

## First Amendment Auditors

First Amendment Auditors are citizens who take it upon themselves to check that government agencies are complying with laws regarding public records and public space.

Here is a helpful article from Municipal Research and Services Center about what they do: <https://mrsc.org/stay-informed/mrsc-insight/april-2023/rights-and-limits-on-filming-in-public-facilities>.

Here's what to know if a First Amendment Auditor visits your office:

- They may wear masks, sunglasses and hoods to obscure their identity. This can be alarming but is not illegal.
- They usually will not divulge their name and they are not required to do so
- They may walk around and take pictures or recordings. They are usually well-versed in the laws and will not go anywhere where they cannot record such as: where a "reasonable expectation of privacy" is present such as a shut or locked gate or door or signage indicating no public access; or where students are present.
- Best practices would be to answer their questions politely as we would for anyone else who visited and ignore their camera.
- They may ask your name and title, which is public information and should be provided
- They usually ask for a Public Records Request Form, which can be found on our website under "Forms" <https://chehalisschools.org/forms/>.