

# Greater Transparency for a Collaborative Government

Written by: Mayor  
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Over the past month, my staff and I have spent hours reflecting with community members on the role of transparency in government. Accountability, responsiveness, and restoring trust in government are major themes highlighted in many of these discussions. There is one additional component to transparency which I believe exists symbiotically with these objectives.

A transparent government is not only more accountable, but also facilitates and provides resources for constituent involvement. By providing easy access to understandable and relevant information, transparency allows all parties to participate and voice their perspectives. Active participation and collaboration ensure greater consensus is reached and a more effective policy is developed.

My vision of a transparent government involves a forum where ideas are expressed, vetted, and respectfully discussed among a diverse crowd of participants. Dialogue should seek to incorporate and balance diverse viewpoints and opinions rather than negate and undermine – similar to the way an artist brings together a variety of images to create an elaborate collage.

It is in this spirit that Salt Lake City has launched the Greater Transparency for a Collaborative Government Initiative. There is much to gain from a transparent government. I appreciate everyone's interest and involvement in the process.

Ralph Becker  
Mayor

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