 7%

How important is a presidential candidate’s position on open government when you decide whom to vote for?
- Somewhat, very important: 87%
- Somewhat, very unimportant: 10%
- Don’t know, other: 3%

Is the federal government open or secretive?
- Somewhat or very secretive: 74%
- Somewhat or very open: 20%
- Don’t know: 6%

Should a city police department allow the public to see incident reports about specific crimes in local neighborhoods?
- Yes: 71%
- No: 15%
- Don’t know/other: 14%

How about a candidate’s position on open government when voting for your city council or school board?
- Somewhat, very important: 91%
- Somewhat, very unimportant: 6%
- Don’t know, other: 3%

Source: A Sunshine Week poll by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University of 1,012 adults, Feb. 10-28; margin of error: plus or minus 4 percentage points
Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treible

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